



ARLIS/New York News

Volume 17 Number 2

Spring 1996



FROM THE CHAIR. . .

I am happy to report that ARLIS/NY has many exciting adventures planned as we start Summer.

Our Fall Business Meeting has been set and will take place at The Cloisters on Tuesday, September 10 from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. The business meeting will be held in the Chairman's office (in the top of the tower) and afterwards we will have a tour of the Library and Archives. A separate announcement will be sent as we get closer to the meeting date, but for now, mark your calendars for what is sure to be an exciting meeting at a beautiful site.

And, since you have your calendar out, put down October 27 as the tentative date for the Halloween gravesite tour. We will send out further information for this spooky and fun-filled tour in the Fall.

And...this leads me to the next potential event. The Executive Board would like to know how many members would be interested in attending a Home Page workshop in the Fall. The cost would be \$30. If this seems interesting to you, call me at 212-708-9441, or e-mail me at moma3@metgate.metro.org. If enough interest is generated, we will plan this event, so let us know!

Finally, I'd like to put in a plea regarding two matters. We depend on the generosity and hospitality of our members to organize events and to produce the newsletter. If anyone is interested in hosting the Holiday Party in December, please contact me or

anyone else on the Executive Board. As you know, this is a very popular and well-attended meeting, and we'd like to have it arranged soon, so that we may move ahead with the details. The second request has to do with the newsletter. After many years of doing a wonderful job, Judy Connorton will step down, after this issue, as Advertising Manager. We are looking for a new manager, who might possibly assume the role of assistant editor. Please let the Board know if you are interested in this position. I can personally attest to the fact that working on the newsletter was a fun and informative way to meet fellow Chapter members and to contribute to the ARLIS/NY society.

—Eumie Imm Stroukoff



ARLIS/NA IN MIAMI. . .

It was a real pleasure to see ARLIS/NY members contributing to the Miami conference in so many ways. We've always had a strong level of participation, and this year was no exception. The following is a list of ARLIS/NY members who were speakers and moderators for the sessions at the 24th Annual Conference at Miami Beach, April 26-May 1.

Kitty Chibnik and Chris Sala, "Pretty in Pink: The Design & Redesign of Your Library"; Sherman Clarke, "Cataloging Issues and Problems"; Janis Ekdahl, "Intellectual Property in the Electronic Age"; Paula

Gabbard, "Let's Make a Deal: The Art of Working with a Vendor"; Angela Giral, "Recruiting, Promoting, Managing Diversity"; Ted Goodman, "Latin American/Art Deco Architecture"; Jean Hines, "Florida Decorative Arts to Mid-Century"; Katie Keller, "Who Are the Bravest in the Brave New World? Site Licensing Initiatives for Images"; Debbie Kempe, Faith Pleasanton and Daniel Starr, "Award-Winning Publishing: The Old & New World of Art Books - In Celebration of the George Wittenborn Book Award"; Naomi Niles, "Current Issues in Art of Latin America and the Caribbean"; Liz O'Keefe and Maria Oldal, "Cataloging Visual Materials: What IS the Problem?";

—Eumie Imm Stroukoff

WITTENBORN AWARDS

On April 28, 1996, in Miami, the 17th Annual George Wittenborn Book Awards were presented to three exemplary 1995 publications.

The winners were Princeton University Press for The Salon Album of Vera Sudeikin-Stravinsky, edited and translated by John E. Bowlit; Thames and Hudson Inc. and The Wolfsonian Foundation for Designing Modernity: The Arts of Reform and Persuasion 1885-1945: Selections from The Wolfsonian, edited by Wendy Kaplan; and Yale University Press for Hadrian's Villa and Its Legacy, by William L. MacDonald and John A. Pinto. Two additional publications received Special Mention by the Committee: The Whitney Museum of American Art in association with W. W. Norton for Edward Hopper: A Catalogue Raisonné, by Gail Levin; and Harry N. Abrams, Inc. for Grandmother's Garden: The Old-Fashioned American Garden 1865-1915, by May Brawley Hill.

Established in 1981 to honor the memory of premier New York art book dealer and publisher, George Wittenborn, these awards are given annually to North American publications that represent the highest standards of art publishing, both in content and representation.

This year's Wittenborn Committee was made up entirely of ARLIS/NY members: Deborah Kempe, Amy Gale, Arno Kastner, Julie Mellby, Lee Robinson, Emily Roth, Daniel Starr, and Bobbie Xuereb.

