FROM THE CHAIR

The Chapter Officers breakfast at the San Antonio conference brought together representatives from ARLIS/NA's nineteen local chapters. The breakfast gave officers a chance to compare notes on chapter size, dues, methods of communicating with members, and successful programming. One thing that struck me during the discussions was the diversity in chapter size and composition: one chapter (our own) covers a city, while others cover a state or province (Michigan, Ontario), several states, or a region (ARLIS/Northwest). Many of the larger chapters can offer only a couple of events a year, and there was general surprise at the news that ARLIS/NY sponsors two formal meetings, a holiday party, and two tours every year, as well as extra, added attractions offered as a sort of appetizer to our members.

One such event, an open house at the Swiss Institute, is coming up soon (see the announcement on page 4). Another recent outing, the tour of the Ocker and Trapp Library Bindery on May 10, is described on pages 2-3. We are fortunate in having such a concentration of noteworthy institutions within visiting distance, but we depend on the kindness of members to open their portals to us. Thanks to everybody who has offered hospitality for meetings, parties, special events, and for gatherings of the Catlogers Discussion Group (see page 3).

Two former Chairs of ARLIS/NY were featured in the conference session, "Building Successful ARLIS/NA Chapters." Alexandra de Luise described building chapter membership, while Eumie Imre Stroukoff spoke about fund-raising, focusing on the sale of ARLIS/NY portfolios. Eumie cannily brought along a portfolio to illustrate her talk, and managed to secure several orders for the new release, which features a smoky grey, as opposed to a clear, plastic cover. The Catlogers Discussion Group will advise on whether the latest version constitutes a new edition, a new state, or merely a new printing.

The Nomination Committee will soon be canvassing for candidates to fill board positions which will be vacated at the end of 1997. There are openings for the positions of Vice Chair/Chair Elect, Treasurer, and Member-at-Large. If you get a phone call from a member of the Nomination Committee asking you to stand for office, don't refuse out of hand.
(my first impulse when asked-- what did I know about running a chapter?). Ask for the name of the current board member, and talk to him or her about what the position entails. Serving on the Board is not all that difficult, doesn't take up a huge amount of time, and is very rewarding.

--Elizabeth O'Keefe

ARLIS/NY MEMORIAL FUND

The Chapter invites contributions to the fund from those 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.

Memorial Fund Contributions

Contributions in honor of George Simor have been received from:
Anna Brady
Cornelia Corson
Pearl L. Moeller
Celine Palatsky
Sydney Starr

Contributions in honor of Harold Palatsky have been received from:
Celine Palatsky

□ TOUR OF OCKER AND TRAPP LIBRARY BINDERY

On Saturday, May 10, nine ARLIS/NY members were whisked by van to Emerson, New Jersey for a three-hour tour of the Ocker and Trapp Library Bindery. Ralph Ocker, co-founder of the firm, treated his guests to breakfast, lunch, and a most informative tour of the bindery. Ralph's son Peter, the general manager, and Millie Suter, head of the conservation department, conducted visitors step by step through the binding process and gave them an overview of the conservation department, which handles rare material.

Ocker and Trapp employs sixty workers, a figure which has remained constant in spite of extensive automation; the main effect of
automation has been to quadruple productivity. Machines are used for everything from fanning pages and jogging books (to keep the pages level) to trimming, notching, and gluing (an electric eye checks for excess glue and improper folding). But the visitors were impressed by how much of the work still requires a considerable amount of skill and concentration from the human beings operating the machines. This is doubly true of the preservation work done by the firm, which demands many hours of patient, gentle handiwork.

It was also interesting to learn a bit about the economic forces affecting the trade. For example, droughts have driven up cotton prices to their highest point since the Civil War, leading the firm to look for substitutes that use a blend of cotton and man-made fibres. And if you were looking to have a treasured volume bound in lizard skin, think again: lizard skin is expensive and difficult to obtain, because so many lizards are on the endangered species list. Believe it or not, chicken feet skin or fish skin can provide an acceptable substitute ('it's not fake anything, it's real chicken feet!).

