



ARLIS/New York News

The Newsletter of the Art Libraries Society of North America/New York Metro Chapter

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Winter 1997

FROM THE CHAIR

Greetings to ARLIS/NY members, new and renewing, personal and institutional, student, employed, and retired. 1997 is shaping up as a year full of exciting programs: a tour of H.W. Wilson and a chance to exchange ideas with the staff of Art Index; a visit to Ocker and Trapp, the New Jersey-based binder well-known to many of our members; a Spring meeting at New York Public Library; and perhaps a repeat of the successful Halloween graveyard tour.

The Fall Business Meeting and the Holiday Party are still in the planning stages. Please get in touch with me or any other Board member if your institution can host a meeting. Other ways to get involved: attend sessions of the Cataloguers' Discussion Group (and offer your institution as a meeting place for the group); submit an article to the Newsletter (see page 7); come up with an idea for a tour or event you would like to see the chapter sponsor; volunteer to serve on the Board or on one of the special committees.

Hail to new Board members (see page 4) and farewell to retiring board members Alexandra

De Luise, Maria Oldal, and Paula Gabbard. Alexandra will be spending her leisure hours putting together a presentation for the San Antonio conference on how to run a successful chapter. Paula will continue her stump the stars reference questions for the Newsletter, and Maria, liberated from her secretarial duties, is setting her sights on running in next year's New York City Marathon.

On a personal note: 1997 is going to be an eventful year for me, as I simultaneously begin my duties as Chair and take on new responsibilities as Director of Information Services at the Pierpont Morgan Library. The newly created position involves implementing a library and collection management system for all the Library's collections, from books and manuscripts to cylinder seals, from drawings to realia (how to catalog Voltaire's briefcase or Marianne Moore's model of the Edsel?).

It's an enormous challenge -- and I would be much less sanguine about tackling it if I hadn't gathered so much information over the years from contacts, formal and informal, with members of ARLIS and other professional associations. To be sure, librarians are extremely generous with their time and advice, and I expect most of the people I have talked to would have been just as helpful to a

colleague with no affiliations whatsoever. But involvement in professional associations (I refuse to use the hateful term, "networking") gives you a much better idea of whom to contact; and you're that bit less shy about making a phone call to someone you've met, even if it's only over the chips and dip at a get-together. So--renew if you haven't renewed; join if you never have; and get involved!!!

-- Elizabeth O'Keefe

ARLIS/NY MEMORIAL FUND UPDATE

The initial response to the creation of the ARLIS/NY Memorial Fund has been gratifying. By January 1, 1997, some ten persons had contributed a total of \$390 in memory of George Simor, whose untimely death last summer inspired the establishment of the Fund.

The Chapter invites contributions from others who wish to memorialize deceased colleagues, friends, and family, or to honor the living by celebrating some milestone or professional achievement. Tax-deductible contributions will be used to support special lectures, workshops, seminars, tours, and other chapter-sponsored events promoting the continuing education and professional development of those working in the field of art librarianship.

Contributions may be sent to:

Chris Sala, ARLIS/NY Treasurer
601 W. 113th Street, #4E
New York, NY 10025

Please make out your check to: ARLIS/NY, and indicate the person you wish to honor.

--Elizabeth O'Keefe

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MEMORIAL FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

Contributions in honor of George Simor have been received from:

Sharon C. Bonk
Alexandra de Luise
Janis Ekdahl
Ted Goodman
Shoshana Kaufmann
E. O'Keefe
Elizabeth M. Rajec
Elizabeth Rumic
Manuel Sanudo

Erratum:

The tribute to George Simor, "In Memoriam," in the Fall 1996 newsletter was written by Elizabeth O'Keefe.

HOLIDAY PARTY

In celebration of the Holidays, the ARLIS/NY chapter met at Parsons School of Design on December 13. Members gathered in the Parsons Auditorium and were welcomed by Tim Gunn, Associate Dean and Gail Persky, University Librarian for the New School for Social Research. Parsons generously provided a sumptuous assortment of food and drinks; an interesting evening was enjoyed by all in attendance!

Eumie Imm Stroukoff, in her last event as ARLIS/NY Chair, led the evening with a brief business meeting, announcing a few items of interest. A Travel Award will again be presented to one student and one regular member to cover partial travel expenses to the ARLIS/NA National Conference held in San Antonio. Eumie warmly thanked her outgoing board members, and introduced the ARLIS/NY Board for 1997. Elizabeth O'Keefe, incoming Chair, spoke briefly about the newly created ARLIS/NY Memorial Fund; Chris Scala read the year-end Treasurer's report.

