



# ARLIS/New York News

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

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Fall 2002

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## From the Chair

By Paula Gabbard



The year has raced by, hasn't it? We have already assembled and mailed your renewal notices for 2003, along with our slate of

candidates for next year's board. We combined these in a single envelope to avoid the cost of two mailings. Thanks to Deborah Kempe and Leslie Preston for their work assembling a wonderful group of candidates this year for 2003:

Vice-Chair/Chair Elect: Judy Connorton and Paul Glassman

Secretary: Heidi Hass and Evalyn Stone

Member-at-Large for Advertising: Faith Pleasonton and Barbara Reed

If you have not done so already, please take a moment to mark your ballots and drop them in the mail. Thanks also to Heather for assembling the ARLIS/NY renewal forms and cover letters. You received your renewal request earlier than previous years, and, as voted upon in our September business meeting, we have increased the dues to \$20 for general members, and have kept dues at \$10 for retired and student members. We decided to request renewals early so that our membership list could be in place by spring 2003, thus allowing us to send out current directories earlier in the year than has been

possible in the past. It should also allow us to have a healthier budget at the beginning of the year. Please take another moment to fill in all the blanks on the renewal form, write a check, and send them both to Heather Topcik, our impressively capable Member-at-Large in Charge of Membership. Note that ARLIS/NY members should also be ARLIS/NA members. You can print an ARLIS/NA application from the ARLIS/NA website at [www.arlisna.org](http://www.arlisna.org).

We are fortunate to have received invitations to two wonderful cultural institutions since last spring. On July 12, Milan Hughston invited us to tour the MoMA QNS Library and visit the Museum at the former Swingline Staples Factory. His library space, to say nothing of the sumptuous food and drink he provided, were thoroughly enjoyed by the crowd of librarians who had free access to the museum space itself after a tour of the library and its stacks. (Please see Jenny Tobias' article on p. 4 about this event.)

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## **2002 ARLIS/NY Executive Board**

**Chair** Paula Gabbard

**Vice-Chair** Deborah Kempe

**Past-Chair** Joy Kestenbaum

**Secretary** Elizabeth Broman

**Treasurer** Caitlin Kilgallen

**Members at Large**

**Membership** Heather Topcik

**Advertising** Leslie Preston

**Newsletter Editors**

  Alexandra de Luise

  James Mitchell

**Website Manager** Jim Viskochil

## **ARLIS/NA Northeast Regional Representative**

Laurie Whitehill Chong

ARLIS/New York News

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This publication is distributed free of charge to members of ARLIS/NY. Membership dues are \$20.00 for the calendar year.

**Send renewals, changes of address, and contributions** to Heather Topcik, Membership Coordinator, ARLIS/NY, Bard Graduate Center, 38 West 86 St, New York, NY 10024.

**Announcements, articles, and artwork are welcome.** Send to Alexandra de Luise, Queen's College, Flushing, NY 11367, adeluise@qc1.qc.edu; or to James Mitchell, jmitchell@folkartmuseum.org.

**Advertising Manager:** Leslie Preston, 212-650-2317, Leslie.Preston@metmuseum.org.

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## **From the Chair, continued**

On Sept. 10, Clayton Kirking invited ARLIS/NY to hold its fall business meeting in the brand new Celeste Bartos Auditorium and foyer of New York Public Library's South Court. It is a magnificent space. After our business meeting, while we ate and drank in the foyer, Clayton and several of his colleagues offered us the chance to go on guided tours of the library's stacks, reading rooms, and library offices (in the former Art and Architecture Reading Room). To many of us, this was the first opportunity to see the extent and success of this institution's recent renovations. We fast discovered that our NYPL colleagues work in true splendor. (Please see Elizabeth's article on our New York Public Library meeting on p. 3.)

On September 28<sup>th</sup>, Elizabeth Broman led members through the Egyptian Revival funerary art at the Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn. A full report on this event will appear in the next issue of *ARLIS/NY News*.

Annamaria Poma-Swank has invited ARLIS/NY members to come to The Cloisters on December 6 to enjoy our annual potluck holiday party in the ultimate holiday location in New York City. Festivities will begin at 4:00. Those who own cars are urged to drive your colleagues to the nearest subway or bus stop after the party is over; otherwise, party attendees will have to take taxis from The Cloisters to the subway station for approximately \$5.00 per trip. Please RSVP to Annamaria Poma-Swank by calling her at (212) 396-5367 or emailing her at annamaria.poma-swank@metmuseum.org.

