



ARLIS/New York News

Volume 16 Number 4

November 1995

COMING EVENTS...

HOLIDAY PARTY

Who? ARLIS/NY and VRA/NY
When? Monday, Dec. 11th, 5:30 - 9:00 PM
Where? Schermerhorn Hall at Columbia U.

The Visual Resources Association New York Chapter and the Art Libraries Society New York Chapter will join in festivities at Columbia for our annual holiday party. This year's event will be hosted by the Art History and Archaeology Department at Columbia University. The presentation and party will take place in Schermerhorn (the building just north of Avery). As is tradition with ARLIS/NY, the Holiday Party will be a potluck bonanza.

Partygoers are invited to arrive at 5:30 PM (see *directions below*) and bring party contributions to Room 832 (on the 8th floor of Schermerhorn), the "common room." The common room is equipped with a microwave, a two-burner hot plate, two mini refrigerators, and electrical outlets. Please drop off your food and help set up if you'd like.

Presentations will begin promptly at 6:00 PM. We are pleased to announce that our first presenter will be Angela Giral. Using one of Columbia's "electronic classrooms" (Room 614, 6th floor), Angela will talk about the combined efforts of the Columbia Libraries and Academic Computing Center to bring electronic imaging to the campus. Columbia has spearheaded a project to provide easy access to images that support the Art and Humanities Core Curriculum. The images are in the process of being mounted onto Columbia's network, thereby making them widely available for study purposes. These images will be used for teaching in the two electronic classrooms located in the Art History building. The classrooms are equipped with large screens for viewing the images directly off the network. Rob Cartolano and Pete Christensen from Academic Computing will explain some of the technical aspects of the project.

Angela will also give a progress report on the Museum Educational Site Licensing Program (MESL). MESL is a project cosponsored by the J. Paul Getty Art History Program and MUSE Educational Media to mount images from six museums and the Library of Congress on the networks at seven educational institutions of which Columbia is one. She will touch on copyright issues and challenges encountered with cataloging, display, and access.

In addition, Stephen Murray (of the Department of Art History and Archaeology) and Maurice Luker (Director of the Media Center for the Arts at Columbia) will be presenting Prof. Murray's Amiens Project. The project showcases new techniques of computer-generated imaging for the study of architecture.

Many thanks go to VRA Vice-Chair Linda Strauss (at Columbia University) and VRA Chair Margaret Richardson (at Pratt Institute) for their work with ARLIS/NY to organize the upcoming event and to Angela Giral, Rob Cartolano, Pete Christensen, Stephen Murray, and Maurice Luker for their participation.

Directions to the Party

By subway: Take the #1 or the #9 to 116th Street (you will exit on Broadway); By bus: Take the M4 or the M104 to Broadway and West 116th Street, or the M5 to Riverside Drive and West 116th Street, or the M11 to Amsterdam Avenue and West 116th Street.

The Columbia campus is located between Broadway and Amsterdam Avenue. Enter the campus on College Walk at 116th Street. Walk to the center of the campus and face North towards [the old] Low Memorial Library (Butler Library will be behind you). Walk up the steps toward Low Library, go to the right (east) of the Alma Mater statue. Turn right and walk around the Low Library, passing Avery to your right. The next building is Schermerhorn. There is a large banner for the Wallach Gallery on the corner of Schermerhorn. When you go into the recessed entrance of the building, you will be

entering on the 4th floor. Take the elevator to the eighth and sixth floors.

ARLIS/NY and VRA/NY, Together Again

The Holiday Party will be the first joint meeting of the Art Libraries Society New York Chapter and the Visual Resources Association New York Chapter since 1990. The meeting may be the beginning of a series of co-sponsored activities for ARLIS/NY and VRA/NY. Margaret Richardson, Chair of the VRA New York Chapter, has been invited to meet with the ARLIS/NY Executive Board for their November meeting to discuss possible future sessions. Patricia Barnett has graciously invited both groups to the Frick Art Reference Library to come for a roof garden meeting in the late spring of 1996. The presentation will focus on the Frick's Photoarchives and future initiatives for automating text and image collections.

—Greta Earnest

TO RECAP . . .

