



ARLIS / NY NEWS

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Winter 1996



FROM THE CHAIR...

Greetings to you, the members of ARLIS/NY! Our chapter strives to provide you with opportunities to meet your colleagues and to plan programs that introduce you to new technologies, cultural institutions, and artistic activities in this exciting and vital city.

Many possibilities are available this year. We have already had an outing to Christie's, which is detailed in this newsletter. Our next event, the Spring Meeting, will be held on March 25 at The Archives of American Art. In addition, the Fall business meeting and ever-popular Winter Holiday Party are currently in the planning stages. We are also checking out the possibilities for a NYC neighborhood tour, a Halloween gravesite tour, an Internet discussion group, and a Winter 1996-97 symposium with VRA. Be on the lookout for separate announcements of these events in the mail. At this time, I'd also like to put in a pitch for the chapter's own ARLIS/NY portfolios, which will be on sale for \$10.00 at these events. These portfolios are a great gift idea and help support our chapter at the same time. They are fabulous for carrying your papers, and it would be great to have our members show them off at the ARLIS/NA Miami Conference!

I would like to encourage all of you to get involved in our society. You may wish to volunteer as our new Advertising Manager for the newsletter; Judy Connorton has done an outstanding job over the past several years and would like to hand over the reins to an enthusiastic volunteer. Or, you may wish to use your writing skills in our newsletter, to volunteer to assist with our program planning, to apply for our Travel Award to attend the 1996 ARLIS//NA Miami Conference, and to run for one of our Executive Board offices in the Fall. We'd also like your input and impressions (good or bad!) of Chapter activities and events, to improve the Board's efforts at enriching your professional experiences. Don't be shy! We always welcome and encourage new member involvement!

Finally, if you haven't renewed your membership by now, it's not too late! We want your continued membership in 1996, and I look forward to seeing you at our activities this year. At these events please introduce yourself to me and my fellow Board members: Alexandra de Luise, Liz O'Keefe, Paula Gabbard, Clare Hills-Nova, Maria Oldal, and Chris Sala.

*—Eumie Imm Stroukoff
Chair, ARLIS/NY*

Newsletter of the NYC Metropolitan Area Chapter of ARLIS/NA

CHRISTIE'S

Twenty librarians met at the Park Avenue location of Christie's on the rainy, gray morning of Tuesday, February 20. Upon arrival we were disappointed to learn that the fine watch auction scheduled for that morning had been cancelled...until we were whisked up to the Executive Board Room, used by Christie's staff for meeting and small parties. Sitting in this small, cozy room, surrounded by the rich, forest green walls hung with paintings by Impressionist masters, and enjoying coffee, tea, and croissants, we listened to Faith Pleasanton, the librarian at Christie's. Faith gave a short introduction to Christie's, describing its Park Avenue and Christie's East facilities, its auction schedule and seasons, and the Christie's Education Program. She then introduced Morgan Spangle, a specialist in the Contemporary Art Department. He talked about his department's auction strategies and led us through Contemporary Art on view for the February sale. During the walk-through, Mr. Spangle answered many questions posed by our members.

With such charming, articulate, and gracious speakers, the morning proved to be a success and a nice introduction to the world of auction houses.

—Eumie Imm Stroukoff

PROFILES OF THE BOARD...



Eumie Imm Stroukoff The photograph hasn't changed from last year's newsletter profile, but the events in my life certainly have! I've learned to juggle my professional duties along with my new family life and my figure skating. My goals this year are to keep up with the new technology of the Internet, online systems, and CD-ROMs, and to apply it to my duties at MoMA...and to pass my European Waltz in front of three judges at the rink! What keeps me sane? My husband and my two cats!

Alexandra de Luise 1996 started off on a less hectic note for me, as I stepped down as chair of ARLIS/NY in December 1995. I had a wonderful year of chairing and assisting in planning meetings and activities, meeting members, and working with a great Board of energetic librarians. I highly recommend running for office to anyone who wants to contribute in meaningful ways and to be equally enriched professionally. 1995 had another special meaning



for me, as I was awarded tenure at Queens College in late November. Life after tenure certainly has its rewards. I can spend more time on what I enjoy doing most, which for me is reading, being with my family, researching, working on the computer and talking to library students about the benefits of being an ARLIS member! Spreading the word about our excellent organization is a pleasure and small remuneration for all the years of professional growth and stimulation this chapter has afforded me. I look forward to serving this year as Past Chair of ARLIS/NY and am ready to offer any assistance I can, as another active year of planning meetings, tours and programs is already well underway.