## **Treasurer's Report: January–August, 2002**

By Caitlin Kilgallen

### **Annual Anticipated Expenditures:**

Conference Welcome Party	\$ 500.00
NYTSL (New York Technical Services Librarians)	\$ 50.00
Celene Palatsky Travel Award	\$ 500.00
Total	\$1050.00

### **Other Expenditures:**

Newsletter (production and mailing costs)	\$ 862.99
Mailings (membership, events)	\$ 234.95
Meetings/Events (catering, facilities fees)	\$ 725.10
Total	\$1823.04

Ingresses (membership dues, advertising): \$2915.00

Ending Balance, 8/10/02: \$2575.38

## ARLIS/NY Fall 2002 Membership Meeting "Between the Paws" at NYPL

By Elizabeth Broman

On September 10<sup>th</sup>, ARLIS/NY was fortunate to have its fall membership meeting in the new Celeste Bartos Education Center at the Humanities and Social Sciences Library of NYPL, or "between the paws," as I call it. Clayton Kirking, in his relatively new position as Chief of Art and Information Resources, was our host for the evening. We started our meeting with a quick hello from Clayton before he introduced Anne Thornton, Associate Director of the Humanities and Social Sciences Library, who welcomed us to this new facility and explained how the Education Center came to be. NYPL recognized the changing needs of its users and felt the necessity of catering to three main groups: seasoned researchers, new and inexperienced researchers, and the tourists who come to visit this famous New York City landmark. The Carrere and Hastings building is both very impressive and imposing, but most peoples' initial reaction upon entering is "where are all the books?" In order to make the Library less intimidating and more user-friendly, the Celeste Bartos Education Center was built to welcome visitors. It will be used for classes aimed at teaching users about research methods, database searching, and sessions on general interest topics.

As I was looking around before the business meeting started, I was struck by the contrast between the old building and the new modern glass Education Center. I was fascinated to learn that the exposed rough bricks of the walls in the Bartos Center are said to be built from the original stones from the old Croton Reservoir that the Library was built on! Anne pointed out that this beautiful, bright Center and the pristine auditorium we were sitting in was the parking lot 2 years ago.

ARLIS/NY Chair Paula Gabbard launched our Business meeting with Caitlin Kilgallen giving us the Treasurer's report, and Heather Tocik reporting our membership figures. Among the issues the Board has been discussing is outreach to library schools in order to enroll more student members. They also urge local chapter members who aren't already national members to join our parent organization, ARLIS/NA. President Paula Gabbard reports in her "From the Chair" column (page 1) on the vote that was held on the proposed dues increase, and on the upcoming Board elections. Announcements of upcoming events were made, and several new members were introduced and welcomed from the floor.

We adjourned to a wine and cheese reception outside the auditorium to chat and take advantage of the tours being offered. I went on a tour led by Matilda Herrero, who on the way to the main Reading Rooms walked us through some of the stacks in the main building, which fill 7 floors and are 2 city blocks long! Our tour ended in Room 313, the Art & Architecture Division, where Paula Baxter, Curator of the Art & Architecture Section, had assembled an exhibit of some rare treasures from the collection. Working at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum, which specializes in decorative arts, and also being interested in Egyptian revival, I was delighted to see a page displayed from Pugin's "Modern Furniture" of 1822 that features an Egyptian chimney front. Along with other architectural renderings and scenes of Pompeian interiors, a historical wall treatment from H.W. and A. Arrowsmith's "The House Decorator and Painter's Guide" of 1840 was also displayed.

Treasurer Caitlin Kilgallen brought along the newest ARLIS putti, little Sofia, now that Greta Ernest's babies are too old to be carried around to ARLIS meetings anymore. It was good to meet up with the friendly faces of ARLIS/NY members again and I am excited about the adventure of going to the Cloisters and seeing everyone for the holidays. Our thanks to Clayton Kirking for providing a great new venue for our fall meeting.

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## ARLIS/NY Members Tour New MoMA Library Facilities

By Jenny Tobias

If you build it, will they come?

About half of the ARLIS/NY membership came to check out MoMA QNS, the museum's new home for the duration of its expansion project in Midtown.