—Deborah Kempe

ARLIS/NY TRAVEL WINNERS

My first ARLIS/NA Conference...and what a wonderful coincidence that it just happened to be in Miami Beach! It didn't take long for all thoughts of the long New York Winter to be banished from my mind after I arrived in Miami and saw swaying palm trees and glistening blue water. I had looked forward to the Conference as a chance to make many new acquaintances, and already at the airport I had struck up conversations with art librarians just arrived from other parts of the country.

The first order of business the next morning was the Everglades Tour. Our group of about thirty climbed into a noisy airboat and after a fifteen-minute ride were soon surrounded by sawgrass and on the lookout for alligators. Back at the dock we all got a chance to hold Snappy, a docile baby alligator.

After the tour it was time to start attending sessions and meetings. I attended the Museum Library division meeting, the Reference and Informational Services section meeting, and the Decorative Arts Roundtable, all of which gave me the chance to see how ARLIS/NA really works. It was hard to decide which sessions to go to. I was sorry to miss many of them, but did attend the Latin American/Art Deco Architecture and the Award Winning Publishing sessions.

As I attended these sessions I was impressed with the high level of commitment that art librarians have to ARLIS/NA. They volunteer to serve on committees, roundtables, and panels, as well as to organize ARLIS/NA events, despite their very busy schedules. And they make anyone wishing to get involved feel welcome. It is that willingness

to serve that makes ARLIS/NA such a successful organization.

Other highlights of the Conference were the receptions at the Wolfsonian Museum and at the Centro Vasco restaurant, where a crowd of art librarians could be seen dancing with abandon to the music of a rousing Cuban singer and band.

Miami Beach is filled with one unique Art Deco building after another, which gives the city a character not seen anywhere else. I particularly liked the architectural details and pastel color schemes.

I brought back memories of the many friendly people I met and talked with about book acquisitions, online searching, art reference, and all the other issues that we face daily in our respective libraries. I hope to see many of these new acquaintances again at future conferences.

Thanks again to the ARLIS/NA Travel Award Committee for selecting me. I am sure next year's recipient will have as wonderful a time in San Antonio as I did in Miami Beach.

—Jeffrey Stephens



To begin with, I had a great time! I met many members, and never ate alone. There was a very casual and relaxed feeling throughout the Doral Hotel and many of us took advantage of the tours arranged by the Conference and the hotel. If you are ever in the Miami area, I highly recommend a visit to Vizcaya.

I attended the Cataloging section and the Academic Division business meetings and was struck by their openness...I even made a comment and asked questions.

Although I was exhausted from attending sessions and meetings, I was not going to miss any of the parties. The Wolfsonian hosted a very elegant and refined reception. It was contrasted the following evening by the Ars Libri reception at Centro Vasco in Little Havana. What I will

remember most vividly about my first ARLIS conference will be art librarians dancing the conga line!

I am so grateful to ARLIS/NY for making the travel award available and my attendance in Miami Beach possible. I would not have made it without your help. I encourage everyone to start planning for San Antonio, where I hope to see all my new-found friends and colleagues again.

—Paolina Taglienti



CATALOGING NOTES...

The ARLIS/NY Cataloging Discussion Group is a success! Founded in November 1995, the group has been meeting on a more-or-less-monthly basis, with almost every meeting being "standing room only"...a comment on both the good attendance rate and the unfortunate lack of space in technical services departments.

The group last met on May 20, 1996, at the Frick Art Reference Library, to discuss collection-level cataloging. Used by archivists for years, the term collection-level cataloging is now a buzzword among library catalogers who are looking for ways to bibliographically control what was referred to at one ARLIS/NA Conference session as "the wilder kingdom." The principal benefit of collection-level cataloging is the ability to describe a large amount of related items on one (or a few) bibliographic records. Some of the types of collections mentioned at the meeting included artist's files, photo archives, and pamphlets. Among the topics the groups discussed were the pros and cons of large records with long notes fields and lots of access points; subject analysis; authority control; and the ability to link finding aids to collections to the bibliographic record.

The next meeting of the Cataloging

Discussion Group will be held on June 24, 1996 at 3:30 PM in the Watson Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Enter through the main entrance on Fifth Avenue, and tell Reception you are attending the meeting in the Watson Library. The main topic will be "Training Library Assistants."

—Kay Teel



TRIBECA TOUR. . .