Elizabeth O’Keefe I am currently Head of Cataloging/Head of the Reference Collection at the Pierpont Morgan Library. Like so many librarians, mine was a late vocation: I saw the light only after spending eight years in Ireland failing to finish a Ph. D. in Classics. Then a friend in the equally-marketable field of Medieval Irish History went the library school route, and opened my eyes to new possibilities. I came back to the States, attended library school at Pratt, and spent five years as a cataloger at the Brooklyn Public Library before moving to the Morgan in 1988. I have been attending ARLIS/NA conferences since 1989, and am currently Head of the Museum Library Division. I enjoy meeting colleagues from distant places at the conferences, but find it much easier to make things happen on the local level, especially for a chapter like ours, which is so geographically concentrated and so rich in art resources. This is my first Board position; I would be a lot more apprehensive if I didn’t have a year to learn the ropes from the rest of the Board members. I share a house in Brooklyn with three human beings, three cats, one dog, two birds, and an indeterminate number of boring fish.



Maria Qidal Now at the midpoint of my career as ARLIS/NY Secretary, I have somehow still managed to keep my job as a cataloger at the Pierpont Morgan Library! My colleagues are extremely cooperative in piling the mail on my desk and taking messages (both complaints and compliments) over the phone. They were even pleased to be the hosts of the chapter’s Spring Meeting. I am grateful for the chance to work with both the previous and the present Board. I appreciate the dedication and resourcefulness of my fellow Board members. During my term as Secretary I have learned a healthy respect for deadlines, and more than I ever wished to know about label-printing software...Recently, I have developed the habit of running around the reservoir in Central Park in the early morning hours. Compared to that, my cataloging and Secretarial duties are a breeze!



Chris Sala I am beginning my fourth year at Columbia University’s Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, where I am an indexer for the Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals and a

reference librarian. My architectural education and experience as a practicing architect are put to good use every day! I am glad for the opportunity to become involved with ARLIS/NY as Treasurer and to serve on the Executive Board. [A picture of Chris Sala, woman of mystery?, was not available at press time. Maybe next issue...—Editor]

Paula Gabbard As I begin my second year on the ARLIS/NY Board, I feel as if the world is suffering under the Asian curse: "May you live in interesting times." If you believe Jeremy Rifkin, author of The End of Work, our profession will cease to exist soon, but if you believe Clifford Lynch, Internet guru from the University of California system, we will be in greater demand than ever as long as we keep up with the technology. But in the microcosmic future, will librarians still have to plod through bibliographic citations to decide whether to buy paperback, hardback, CD-ROM, and/or datafile versions of publications? Will we still have to goad sluggish periodical subscriptions with repeated claims? Will we still have to kick obstinate continuation subscriptions? What will happen in a typical day of a reference librarian, or a cataloger, or a collection developer? I suspect that catalogers will have an opportunity to take the lead in creating new paradigms for organizing the knowledge our institutions will acquire for the purposes of education and research. I do hope that we librarians will contribute to creating order out of chaos in this brave new world.



Clare Hills-Nova I have been a member of ARLIS/NY since 1992, when I moved to NY. Until 1990 I lived in Milan, Italy, where I was a member of ARLIS/UK (there was no ARLIS/Italy). In Milan, I worked as a textile conservator, but also "moonlighted" in an art library. I went to U. C. Berkeley for my M. I. L. S., having studied at the Courtauld Institute in London for my M. A. I've been at the Institute of Fine Arts (New York University) since May 1994, and I'm now the Collection Development/Reference Librarian there. I have always found ARLIS to be a great place to find out about what other librarians are doing—especially important in this age of swift electronic change; so I am very pleased to be involved with a very active and stimulating ARLIS/NY group. This is my first Board position with ARLIS, and it seems that one of my first tasks as a Board member will be to investigate possible out-of-town ARLIS/NY trips for 1996—I'll enjoy doing that research! When I am not working, I enjoy going to see opera and ballet, as well as exhibitions, of course; and I love cooking all'italiana!



REP REPORTS BOARD DELIBERATIONS. . .