There were many questions about the software Ocker and Trapp uses to translate binding slip information into work orders, labels, and spine lettering. Although the bindery provides its customers with preprinted forms for periodicals, volume-specific information, such as number and date, still needs to be typed onto the forms. Peter Ocker agreed that there was obvious potential for data interchange, but explained that the binding industry and the library world have not yet come to an agreement about data standards.

Members returned to the city much wiser about the processes to which we subject our periodical and paperback collections. Any readers who are Ocker and Trapp customers should consider asking for a similar tour. Ralph Ocker believes that the educated consumer is his best customer, and offers tours frequently, providing door-to-door in a bindery van.

---Elizabeth O'Keefe

© ARLIS/NY CATALOGERS DISCUSSION GROUP

The ARLIS/NY Catalogors Discussion Group met at the Brooklyn Museum of Art on Thursday, May 1, 1997 at 3 p.m. On a sunny afternoon, seventeen people ventured to Eastern Parkway and emerged from the subway to be greeted by pink cherry blossoms and yellow tulips.

The focus for this meeting was to recap cataloging concerns reviewed during the ARLIS/NA Conference in San Antonio. Sherman Clarke, charged with collecting conference reports, announced that this year's proceedings would be available on the web at www.geocities.com/SoHo/studios/3530. (He created the site by utilizing a free homepage template, available to anyone at http://www.geocities.com.) One document, the "Cataloging Problems Discussion Group Minutes," submitted by Kay Teel, is already there.

Highlights from San Antonio sessions with additions from the Brooklyn meeting:

ARLIS/NA Cataloging Advisory Committee--The Library of Congress has asked ARLIS about implementation of the recommendations of the ALA-SAC Subcommittee on the Order of Subdivisions, including order of art subdivisions, century divisions, and the use of "Modern." The draft on establishing uniform titles for named works of art was questioned by LC regarding
language, corporate artistic identities, and the definition of "state" as applied to artworks. Corporate artistic identities will be addressed separately. Sherman Clarke will coordinate CAC reworking of the original proposal.

There was lively discussion about dividing by centuries, decades for the 19th-20th centuries, free-floating headings, turn of the century art, etc.

RUN--the special meeting RLG had for museum librarians in San Antonio was said to be very informative. Hottest topic was a plan for development of another "mirror site" of the RUN database on the East Coast; this would ease the dropped connections we now experience.

METRO--at the first meeting for the Artsg group, Joe Spadero informed us about upcoming web access to Metgate. Metro is also ready for "hands on" workshops where each person will have access to a laptop ($45/day). The Artsg meeting scheduled for Fall is to include representatives from OCLC and RLG speaking about future developments in each utility.

Towards the end of the afternoon, talk jumped from topic to topic -- each worth its own CDG meeting -- including: core cataloging on the web, metadata (e.g. VRA core, Dublin Core, AMICO), filtering to search Internet thesauri; and mapping.

The next meeting of the Catalogers Discussion Group will be held at the Frick Art Reference Library in June.

--Carol Rusk, in collaboration with Sherman Clarke [edited from a message originally posted on ARLIS-L]

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SWISS INSTITUTE RECEPTION

ARLIS/NA members are invited to attend an open house at the Swiss Institute on June 18 from 5 to 7 p.m. The meeting will feature a tour of the exhibit, "Also Known As...Books by Dieter Roth," which is on view in the library. Carin Kuoni, Director of the Institute, and Barbara Moore, who curated the presentation of first editions by this seminal European artist, will speak about the show. It is the second in the Institute's new series of exhibitions dedicated to the book arts. A small reception with refreshments will follow. Attendees will also have a chance to visit "Some More Books by Dieter Roth" at Printed Matter, curated by David Patzer.