Guest speaker, Ellen Lupton, Design Historian and Curator at the Cooper Hewitt Museum, presented a lively slideshow/lecture on the Museum's current exhibition, "Mixing Messages: Graphic Design in Contemporary Culture." Ms. Lupton and Abbott Miller, her husband, a designer, collaborated on the exhibition and accompanying catalog.

In closing, Eumie bid a last farewell as ARLIS/NY Chair, and turned the remainder of the program over to Jenny Tobias of Parsons. Jenny led some members to a reception in the Aronson Galleries while small groups toured Parsons' newly renovated Gimbel Library. In the midst of another hectic holiday season,

ARLIS members paused to share in the wine and elegant hors d'oeuvres, socialize and enjoy a stimulating evening!

--Carol Rusk

HALLOWEEN GRAVEYARD TOUR

On Sunday, October 27, twenty-eight ARLIS/NY members and their guests attended the graveyard tour conducted by Roberta Halporn, Director of the Center for Thanatology Research and Education. The Center operates the Brooklyn Rubbing Center, a non-profit library and research center which publishes books and bibliographies relating to gravestone studies.

The first stop on the three-hour tour was the Congregation Shearith Israel Cemetery at 98-110 W. 21st Street (between Sixth and Seventh Avenues). the third oldest Jewish cemetery in the city. The 21st Street cemetery (the third oldest Jewish cemetery in the city) was chosen as the site of our visit because the oldest cemeteries are now inaccessible; unfortunately, the lock on the entrance gate had been changed just a couple of days in advance of our visit, so we were unable to go inside. But Ms. Halporn had brought along several visual aids, including a map illustrating the many stages of the Sephardim's journey from Palestine to Peter Stuyvesant's New Amsterdam.

Our next stop was St. Paul's Churchyard, on Broadway and Fulton. The church, which is modelled on St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, is New York's only extant pre-Revolutionary building; the graveyard is older still. Ms. Halporn taught us how to distinguish between Colonial gravestones (their tops are shaped like a Mickey Mouse hat) and later stones (between 1795 and 1805 the triple-curved stones were replaced by squared-off rectangles). Italics are

another clue: they came into use only in the 1780's. Slate and sandstone were the predominant materials, along with some granite floated down from Newport; "soul effigies" (angels) are the most common symbol.

At Trinity Churchyard we viewed memorials to the famous (Robert Fulton, Alexander Hamilton, and James Lawrence, of "Don't give up the ship" fame), the notorious (Charlotte Temple, whose seduction and abandonment by a soldier inspired "Charlotte: A Tale of Truth" a cautionary tale popular in the 1790's), and the nameless Revolutionary heroes who died while imprisoned in the Harold Sugar House during the British occupation of New York. But most affecting were the graves of ordinary folk: a native of France who died among strangers, a dutiful husband, a loving wife, and many, many children.

The tour was popular enough to elicit requests for an encore next year. Possible sites include Greenwood Cemetery in Brooklyn, Woodlawn Cemetery in the Bronx, and the Moravian Burying Grounds in Staten Island. Other suggestions are welcomed.

-- Elizabeth O'Keefe



MEET THE NEW BOARD MEMBERS

CAROL RUSK, VICE-CHAIR/CHAIR-ELECT

My most recently chosen career as a librarian has been spent in art museum libraries. For the past five years I have held the position of Cataloger/Coordinator of Technical Services at the Brooklyn Art Museum Library. Lately, though, I've been more involved with coordinating than cataloging! My challenge has been to keep up with new technology while planning for its effects on changes within the Library.

Personal interests include many subjects from art to gardening, cooking to collecting, opera to rock-n-roll--not much to do with technology! Weekdays, I live in an apartment in Carroll Gardens with two decks, a normal-size roommate and an oversize cat. On weekends, I escape the city for a house in Pennsylvania with a porch, a garden, a garage and a borrowed cat.

ARLIS membership has always been an important aspect of my professional life because it provides fellowship with other art librarians and serves as a continuing educational experience. I look forward to contributing to this year's exciting programming of meetings and tours scheduled by the New York chapter.