ARLIS BOARD MEETS FOR SECOND MIDYEAR MEETING

Despite snow and wind storms, interlopers to St. Louis, the St. Louis Museum of Art Library hosted the ARLIS/NA Executive Board for the second midyear Board meeting held December 10-11, 1995. This second meeting was called to focus on strategic planning towards the goal of devising a new strategic plan for the Society based on the mission and goals of the previous one, by the 1996 Annual Conference. The Board also met to respond to the Society's need to keep up with ever-changing technology and the public and private policy issues associated with it.

Actions taken at the meeting in support of these goals included considerable review of the strategic plan activities; creation of four new committees: a North American Relations Committee to strengthen relationships with information and arts organizations in North America, an Ad Hoc Public Policy Committee to channel our legislative concerns, a Technology Education Committee to assist in use of the Internet and emerging technologies, and an Awards Committee to administer the Distinguished Service Award. Other actions included: reviewing the annual evaluation of our management firm, Olson Management Group; activating the Web Site Task Force to manage the ARLIS/NA Home Page; and developing a plan to review internal management documents and communications such as policies, guidelines, handbooks, etc.

Of particular interest to ARLIS chapters was the discussion of membership recruitment and development. The Board appointed a Chapter Membership Task Force made up of the Regional Representatives and the Chair of the Membership Committee, Liz Ginno. This task force is just getting off the ground now, but will be working closely with the chapter officers to determine membership patterns and devise strategies for recruiting new members. Along with the membership issues the Board reviewed the preliminary work of the Canadian Representation Task Force which is addressing how best to represent the interests of our Canadian members.

Further work on many of these issues will be presented at the Annual Conference in Miami Beach, April 26-May 1, 1996. Hope to see you all there!

*—Betsy Peck Learned
ARLIS/NA Northeastern Regional Representative*



CATALOGING NOTES. . .

The idea of the formation of a cataloging discussion group surfaced early last Winter during the institution of MARC Format Integration/Phase One; there was a need among ARLIS cataloging colleagues to discuss the policy's affect on daily cataloging routines. There was also a need to confer on other relevant topics, such as outsourcing; the consequences of the Internet on daily

workflow; the efficacy of new CD-ROM products, like the Cataloger's Desktop; the proposed changes in titles for individual artworks; ways to deal with administrations averse to expanding technologically; and more.

The idea was discussed, approved, and encouraged by the ARLIS/NY Board. A time and place were set for the first, "experimental" session, and all who had expressed an interest (either by responding to a column in the summer *ARLIS/NY News*, or by word of mouth) were invited. On Tuesday, November 14, 1995, the ARLIS/NY Cataloging Discussion Group had its inaugural meeting at the Museum of Modern Art. Nineteen people came to the first meeting, seventeen from museums, two from a university. The first meeting proved useful for all who attended in terms of professional support and technical data shared. It is hoped that catalogers from all institutions under the ARLIS/NY umbrella will feel welcome to attend future meetings; the broader the pool of experiences and points of view, the more significant the group's value.

The next meeting will be held at the Pierpont Morgan Library on Monday, March 25. The topic for discussion will be cataloging analytics and off-prints. For more information, contact Maria Oldal, 212-685-0008, bm.pml@lg.stanford.edu.

—Daniel Fermon

[The answers to the questions discussed in the column that follows could have formed a newsletter all by themselves! Librarians like to be thorough! Unfortunately we couldn't print all of the interesting details, but I think if you ask Kitty or Paula, at Columbia University's Avery Library, they'll be happy to send you a copy. —Editor]



ON THE REFERENCE DESK. . .

Back in the heat of Summer (*ARLIS/NY News*, Vol. 16, no. 3), we challenged our readers to help answer some real-life reference questions that have stumped us. And hey, we're not dummies...we knew that the answers would give us material for another column!

And our winners are: Mary Ann Carich, who proves that one actually learns something in library school; Hollee Haswell, who gets special recognition for attempting to answer all five questions; and Rebecca Wilkins, who gets extra points for responding, then later remembering the column in October (!) and writing us again with new and expanded answers.

1. What is the name of the device found on the top of tall buildings and lookout points that you put a coin into for viewing? Where can one find an image of this device? Winner Haswell wrote:..."I think it is an optiviewer...I think the 1936 WPA guidebook has a quick clip of one in their view from the Empire State Building." [Column editors are still seeking confirmation on this one.]