As members made their way on the 7 train (or boarded the Q32 bus) we neatened up piles of cocktail napkins (and a few lingering, splintery book moving carts). Once we achieved critical mass, Milan Hughston led informal tours



From left: Cindy Wolff, Peter Gammie, and Danny Fermon.  
Photo by Deirdre Lawrence.

of the staff area and stacks, perhaps the biggest spread of compact shelving this side of the East River.

We hoped that our new scene would be interesting to librarians starting renovation or expansion projects. Paula Gabbard spoke with us about some of the challenges of their expansion, while Dierdre Lawrence and James Viskochil from the Brooklyn Museum were snapping up info into their digital camera, thinking through their upcoming renovation.

I hope they got a shot of a very tanned Ted Goodman in shorts and sneakers. Or Daniel Starr in his brightest, Hawaiian-style tie. Paula observed a good turnout of student members, suggesting that "Queens really is the next big thing."

The meeting had exactly no agenda and no business. When conversation flagged we sent people off to the galleries for some *Tempo* (contemporary art on the theme of time), *AutoBodies* (cars of course) or the greatest hits (*Starry Night*, etc.). Word has it that some of you moved on to P.S.1 or a local restaurant.

We hope a good time was had by all.

The newsletter editors asked for four meaty paragraphs but I assure you, it was a vegetarian reception.

### ARLIS Calendar

Ballots due for 2003 Chapter elections	Oct. 18
Holiday Potluck at the Cloisters	Dec. 6
Chapter membership renewals due	Dec. 15
ARLIS/NA Annual Conference, Baltimore:	March 20–26, 2003

## From the Field

The I.S.C.A. *Quarterly* and Pratt Institute, a new exhibit in the **Pratt Institute Library**, features selected issues of the *I.S.C.A. Quarterly*, the journal of the International Society of Copier Artists. The I.S.C.A. is a Brooklyn-based membership organization founded in 1981 to provide a showcase for artists who use the copy machine as a creative tool to produce prints and artists' books. The show highlights contributions by Pratt faculty member Anne Gilman and the students she mentored from 1999 through 2002. Included are examples of the different formats of the journal: postcard, triptych, folio, and boxed bookwork issues. Also displayed is a survey of artist books by the founder and director of the Society, Louise Neaderland. The exhibit, which includes materials from the Library's collection, was curated by Professor Gilman, Louise Neaderland and Professor Joy Kestenbaum, Art & Architecture librarian, who initiated the collaboration between Pratt and the I.S.C.A.

### Electronic Resources Discussion Group

The growing emphasis on electronic resources in the library environment has prompted the organization of the Electronic Resources Discussion Group through ARLIS/NY to discuss current issues and concerns

surrounding electronic resources. The Electronic Resources Discussion Group is getting things started this fall with the first meeting to take place in early November at the Frick Art Reference Library, located at 10 East 71<sup>st</sup> Street. All are welcome. For more information email Suz Massen at massen@frick.org.

Congratulations to the **Pratt Institute Library** for being cited in the Village Voice's "Best of NYC 2002" issue (October 2-8, p.121).



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## Member News

**Caitlin Kilgallen** and her husband Andres García-Peña are the proud new parents of Sofia Barcelona García-Peña, born on July 10, weighing 8 pounds 1 ounce, and measuring 20.5 inches. Congratulations!



## ARLIS/NA 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference to be held in NYC in 2004

Excitement is already starting to build for the ARLIS/NA conference here in New York in 2004.

The dates are March 31–April 6, and the conference hotel will be the beautifully renovated Roosevelt Hotel. Centrally located at 45<sup>th</sup> and Madison, the hotel has undergone a \$70 million renovation since we last met there in 1986. Room rates will be: \$189 sng/dbl +tax.

The Local Arrangements Chair is Ted Goodman, and the Program Chair will be Margaret N. Webster. They will be meeting with members of the ARLIS/NA Conference Planning Committee this Fall to discuss possibilities for tours, workshops, sessions, website, and special events.

We will need lots of local volunteers to help with the details. There are many younger ARLIS/NY members who've never been involved in hosting a conference. So please, if you are contacted to be on a conference committee, VOLUNTEER! GET INVOLVED! It's our chance to show that NYC is the greatest city in the world!

If you have questions or suggestions, please contact Ted Goodman at [goodman@columbia.edu](mailto:goodman@columbia.edu) or 212-854-8407.

## Call to ARLIS/NY Artists: Invitation to Exhibit

The Queens College Art Library proposes to the Chapter an exhibit of art by ARLIS/NY members, to be held in the Queens College Art Center when ARLIS/NA conference will be meeting in New York City in 2004. If we can realize this exhibition, all conference attendees would be invited to visit. We could also consider a reception and/or a special program.