--Carol Rusk

SHAWN STEIDINGER, SECRETARY

This is my first foray into the board member arena with ARLIS/NY, and I hope to maintain and enhance the quality of chapter documentation that my predecessors have already achieved. I'm looking forward to active participation in an organization that provides as many opportunities for professional growth and friendship as does ARLIS/NY and ARLIS/NA. I have been an art librarian for two years with the Watson Library of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Before that, I was a jack-of-all-trades librarian with the Washington-Centerville Public Library system near Dayton, OH, where I served as cataloger, reference librarian, assistant systems librarian, trainer, and other assorted roles. My husband and I first moved to Larchmont, NY on New Year's Eve of 1994. After just over a year, we relocated to Ft. Hamilton Army Post near Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, where Adam serves a Medical Logistics Officer in a combat support hospital unit. Our "motto" used to be "Have degrees, will travel...", but now it looks

like we've found a home, both in NYC and in ARLIS!

--Shawn Steidinger

REBECCA WILKINS, MEMBER-AT-LARGE

I became an ARLIS/NY member in 1994, soon after I moved to NYC and joined the Fine Arts and Recreation staff at the Queens Borough Public Library. Before that I lived in Pittsburgh, where I received my BA (in Art History and Italian) and MLS from the University of Pittsburgh. My favorite educational experiences were spending two summers studying in Italy and two semesters traveling around the world. Working as both Member-at-Large and Advertising Manager should keep me busy with the chapter (and I'll gladly welcome any suggestions you may have for new advertisers!). In addition to my job, I stay busy by trying to keep up with my reading, paper marbling, cooking, and of course taking advantage of all that New York has to offer-- museums, galleries, movies, and restaurants.

--Rebecca Wilkins

WILLIAM BOND WALKER: RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION

"Paintings From Four Decades" opened October 7, 1996, at Truffles & Such (transcontinental cuisine) in Allendale Center, Pittsfield, Mass. The exhibition includes 26 paintings in acrylic, casein, and mixed media from 1954 to 1996. Walker works in both representational and abstract modes, with landscape elements and architectural fragments among the recurring motifs in his abstractions. The exhibition continues through March 30, 1997.

Bill Walker studied at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, with James Lechay, Mauricio Lasansky, Howard Warshaw, and Stuart Edie,

and in Taos and Los Angeles with Emil Bisttram. He has exhibited in group exhibitions in New York, Washington, D.C., and Rehoboth, Delaware. Walker's paintings are in private collections in New York City, San Francisco, Washington, D.C., Nashville and Brownsville, Tennessee, and Canaan, New York.

In 1994 Walker concluded a distinguished 37-year career as an art librarian. He was chief librarian of the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn, New York, the National Museum of American Art and the National Portrait Gallery (Smithsonian Institution), Washington, D.C.; and for the final 14 years, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York.

Walker is a biographee of Who's Who in America (41st-50th eds., 1980-1996), and Who's Who in American Art (1978-1992). Honors include Phi Beta Kappa (Iowa, 1953) and the 1991 Distinguished Service Award of the Art Libraries Society of North America.

For information on exhibition hours, call Truffles & Such, 413-442-0151. (The exhibition is closed Sundays.) For information on the paintings, call Walker at 518-781-4153.

--Press release

ARLIS/NY 1997 TRAVEL AWARDS

ARLIS/NY is pleased to offer its annual travel awards for the 1997 conference to be held in San Antonio, Texas, April 4-10. Two awards of \$250 each will be presented -- one to a student member and one to a professional.

Applicants must be members of both ARLIS/NY and ARLIS/NA. Preference will be given to first-time conference attendees and to applicants who are actively participating in the conference (as a speaker or committee

member, for example). Please note that applicants may not be recipients of full institutional funding. Members may also apply for ARLIS/NA travel awards, but only one award may be accepted.

Please send a resume and a letter of application stating your ARLIS interests and activities to:

Rebecca Wilkins
39-35 51st St. #2-G
Woodside, NY 11377

Letters must be received by February 7. The award recipients will be notified by mail no later than February 21. Any questions should be directed to the above address, to Rebeccaw@queens.lib.ny.us or 718/397-1774.

--Rebecca Wilkins

1996 TREASURER'S REPORT

ARLIS/NY Chapter 1996 Treasurer's Report

INCOME

1996 Membership Dues	1,085.00
1997 Membership Dues	1,260.00
Tours	450.00
Merchandise Sales	340.00
Membership Contributions	375.00
Contributions	100.00
Memorial Fund	390.00

EXPENSES

Meetings	245.41
Newsletter	1,243.84
Announcements	209.40
Membership Directory	99.20
Tours	300.00
Travel Awards	400.00
Bank Charges	122.57
Merchandise	397.20
Contributions	100.00

CLOSING

BALANCE (Dec. 31, 1996): 5,273.23

--Chris Sala

NEWS OF MEMBERS

New Members:

We welcome two new members to the Chapter: the Jewish Museum at 1109 Fifth Avenue, and Dorothy Watkins of the New York City Housing Authority.