On a beautiful Saturday morning, June 1, a small but enthusiastic crowd gathered in TriBeCa for a walking tour led by the architectural historian, Andrew Dolkart. Professor Dolkart wrote the book Texture of TriBeCa, which was instrumental in getting TriBeCa established as a historic district.

Prof. Dolkart began the tour outlining TriBeCa's history as a residential area, its transformation to a commercial area beginning in the 1830s, and its reconversion to its current status as a residential area in the late 1970s. The next 2-1/2 hours were spent looking at a wonderful assortment of buildings ranging from the landmark A. J. Stewart department store to one of the few remaining original houses dating from 1807.

Prof. Dolkart spent considerable time tracing the history of commercial buildings in New York, focusing primarily on their building materials. Cast iron and marble were discussed, with numerous examples highlighted. In addition to the architecture of the area, interesting aspects of the area's sidewalks and streets were noted.

The tour was a great opportunity for many to discover an unfamiliar part of the city.

—Chris Sala



BROOKLYN MUSEUM. . .

Deirdre Lawrence, Principal Librarian and Coordinator of Research Services at the Brooklyn Museum, was the hostess on the afternoon of Friday, May 31 for a tour of The Brooklyn Museum.

The tour began with the special exhibition "Converging Cultures: The Art and Identity of Spanish America." Maria Lanzari Cohen, Research Associate, led the group through the galleries and pointed out highlights of the collection. Textiles, manuscripts, silver kerocups, paintings, and many other beautiful objects were examined by the twelve librarians who attended this part of the tour. Both Maria and Deirdre discussed the Museum's role in the acquisition of these very important works of Spanish Colonial art.

At 3:00, Deirdre led the group to the Library, where we were joined by more ARLIS/NY members. In the Library we heard a brief talk about the Libraries and Archives of The Brooklyn Museum and were introduced to staff. On display were highlights of the Library's collection of material on Spanish Colonial Art, as well as contemporary Latin American art, which have been assembled over the years to support object and exhibition research. Deirdre discussed the Art Reference Library's collection strengths, access policies, and expansion plans. She then introduced her colleagues Diane Bergman, Librarian of the Wilbour Library of Egyptology, and Deborah Wythe, Archivist and Manager of Library Special Collections, who talked about their collections.

The day concluded with everyone enjoying a reception and the opportunity for additional touring of public and staff areas.

—Eumie Imm



SPRING MEETING. . .

Approximately fifty ARLIS/NY members attended the Spring reception and meeting at the Archives of American Art on Monday, March 25. The evening began with socializing and a variety of refreshments. Shortly afterwards, the meeting began with an introduction of new Chapter members, announcements of tours of The Brooklyn Museum and TriBeCa, the Treasurer's Report, a presentation of the ARLIS/NY Travel Awards, and presentation of prizes to the Reference Desk contest winners. [See Vol. 17, No. 1 for contest answers and winners.]

Then the evening was turned over to Steve Polcari, our host. Mr. Polcari, an articulate and charming speaker, provided an informative introduction to the working of the Archives. The Archives of American Art, a research center of the Smithsonian Institution, was established to collect documentary records of American artists, collectors, dealers, and critics of repute and influence in the history of American art. In the various branch offices around the country, over thirteen million papers are preserved, recorded on microfilm, and made available to scholars and researchers. The New York City branch is an important source for the acquisition of these materials, which are then sent to the Main office in Washington, D. C. for microfilming. Mr. Polcari gave amusing anecdotes about his experiences at The Archives of American Art in such matters as approaching potential donors.

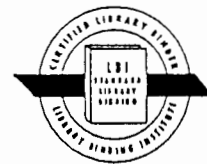
A very pleasant evening ended with more food, wine, and socializing.

—Eumie Imm Stroukoff



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NEWS OF MEMBERS. . .

Welcome to New Members

Elizabeth Broman, Library School student at Pratt Institute; Jodi Collins, Reference Librarian, Marymount College; Gloria Gaines, Memorial Library, Tarrytown; Robert E. Drake, Manager of Library and Archives, Pei Cobb Freed & Partners; Sheila Fox, Library School student at the Palmer School; Susan Kalish, Library school student at Pratt Institute; Billy C. H. Kwan, Librarian, Watson Library, Metropolitan Museum; Stephanie Sueppell, Library school student at Queens College, Library trainee at NYPL, Belmont Library.

Address Change

Julie Mellby, Assistant Curator, Dept. of Printing and Graphic Arts, Houghton Library, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA 02138; Phone: 617-495-2444, Fax: 617-495-1376, E-mail: mellby@fas.harvard.edu.