Queens College Art Center is an initiative of the Queens College Art Library that presents the work of emerging and established artists in diverse media. Since the 1950's, it has organized more than 300 exhibitions, most of them accompanied by related programs (gallery talks, symposia), some also with catalogs and posters. The exhibitions and programs are publicized through NYC media.

The Art Center's gallery is a handsome space encircling the top floor of the College's Benjamin S. Rosenthal Library's stunning central rotunda. Imagine ¾ of a Guggenheim Museum floor – level – with great light and sight lines, some 150 linear feet of outer walls facing the glass of the inner opening, the curved corridor-like space opening into three rectangular room-like corners. Most media and a broad variety of artwork can be accommodated.

Please contact us if you might consider participating in this exhibition, or for more information. Thank you!

Queens College Art Center  
<http://www.qc.edu/Library/art/artcenter.html>

Suzanna Simor, Director Curator <a href="mailto:ssimor@qc1.qc.edu">ssimor@qc1.qc.edu</a> T (178) 997-3771 F (718) 997-3753	Alexandra de Luise, <a href="mailto:adeluise@qc1.qc.edu">adeluise@qc1.qc.edu</a> T (718) 997-3748 F (718) 997-3753
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## Shirley K. Schlafer Library Opens at the American Folk Art Museum

By James Mitchell

After several years in temporary rented spaces in various midtown locations, the American Folk Art Museum opened its spectacular new building last December on West 53<sup>rd</sup> Street. Designed by the NY-based architects Tod Williams and Billie Tsien, the building immediately garnered rave reviews and design awards. Most recently, *World Architecture* magazine honored Williams and Tsien with their award for the "best new building anywhere" of 2001.

In addition to providing greatly expanded space for exhibitions and public programs, the new building also allowed the Museum for the first time to properly house its library. A growing book collection had been developed almost from the Museum's founding in 1961, but was always shoehorned into spare office space in their various locations. A generous gift to the Museum's capital campaign from the Shirley K. Schlafer Foundation provided an endowment for the re-named library in the lower staff level of the building, and for the hiring of a professional librarian in the fall of 2001. I started work in October, and oversaw the library's move into its new quarters in March.

After a busy spring and summer unpacking and cleaning up, I've been busy ever since buying books, planning services, and establishing policies. New forms and spreadsheets are in place, and a nice slick brochure is in the drafting stages. A book sale is planned for October 16 and 17 to raise funds from the many duplicates that I have recently de-accessioned.



A mover from Clancy-Cullen with a shrink-wrapped cart full of periodicals. Photo by Robin Holub-Abelman.

Photo upper right by Michael Moran.



Though small—about 1,000 sq. ft.—the library includes a climate-controlled Rare Book Room and an impressive array of compact shelving. We managed to fit the entire collection of approximately 10,000 items, with at least a few years growth space.

The collection is focused on American folk art and the work of contemporary self-taught artists, with an increasingly international focus. The field is defined by notoriously contested terminology—outsider, vernacular, naïve, primitive, *art brut*—describing work created far from the academic tradition. Among the Museum's most prominent holdings of this sort are the manuscripts and archives of the canonical 20th-century recluse Henry Darger.

The more traditional material is not neglected, however. The library continues to acquire material on early American decorative arts, itinerant painters, scrimshaw, ship figureheads, shop signs, gravestones, decoys, tattoo flash drawings, and, of course, quilts. A recent donation has been the library and archives of the prominent quilt scholar Cuesta Benberry. This important collection includes more than 1,000 books and periodicals documenting the history of American quiltmaking, including rare 19th-century works on "ladies' handicrafts," as well as numerous pattern catalogs, photographs, and ephemera. Ms. Benberry's library is well known in the field and will establish at the American Folk Art Museum a premier research center for the study of this material.

For a more comprehensive overview of the library's history, see the article by the Museum's Director, Gerard C. Wertkin, in the current issue of *Folk Art* magazine (Fall 2002; vol.27, no.3).

Location: 45 West 53<sup>rd</sup> St., between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Aves  
Hours: By appointment, M-F, 10:00am–5:30pm  
Contact: 212-265-1040 x110

[jmitchell@folkartmuseum.org](mailto:jmitchell@folkartmuseum.org)

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