--Elizabeth O'Keefe

Congratulations:

Kenneth Soehner has been named Arthur K. Watson Chief Librarian of The Metropolitan Museum of Art's Thomas J. Watson Library, as was announced in December by Philippe de Montebello, the Museum's Director. Since Kenneth began at the MMA in November

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1995, he has served as Acquisitions Librarian and Bibliographer, Head of Technical Services, and Acting Chief Librarian. Prior to working at the Metropolitan Museum, he worked at Barnard College Library and the Burke Library of Union Theological Seminary. As Arthur K. Watson Chief Librarian, Kenneth will oversee the Thomas J. Watson Library, the Museum's central research library, which was founded in 1880 and is now one of the most comprehensive art and archaeology libraries in the world.

--Greta Earnest

Get Well Soon!

Get well greetings go out to Betsy Shepardson, ARLIS/NY member whose beautiful artwork has illuminated the newsletter for several years. Get well soon!

--Kay Teel



NEWS OF LIBRARIES

The Frick Art Reference Library announced on January 15, 1997, that it has officially opened its online public access catalog, known as FRESCO (Frick Research Catalog Online). Patricia Barnett, Andrew W. Mellon Librarian, said, "We are thrilled to be able to offer electronic access to our collections for all users. The first responses from our readers have been extremely enthusiastic." Since 1986, the Library has cataloged its book collection on RLIN. All of those entries -- approximately 20% of its book collection -- are currently available online to readers who visit the Library and, very shortly, will be available to those who wish to dial-up over the Internet.

--Press release

METRO ANNOUNCES ARTSIG-L

All New York art libraries (or libraries that collect art research materials in addition to other subject areas) are invited to join the new

New York Metropolitan Reference and Research Library Agency (METRO) ARTSIG-L.

METRO's Art Librarians special interest group listserv is a service provided for METRO members, as a natural extension of the ARTSIG's mission to help art libraries share their valuable resources with one another.

ARTSIG-L is an unmoderated discussion group. It is a service of the New York Metropolitan Reference and Research Library Agency (METRO). METRO is committed to promoting resource sharing and cooperation among its member libraries in the New York City Metropolitan area.

To subscribe to ARTSIG-L, send a one-line e-mail message to: LISTPROC@METRO.ORG saying: SUBSCRIBE ARTSIG-L.

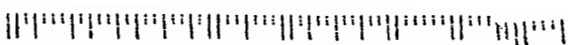
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57 East 11th Street, 4th Floor,
New York, NY 10003-4605
(212) 228-2320
(212) 228-2598 fax
help@metro.org
--News release

CATALOGING NOTES

The Cataloging Discussion Group of ARLIS/NY last met on January 8, 1997, at the Training Center, Butler Library, Columbia University. The meeting focussed on the Columbia University Libraries Internet Training Program, with hands-on demonstrations of the center's MOSIS workstations.

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on March 3, 1997, at the Whitney. The topic will be ALA Midwinter Reports.

--Carol Pardo and Kay Teel



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ARLIS/New York News
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Thanks to this month's contributors:

Elizabeth O'Keefe, Carol Pardo, Carol Rusk, Chris Sala, Shawn Steidinger, Rebecca Wilkins, and Greta Earnest. Your contributions are appreciated!

1997 ARLIS/NY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair:	Elizabeth O'Keefe
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Send renewals, changes of address, and contributions to: Shawn Steidinger, Secretary of ARLIS/NY, Thomas J. Watson Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York NY 10028.

Editor: Kay Teel. Submissions may be sent via e-mail to: teelk@elmer1.bobst.nyu.edu, via fax (with cover sheet): (212) 995-4366, or on 3-1/2" IBM-compatible diskette with paper copy of text to: 57 Second Avenue #51, New York, NY 10003-8612. If you have questions about content, deadlines, or format, please call during daytime hours: (212) 998-2488.

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For information on advertising in ARLIS/New York News, please contact Rebecca Wilkins, Librarian, Fine Arts & Recreation, Queens Borough Public Library. Phone: (718) 990-0755. E-mail: rebeccaw@queens.lib.ny.us