TOUR OF TIME PICTURE COLLECTION & FALL BUSINESS MEETING

More than sixty ARLIS/NY members met for our annual business meeting on Wednesday, September 13 at the Time & Life Building in midtown Manhattan. The afternoon began with an informative and fascinating tour of the Time, Inc. Picture Collection led by Beth B. Zarcone, Chief of the Picture Collection. Because of the large number of members involved, the same tour was offered at two different times, 4:00 and 4:45. Ms. Zarcone led our group through the corridors to various work spaces to discover the fascinating treasures (consisting of over twenty million images!) of the Picture Collection. The largest fully cataloged picture collection in the world, these images consist mainly of photographs, slides, and transparencies used in publications such as *Time*, *Life*, *Sports Illustrated*, and *Money*. Ms. Zarcone described the organization of this massive collection and led us through the book and periodical collection; the card catalog for the images; the cold storage unit where, among other images, fascinating and popularly-requested photos of Marilyn Monroe are kept under lock and key!; and a space where hundreds of files of photographs are kept. In this room, we were encouraged to look through files of images which date from the 1930s to the present and cover subjects such as historic moments, celebrities in art, entertainment, fashion, sports, business, and science. As I browsed through

these files, I found photographs of shoes used for advertising, while the librarian next to me was browsing through war time photographs. As we went through the corridors from one work space to another, our group got a glimpse of Picture Collection staff intently at work.

After this fascinating tour of the vast and diverse photographic files, Ms. Zarcone gave our group a demonstration of Time, Inc.'s prototype for scanning and retrieving their images using digital technology. The goal of this project is to make Time, Inc.'s photographs more accessible by combining valuable cataloging information from the card catalog with the actual images in the Picture Collection. This fabulous prototype has sophisticated cataloging, search, and editing functions. For example, our group was shown a boolean search for a photograph of George Bush "and not" Barbara Bush. Searches can also be limited to the type of shot, for example: head shot, 1/2 body, or full figure. The prototype has been shown to an advisory group, Time Warner executives, photographers, agents, and publishers who have been enthusiastic about this product. Cataloging the images using new software will begin in November and then the database will be accessible to first the Picture Collection, then the advisory group, followed by the rest of Time, Inc. Eventually, Time Warner plans to offer this system as an online public database. Our group was impressed by the entire tour and by this exciting and innovative project!

Following the tours of the Time, Inc. Picture Collection, the Chapter's annual business meeting was held in one of the meeting rooms of the Time & Life Building, where Chapter members enjoyed a selection of snacks and sodas. Chair Alexandra de Luise opened the meeting by greeting Betsy Peck Learned, ARLIS/NA Northeast Regional Representative, who gave an account of the Society's mid-year Board meeting. Then the Chapter's current Board members were introduced and new members in the audience identified themselves. Alexandra reported that membership was at 135, and thanked Newsletter Editor, Micki Breitenstein, and Newsletter Ad Manager, Judy Connorton, for their work on the three newsletters that have appeared this year, with one more issue to come. Alexandra continued by recapping the year's meetings, programs, and events. Treasurer Ross Day gave a status report of the Chapter's finances, and talked about current accounting procedures. Nominating Committee Chair Ted Goodman

solicited nominations from the floor for the 1996 Executive Board. When none were received, he introduced the slate of candidates. Ballots were to be sent out in two weeks. Board member Greta Earnest encouraged members to apply for the travel awards, which include both a professional and a student award, for the 1996 ARLIS/NA annual conference in Miami. Vice-Chair Eumie Imm Stroukoff showed a sample of the portfolio the Chapter intends to sell to raise funds for the travel awards. The items will be available for sale in December. Paula Baxter of the New York Public Library addressed the membership concerning the possible formation of a Collection Development Committee as a response to budget cuts that have affected many art libraries in the region. The meeting closed with Alexandra's recap of the Chapter's advocacy efforts in the case of the Guggenheim Museum Library.