2. Give examples of images of Harlequins that are not by Picasso, or give sources to locate such. Winner Wilkins answered *extensively*, citing numerous Commedia dell'arte-related references, David Hockney, and Joan Miro.

3. Is there a guidebook, directory or exhibition catalog that lists information on roadside art? Winner Carcich sent excerpts from a bibliography she had compiled: [The well-built elephant and other roadside attractions](#), by J. C. C. Andrews, New York: Congdon & Weed, 1984; and [Ducks and diners](#), Washington, D. C.: Preservation Press, 1988.

4. What is the origin and history of the black and white faux marble design found on the cover of composition books? Winner Haswell reported that "our black 'n white faux marble composition notebooks are in fact a 20th century takeoff on the way students' books were bound and looked in the 18th century. Marble paper, very colorful, was used to cover the 'boards' of students' books as the cost of leather bindings was prohibitive."

5. What did schoolrooms in homes, such as those used by children schooled by governesses, look like? Again Haswell answered: "The best description of a schoolroom at home...is in the opening section of [Childhood](#) by Leo N. Tolstoy." She also noted the Stettheimer Dollhouse on view at the Museum of the City of New York.

So, winners, thank you for your efforts! Prizes, more or less appropriate to the questions, but reflecting the meager pockets of the column editors, will be presented at the Spring ARLIS/NY Meeting.

—Kitty Chibnik & Paula Gabbard

😊😊 NEWS OF MEMBERS. . .

Congratulations! Susana B. Simor (Head Art Librarian and Director of the Art Center at Queens College, CUNY) earned a Ph. D. in the History of Art from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, in January 1996.

Welcome! Sonja Bay, 10 W. 15th St. Apt. 1623, New York, NY 10011; Mary S. De Pasquale, Vice President, J. P. Morgan & Co.; Gabriele Hoffman, Serials Coordinator, Pierpont Morgan Library; Michele Nauman, library school student, Pratt Institute; Dianne Stalker, Melville Library, SUNY-Stony Brook; Shawn E. Steidinger, Cataloger/Reference Librarian, Thomas J. Watson Library, The Metropolitan Museum of Art; Paolina Taglienti, Catalog Librarian, Long Island University-Brooklyn; Heidi Martin Winston, Librarian, Art & Architecture Collection, New York Public Library; Eleanor Yadin, library school student, Palmer School, L. I. U.-C. W. Post.

Thanks for your donations to ARLIS/NY! Kay Badalamenti, Victoria R. Bohm, Sherman Clarke, Judy Connorton, Georgia de Havenon, Janis Ekdahl, Angela Giral, Hollee Haswell, Debbie Kempe, Marcia Laszlo Meunier, Pearl L. Moeller, Josephine Murphy, Ralph F. Ocker, Elizabeth

O'Keefe, Céline Palatsky, Doralynn Pines, Barry Redlich, Emily Roth, Herbert J. Schwarz, Eleanor Townsend, William Bond Walker.

\$\$ TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1995...

Opening balance:	\$4,247.77
Income:	\$4,007.00
Expenses:	\$3,692.18-
Closing balance:	\$4,562.59

ABOUT ARLIS/NY...

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Chair. Eumie Imm Stroukoff
Vice Chair/Chair Elect. Liz O'Keefe
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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.

THANKS TO THIS MONTH'S CONTRIBUTORS...

Kitty Chibnik, Columbia University; Ross Day, The Metropolitan Museum of Art; Alexandra de Luise, Queens College, CUNY; Daniel Fermon, Museum of Modern Art; Paula Gabbard, Columbia University; Clare Hills-Nova, Institute of Fine Arts, NYU; Betsy Peck Learned, Roger Williams University; Elizabeth O'Keefe, The Pierpont Morgan Library; Maria Oldal, The Pierpont Morgan Library; Chris Sala, Columbia University; Betsy Shepardson, library school student, Pratt; Eumie Imm Stroukoff, Museum of Modern Art; Kay Teel, New York University.