The Swiss Institute is an independent, nonprofit cultural center founded in 1986 to promote artistic dialogue between Switzerland and the United States. The Institute's library is the only research library in the United States focusing on Swiss history, culture, politics, and literature; it contains over 5,000 volumes. The Institute, an ARLIS/NA member, is located at 495 Broadway, 3rd floor, between Broome and Spring Streets. The nearest subway stops are Spring Street (the F train) or Prince Street (the R train).

---Elizabeth O'Keefe

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ARLIS/NA HONORS BOOK VENDORS, STUDENTS, AND SOCIETY MEMBERS

ARLIS/NA held its 25th Anniversary Convocation on April 5, 1997, at Beethoven Hall in San Antonio, Texas, conducted by Jack Robertson, then president of the Society. During the convocation several awards and
honors were bestowed.

❖ The 18th annual George Wittenborn Book Awards were presented to the outstanding publications:


- Metamorphosis in Early America: Cooper and his Alloys from the Winterthur Collection by Donald L. Fenimore (Winterthur: The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, 1996).

A special award for outstanding reference publication was given to:


The Wittenborn Book Award, established in 1981, honors the memory of New York art book dealer and publisher George Wittenborn (1905-1974). The awards are given annually to outstanding North American art publications which represent the highest standards in content, design, and construction.

❖ Three Society members received special recognition honors. An Honorary Life Membership was bestowed on Philip Pacey, founder of ARS/United Kingdom and Ireland, and editor, Art Libraries Journal. Eimar Seibel, Ars Libri, also received an Honorary Life Membership. The recipient of the ARS/NA Distinguished Service Award for 1997 was Dr. Lois Svan Jones, for her exemplary service to the fields of art information and art librarianship, and for her many contributions as a teacher, author, scholar, mentor, and colleague.

❖ Two outstanding Canadians have been chosen as recipients of the 1997 Melva J. Dwyer Award for the creators of exceptional reference works on Canadian art and architecture. They are: Marketa Newman, author of the Biographical Dictionary of Saskatchewan Artists: Women Artists (1990) and Men Artists (1994) published in Saskatoon by Fifth House Publishers, and Colin S. MacDonald, author of the Dictionary of Canadian Artists, 7 volumes (1967), published in Ottawa by Canadian Paperbacks Publishing Ltd. The Dwyer Award is given under the auspices of ARS/Canada, the Canadian Chapter of ARS/NA, in honor of Melva Dwyer, former head of the University of British Columbia's Fine Arts Library.

❖ The 1996 Gerd Muehlem Award, given annually to recognize excellence in a graduate paper or project on a topic relevant to art librarianship or visual resources curriculum and honoring the memory of Gerd Muehlem (1913-1979), distinguished scholar, teacher, and art bibliographer, was presented to two students at the University of Missouri-Columbia — James Andrews and Werner Schweibenz — for their paper, "The Kress Study Collection Virtual Museum Project: A New Medium for Old Masters."

❖ The ARS/NA Research Committee presented the following awards: The H.W. Wilson Research Award to George Molle for his index to French prints, presented on the
© NEW MEMBERS

Yvette Coutes, Art Librarian
John McEnree Library, New York Studio School

Claudia Gisolfi
Currently working on a grant-funded project at the Municipal Art Society

Claire P. Gunning, Reference Librarian, Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum Library

V. Heidi Hass
Head of Cataloging, New York Society Library

Claudia Hill, Art & Architecture Cataloger, Butler Library, Columbia University

Helen Lane
Student at Pratt (and working at the Brooklyn Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art)

Martha C. Smith
Assistant Librarian, Art History & Humanities, SUNY/Purchase College

Welcome!!
---Shawn Steininger

NEWS OF MEMBERS

I am sorry to announce that this will be the last ARLIS/New York News I edit. I have accepted the position of Head Cataloger at the Cleveland Museum of Art Library as of June 18. I will remain active in ARLIS/NA, and hope to keep in touch with my ARLIS/NY...