—Eumie Imm Stroukoff & Maria Oldal

LOWER EAST SIDE WALKING TOUR

Even an ominous weather report of rain and high winds could not keep away 17 valiant ARLIS/New Yorkers and guests from an excellent tour of the Lower East Side Tenement Museum and its historic neighborhood, on Saturday, October 21st, 1995. It was led by Andrew S. Dolkart, professor of architecture at Columbia University and resident historian at the museum. The first half of the tour was spent viewing the museum's 1863 tenement building at 97 Orchard Street, and taking in Professor Dolkart's fascinating discussion of immigrant life while walking slowly through the tiny, grim apartments within. For the second half of the tour, we visited the neighborhood, viewing the many historic buildings that formed part of the immigrant's daily experience, such as the Jewish Daily Forward building, the Seward Park Branch of the New York Public Library and Jarmulovsky's Bank, among others. By the time we reached the Henry Street Settlement House, the rain and wind won out and we reluctantly agreed to call it a day. All in all, a fascinating tour, led by one of the city's best architectural historians. Thanks go to Paula Gabbard and to Debbie Kempe for arranging this event.

—Alexandra de Luise

ELECTION RESULTS!

I am very pleased to announce this year's election results: Liz O'Keefe of The Pierpont Morgan Library has been elected Vice Chair/Chair Elect; Chris Sala of Avery Library,

Columbia University, Treasurer, and Clare Hills-Nova of NYU's Institute of Fine Arts University, Member-at-large. My sincere appreciation goes to all the candidates for running for office and agreeing to serve our chapter with their time and energy. I would also like to give thanks to this year's excellent Nominating Committee, led by Ted Goodman, with assistance from Ross Day and Chris Sala, as well as from Maria Oldal, ARLIS/NY Secretary, who received and helped count the ballots. And a special thanks goes to you, our members, for voting in what looks like record numbers; 81 returned ballots out of a total of 133 members.

—Alexandra de Luise



With the end of my term as your chair drawing to an end, I wanted to publicly thank my executive board, newsletter editor and advertising manager for their assistance and teamwork in what has been a very productive and busy year for the chapter. It has been a real pleasure to work with Eumie Imm Stroukoff, Vice Chair/Chair Elect; Maria Oldal, Secretary; Ross Day, Treasurer; Paula Gabbard and Greta Earnest, Members-at-Large; Micki Breitenstein, Newsletter Editor and Judy Connorton, Advertising Manager. Their can-do approach, high level of energy and commitment to the Chapter was an inspiration to me and I could not have dreamed up a finer staff. I hope you will welcome with me our newest members of the Executive Board for 1996, Liz O'Keefe, Chris Sala and Clare Hills-Nova, at the holiday party, and help me thank our outgoing Board members, Ross Day and Greta Earnest, for a job well done. I look forward to seeing you all at the holiday party on December 11th. Have a pleasant holiday season!

—Alexandra de Luise

REPORT FROM YOUR REGIONAL REPI

ARLIS/NA MIDYEAR BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The ARLIS/NA Executive Board met in Raleigh, North Carolina this summer, August 18-20, at ARLIS/NA Headquarters in the offices of the Olson Management Group. Many complex

issues affecting our profession were presented for approval and/or discussion by the members of the Board. Highlighted here will be some of the significant developments which came about at the summer meeting.

The Miami Conference, April 26-May 1, as well as conference issues, in general, predominated the first morning of the weekend. Stephen Patrick and Anne Ross, Conference co-Chairs, presented their program and local arrangement plans. Sessions will reflect a Latin American/Caribbean theme and tours will include the Everglades, Key West, and the Miami Art Deco district, as well as smaller tours to local museums and galleries. Other conference issues included discussion of the proposal for a site selection task force and guidelines for site selection for future conferences.

Much of the work of the Executive Board was devoted to discussing the Society's publications in light of Deirdre Stam's report, "A Review of the Communication Vehicles of ARLIS/NA" and the Publication Committee's recommendations. A new mission for Art Documentation was approved, the frequency was changed to two issues a year, and the content now will aim at practical, as well as theoretical articles. The ARLIS/NA World Wide Web Home Page, now up and running, will feature much of what, until now, has been only available in print, allowing the membership to have access to such items as the policy manual, standards, and regular letters from the President.