LOOKING FOR WORK? . . .

Indexer, The Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals

Avery Index to Architectural Periodicals, an operating program of the Getty Art History Information Program at Columbia University's Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library, is seeking a part-time indexer. The indexer will work approximately 5 hours per week indexing articles in a variety of non-English periodicals covering architecture, interior design, landscape architecture, history preservation, design, and city planning; and will perform name and subject authority work.

Requirements: An accredited M. L. S.; working knowledge of German and Italian; indexing or cataloging experience. Knowledge of architecture and architectural history is highly desirable. Hourly salary commensurate with experience.

Send resume, listing names, addresses, and

phone numbers of three references to Jane Hunt, Human Resources Office, Columbia University, Box 35 Butler Library, 535 West 114th Street, New York, NY 10027. Applications received by 7/15/96 will receive priority consideration; applications will be accepted until the position is filled. State title "Indexer" in cover letter. Columbia University is an Affirmative Action Equal Opportunity Employer.

THANKS and FAREWELL! . . .

This issue marks a few changes. I am nearing the end of my term as Editor, and this will be the last issue I do solo. Kay Teel has been selected to take over as Editor in 1997, and following recent tradition, she will do the layout and mailing of this year's last issue in November - to "break her in."

As a library student, I joined ARLIS in 1993, and in the first issue of ARLIS/New York News I received there was a small ad for editorial assistant. Having done this kind of work often in the past, and eager to volunteer and learn about art librarianship, soon I was talking to Eumie Imm on the phone. What developed was a wonderful friendship with her and others, and a three-year stint as Editor of ARLIS/New York News.

What a great experience it has been! I cannot imagine, now, not knowing all the people and places with which this position connected me. To all, I say thank you very much for your contributions to the newsletter and for taking a chance on an unknown library student. I hope others who have not yet participated in ARLIS/NY activities will take my example to heart and enrich their lives by getting involved.

I must thank Judy Connorton (who is also finishing a term as Ad Manager) for faithfully and independently selling advertising, Betsy Shepardson for supplying beautiful art work for every issue since I became Editor, and the many Board members who have made my job fun, satisfying, and easy. And I thank my husband, Bryce, who often worked on mailings with me.

Well, I never have become an art librarian! Computer skills outweighed art knowledge in my background. (In July, I will begin a new job as director of an undergraduate program in Information Transfer at Long Island University.) But I wouldn't have missed my ARLIS/New York News experience for anything! And now I look forward to enjoying Kay Teel's fresh point of view in content and layout for ARLIS/New York News.

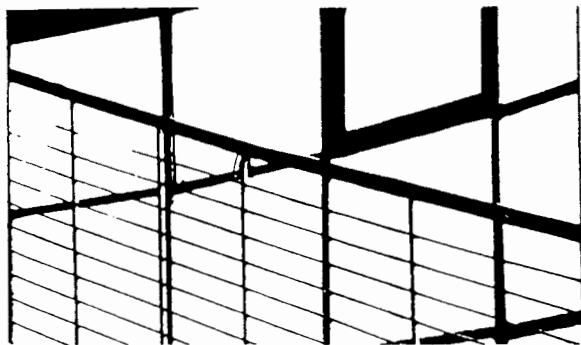
—Micki Breitenstein

THANKS! To This Month's Contributors

Deborah Kempe,
The Frick Art Reference Library
Maria Oldal, The Pierpont Morgan Library
Chris Sala, Columbia University
Jeffrey Stephens, The Brooklyn Museum
Eumie Imm Stroukoff,
The Museum of Modern Art
Paolina Taglienti
Kay Teel, New York University



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



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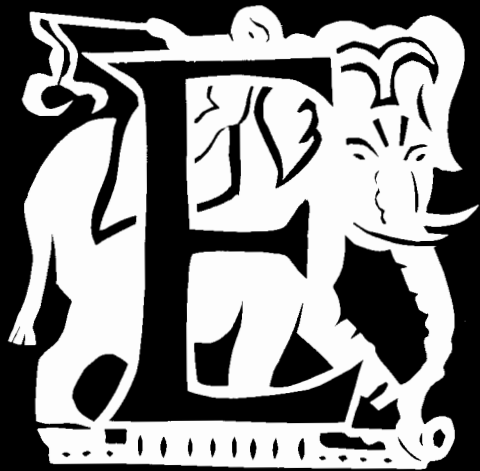
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