1996 ARLIS/NY Calendar

Mar 17: Travel Award application deadline
Mar 25: Spring Meeting
Mar, end: membership directory publication

Apr 25-May 1: ARLIS/NA in Miami

May 8: Executive Board meeting
May tba: new technologies meeting

Jun 3: *ARLIS/NY News* deadline
Jun tba: NYC neighborhood tour

Sep 4: Executive Board meeting
Sep tba: Fall Business meeting
Sep 27: Executive Board elections

Oct 7: *ARLIS/NY News* deadline
Oct tba: Halloween gravesite tour

Nov 6: Executive Board meeting

Dec tba: Holiday Party

Jan 1997: symposium with VRA



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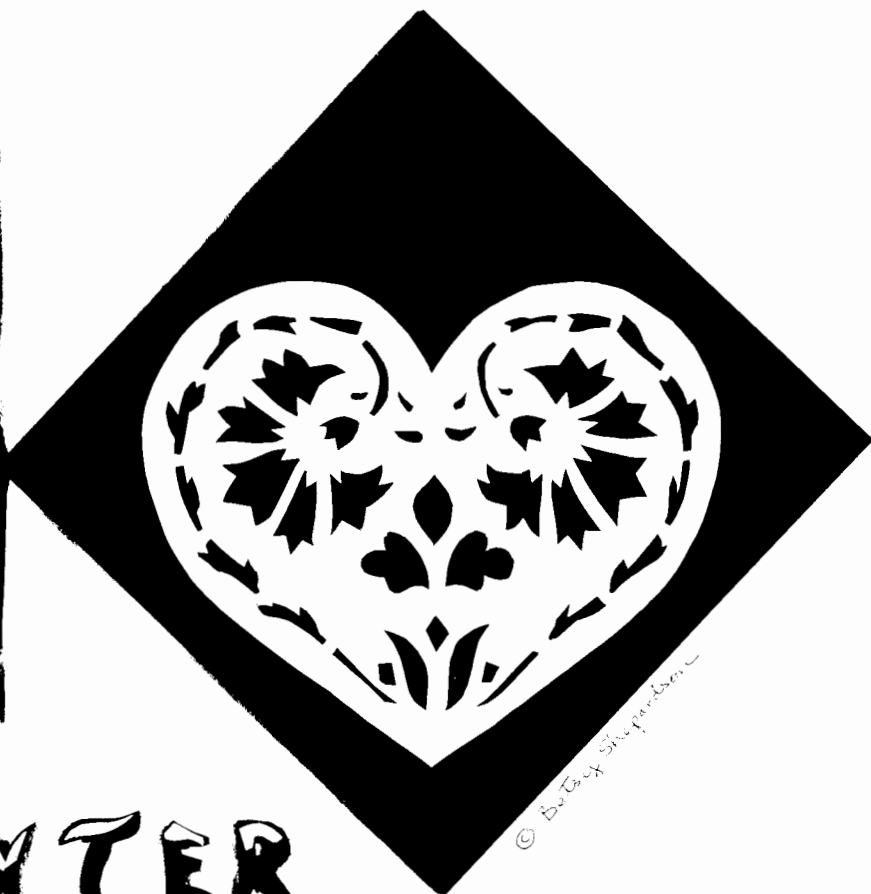
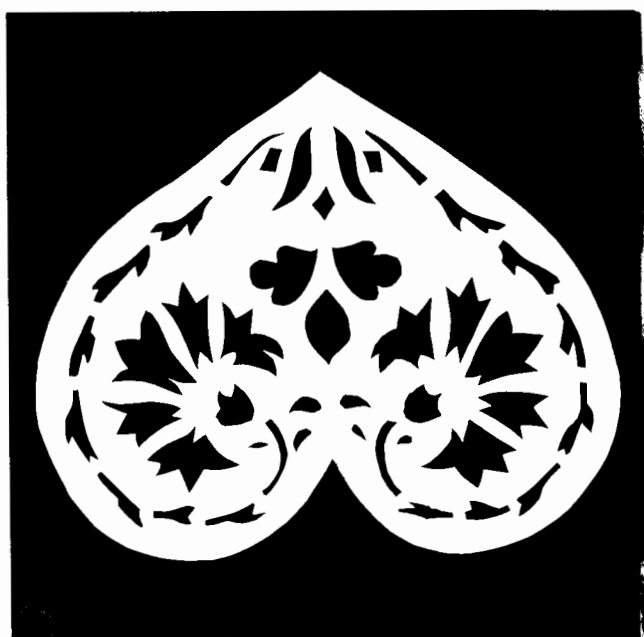


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