Two new publications were approved unanimously: "The ARLIS/NA Standards for Staffing Art Libraries and Visual Resources Collections," and the endorsement of the ARLIS/VRA Task Force on Professional Issues report, "Criteria for Hiring and Retention of Visual Resources Professionals." Both will be published in the near future.

Aside from general management, budget, and chapter issues, two timely and vital new standing committees were approved: the Financial Advisory Committee, charged to assist in financial matters; and the Public Policy Committee, which will keep up with legislation affecting our profession and advise the Executive Board and membership on these governmental activities.

Due to the heavy agenda, both in number of items and content, some issues were not discussed. Therefore, the Executive Board will

meet again December 8-10 in St. Louis to continue the mid-year meeting. Ideas and comments from the membership are welcome!

—Betsy Peck Learned,
Northeastern Regional Representative



FOR THE ARLIS/NA NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN MIAMI: ARLIS/NY-NA MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO APPLY...

The purpose of the travel award is to support and encourage the involvement of two ARLIS/NY members in the ARLIS/NA annual conference by contributing toward travel attendance expenses. This year, the executive board will offer an award to a student and to a professional, each for \$200.

Students and professionals alike should send a letter of application to the Chair of the Travel Awards committee, Paula Gabbard. The letter should mention any involvement in local or national ARLIS activities (e.g., presenting a paper, moderating a session, serving on a committee, or first time attendees). However, participation in one of the aforementioned activities is not a requisite. The applicant should describe their interest in the conference and/or in the organization to give the awards committee some background on the applicant.

If a professional will receive some institutional support or partial support, the amount should be estimated (e.g., registration fees will be covered). Professionals should attach a resume, students are encouraged but not required to include a resume.

Requirements and Qualifications

Applicants must be members of ARLIS/NA and ARLIS/NY; the applicant may apply for both national and local travel awards but may only accept one of them.

APPLICATION DEADLINE IS FEBRUARY 14th, VALENTINE'S DAY! Don't wait, please send applications to:

Paula Gabbard, Avery Library,
Columbia University, New York, NY 10027;
212-854-6745; gabbard@columbia.edu

—Greta Earnest



CATALOGING NOTES

A CATALOGER'S PET PEEVES

To brighten up a dreary autumn day, I thought I'd take a light-hearted look at things which irk the cataloger in me. I don't know if anyone shares the same irritants—I *may* be too judgmental...

Publishing practices: Why do some publishers hide all the useful imprint information, burying it several pages away from the title page or embedding it within a preface? I would think that at the point of printing, it's too late to be ashamed of publishing the work, so the publisher might as well splash everything on the title page (or t.p. verso), where it belongs. Similarly, I've noticed a certain creative (or euphemistic) trend in statements of responsibility. No longer can a book have something as mundane as an editor, editorial assistant, and proofreader. Now we have "editorial consultants," "page consultants," and (my favorite) "executive editorial controllers."

Something that is not new to publishing but remains the bane of a cataloger's existence is confusing title page layout. I support creativity and interesting graphic design, but there is a point where the scattered words, mixed typefaces, and bold colors stop being attractive and start being irritating. An all-too-common occurrence (one which non-catalogers find hard to believe) is not knowing what the title proper actually is because the design of the title page gives no clue. Something so basic and intrinsic as giving a book a title—sacrificed for graphic design.

I could go on and on about publishers, of course, but will refrain from doing so. I'll just mention in passing: unnumbered pages, reprints that are really new editions (and vice versa), and any series with more than two levels of numbering.

The MARC format: Actually, I like the MARC format and am amazed that it has served us this well for so long. However, it has always bothered me that its full potential has not been realized. If we religiously code the "Nature of Contents" fixed field with a "b," why can't an

"Includes bibliographical references" note be automatically generated?

As a serials cataloger, I make sure to code all linking fields even though they don't actually "do" anything. They don't make a link except in the mind of the cataloger. I realize that these problems are the failings of systems designers, not MARC itself, although this points out how redundant much of the MARC format is. And while on the subject of systems designers, my greatest pet peeve is online catalogs that ignore all the traditions of cataloging and information organization. I sometimes suspect that every online catalog company went out of its way not to include librarians (much less catalogers) as consultants. So we have catalogs that strip out AACR2 punctuation, reorder notes fields at whim, display subfields in alphabetical order, and so on. For the most part, these design flaws go unnoticed by patrons, but to the cataloger they are obvious and jarring.

