



ARLIS/New York News

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

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Summer 1997

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 *lagniappe* 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 Catalogers 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 Imm Stroukoff spoke about fundraising, 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 Catalogers 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.

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

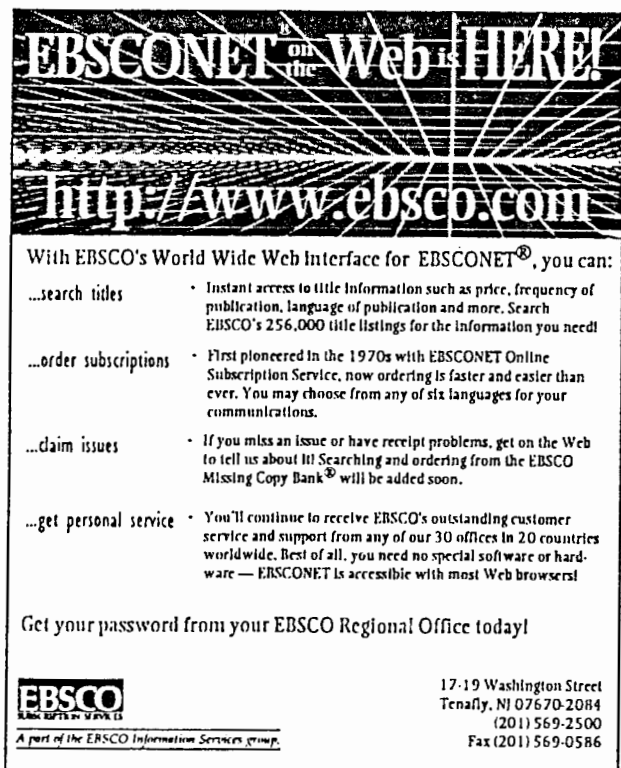
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Contributions in honor of George Simor have been received from:

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Cornelia Corson
Pearl L. Moeller
Celine Palatsky
Sydney Starr

Contributions in honor of Harold Palatsky have been received from:

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□ 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 joggling books (to keep the pages level) to grinding, 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 lizardskin, think again: lizardskin 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 Catalogers 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](http://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.

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

METRO--at the first meeting for the Artsig 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 Artsig 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]



SWISS INSTITUTE RECEPTION

ARLIS/NY 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 Platzker.

The Swiss Institute is an independent, non-profit 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; its collection of approximately 5,000 volumes is open to the public. The Institute, an ARLIS/NY member, is located at 495 Broadway, 3rd floor, between Broome and Spring Streets. The nearest subway stops are Spring Street (the 6 train) or Prince Street (the R train).

--Elizabeth O'Keefe

◇ 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 these outstanding publications:

La Pintura Mural Prehispánica en México: Teotihuacán edited by Dr. Beatriz de la Fuente (México: Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, Instituto de Investigaciones Estéticas, 1996).

American Windsor Chairs by Nancy Goyno Evans (New York: Hudson Hills Press in association with The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, 1996).

Metalwork in Early America: Copper and Its Alloys from the Winterthur Collection by Donald L. Fennimore (Winterthur: The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, 1996).

A special award for outstanding reference publication was given to:

The Dictionary of Art, Jane Turner, editor; Hugh Brigstocke, consulting editor (New York: Grove's Dictionaries, Inc., 1996). Additionally, two publications received a Special Mention this year: Art and Artists of Twentieth-Century China by Michael Sullivan (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1996), and The Painted Photograph, 1839-1914: Origins, Techniques, Aspirations by Heinz K. Henisch and Bridget A. Henisch (University Park: The Pennsylvania State University Press, 1996).

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 ARLIS/United Kingdom and Ireland,

and editor, Art Libraries Journal. Elmar Seibel, Ars Libri, also received an Honorary Life Membership. The recipient of the ARLIS/NA Distinguished Service Award for 1997 was Dr. Lois Swan 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 ARLIS/Canada, the Canadian Chapter of ARLIS/NA, in honor of Melva Dwyer, former head of the University of British Columbia's Fine Arts Library.

◇ The 1996 Gerd Muehsam Award, given annually to recognize excellence in a graduate paper or project on a topic relevant to art librarianship or visual resources curatorship and honoring the memory of Gerd Muehsam (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 ARLIS/NA Research Committee presented the following awards: The H.W. Wilson Research Award to George McKee for his index to French prints, presented on the

Web as "The Image of France"
 <<http://humanities.uchicago.edu/homes/mckee/>>. The Worldwide Books Publications Awards to Carla Freeman and Barbara Stevenson for the Visual Resources Directory: Art, Slide, and Photograph Collections in the United States and Canada (Englewood, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1995); to May Castleberry for Perpetual Mirage: Photographic Narratives of the Desert West (New York: Whitney Museum of Art, distributed by Harry N. Abrams, 1996); and to Irena Murray for Moshe Safdie: Buildings and Projects, 1967-1992 (Montréal: McGill-Queen's University Press, 1996).
 --Press release

NEW MEMBERS

Yvette Cortes, Art Librarian
 John McEnroe 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 Steidinger

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

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friends. I have enjoyed working on the newsletter and becoming active in the chapter by serving on the Nominating Committee and running for office, and will miss the pleasant ARLIS/NY meetings. After June 18, I may be reached at the CMA by mail: Kay Teel, Library, Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Blvd., Cleveland, OH 44106.

I am happy to announce that the new newsletter editor will be Patricia Siska! Please join me in welcoming Patricia to ARLIS/New York News. Look for her first issue coming out in the fall.

* NEWS OF LIBRARIES

The Institute of Fine Arts Library, located at 1 East 78 Street, will be closed from May 29-September 1997 while major renovation work is done on the Duke House.

☛ MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

❖ Continuing the chapter's popular series of autumn graveyard tours, the next tour will be of Green-Wood Cemetery on October 18. An announcement will be sent out closer to the date, but keep the day free. You won't want to miss this fascinating tour!

❖ It's never too early to think about the next ARLIS/NA annual conference. Please remember that ARLIS/NY offers two travel awards -- one to a library school student, and one to a professional -- to help attend the conference. Details on how to apply for these awards will be published in the autumn ARLIS/New York News. The next annual conference will be held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, March 6-11, 1998.

ARLIS/NY PORTFOLIOS

Due to popular demand, ARLIS/NY is selling the "2nd edition" of its clear portfolios. This 2nd edition portfolio will be a smoky tint, with the famous skyline design... but the price is still only \$10.00! Use them to carry your papers and show your support of ARLIS/NY! For further information or to place your order, contact Eumie Imm Stroukoff at (212) 708-9441 or eimm@moma.org.

1997 ARLIS/NY EXECUTIVE BOARD

Chair:	Elizabeth O'Keefe
Vice-Chair:	Carol Rusk
Secretary:	Shawn Steidinger
Treasurer:	Chris Sala
Members-At-Large:	Clare Hills-Nova Rebecca Wilkins

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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.
Phone: (212) 998-2488
E-mail: teelk@elmer1.bobst.nyu.edu
Advertising Manager: Rebecca Wilkins
Phone: (718) 990-0755
E-mail: rebeccaw@queens.lib.ny.us

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Shawn Steidinger, Secretary of ARLIS/NY
Thomas J. Watson Library
Metropolitan Museum of Art
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