In the interest of equal time, I do have some cataloging-practices pet peeves, but in the interest of space, I will save those for another day!

—Kay Teel



COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT . . .

Library Systems in Russia: Automation and Networking: the Current State and Future Plans. A report of lectures given at the SUNY Stony Brook Libraries, November 6, 1995.

Dr. Yakov L. Shraiberg, First Deputy Director of the Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology (GPNTB) and Elena Sergeeva, Section Head of GPNTB's Business Information Office, presented an overview of Russian libraries and Russian resources available to U.S. libraries to Stony Brook and area librarians.

The Russian National Public Library for Science and Technology is the major science and technology library and research center in Russia. It is the state depository for sci-tech literature with a collection of 8 million volumes on natural and applied sciences, technology, engineering, agriculture and medicine. The Library is the coordinating center for bibliographic records, acquisitions, ILL, and automation of the sci-tech libraries of Russia and the former Soviet Union.

The Library is setting up a program (the Russia-USA Center) to act as a gateway to a number of Russian collections and specialized databases of potential interest to art librarians. The Library produces a database on Russian "grey literature" that may be useful to architecture libraries. Grey literature is literature of limited circulation such as preprints, conference proceedings, transactions of research institutes, and monographs printed in short runs.

Every record in the database contains bibliographic information, subject headings, an abstract, and UDC number, in Russian and English. Keyword searching is available by author, subject heading, title words, UDC number, and abstract terms. The database is available on-line via Internet or in CD-ROM. Full-text translations are available for a fee.

The Library will also offer access to databases on Russian culture and art. The Monuments of Russia database contains information on architecture, archaeology, art and history; there are currently 65,000 records. The database is produced in Russian by the Russian Ministry of Culture's Information and Computing Center. The Bibliography of Culture and Art contains 24,000 records on journal articles and unpublished documents; it is produced in Russian by INFORMKULTURA and updated monthly.

If you would like more information on the proposal for the Russia-USA project, please contact me (wdole@ccmail.sunysb.edu) or Dr. Shraiberg (shra@gpntb.msk.su)

—Wanda Dole



FROM THE REFERENCE DESK...

Editor's Note: Answers to the Reference Question Contest, and the awarding of prizes, have been delayed, but not forgotten! Look for them in the next issue. ✍



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NEWS OF MEMBERS

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THANKS!

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Wanda Dole, SUNY-Stony Brook
Greta Earnest, Pratt Institute
Betsy Peck Learned, Roger Williams University
Maria Oldal, The Pierpont Morgan Library
Eumie Imm Stroukoff,
The Museum of Modern Art
Kay Teel, New York University



Thanks to Betsy Shepardson for again providing cover art. -Ed.

ARLIS/NY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair:	Alexandra de Luise
Vice-Chairperson:	Eumie Imm Stroukoff
Secretary:	Maria Oldal
Treasurer:	Ross Day
Members-at-Large:	Greta Earnest Paula Gabbard

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Send renewals, changes of address, and contributions to Maria Oldal, The Pierpont Morgan Library, 29 East 36th Street, New York, NY 10016-3490.

Membership renewal notices will be mailed at the end of the year. Renewing members should use the forms they receive in the mail.

New members may use the form enclosed. Please pass it on to someone you know who would benefit from membership in ARLIS/NY.

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ARLIS/NEW YORK NEWS



OUR LADY OF LOURDES, NEW YORK CITY
465 WEST 142ND STREET

From 1863 to 1899 the National Academy of Design was located at Park Avenue South and Twenty Third Street. Their building was designed after the Doge's Palace in Venice, *the Gothic style being considered mankind's highest achievement*. When it was torn down for the Academy's move uptown, the facade was incorporated into the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes and is still standing.

This text has been set in Bembo and Bembo Italic—cut by Francesco Griffo for the Venetian scholar/printer Aldus Manutius. Originally used in Cardinal Bembo's *De Aetna* (1495).