

ARLIS/New York News

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

Vol. 24, No. 2

ISSN 0894-3133

Summer 2003

From the Chair

By Deborah Kempe

Bring out those calendars and Palm Pilots, members! I have some very important dates for you to reserve. The ARLIS/NY Board has put together an agenda of what we feel is an exciting and varied roster of events for the rest of the year. Following the successful meeting at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in April, we will turn from showcasing new technology to rare books with a visit to the LuEsther T. Mertz Library of the New York Botanical Garden on June 19. The roses will be in bloom, so I hope you'll be able to take full advantage of this special event. Entry fees will be waived, and we'll end our visit to the recently renovated library with a reception in the beautiful Library Rotunda. The next date you should reserve is September 13, when we invite you to join us on a weekend pilgrimage upriver to the new Dia:Beacon, the newest *must-see* on every art-lover's list. Continuing our march through the seasons, we have tentatively scheduled our Fall meeting at the Brooklyn Museum of Art on October 29, and the Holiday meeting at the American Folk Art Museum on December 10.

It's extremely gratifying to be chair of such a vibrant chapter. Membership is at an all-time high level; our 175 members represent over 20% of the national organization. The ARLIS/NY board firmly believes in keeping our membership fees low, making participation feasible for all in the metropolitan area. How, then, do we do so much with so little? Certainly it has become an increasing challenge, as institutions everywhere tighten their belts. You, the members,

are the most important link. The success we have met in securing the use of our own institutions at no or little cost continues to be crucial. One of the natural missions of our chapter has been simply to explore more fully the amazing libraries and cultural institutions here in the city and surrounding area. For many of us, one of the perks of our chosen profession is working in notable buildings and world-famous collections. It will be many years before we exhaust the possibilities and hospitality of these venues. Members have been generous, too, in providing financial support, making direct donations to the chapter. These contributions assist us not only with meeting expenses, but also with travel awards and outreach at the national level. As we all know, however, one of the most important benefits of belonging to the chapter is the opportunity for social contacts, or as it is more often termed, networking. And our network is strong, indeed. Receptions in conjunction with meetings are the best way to facilitate the opportunity to connect with new and old colleagues, but it is this area that is proving to be the most challenging in today's environment of fiscal restraint and rising costs. Fortunately, the board has been successful in obtaining new sources of chapter support. New supporters, including H.W. Wilson, Prestel Publishers, and Octavo, have joined long-standing ones such as Ocker & Trapp. The assistance of these companies has recently allowed us to offer full programs of tours and social events in spectacular settings. These partnerships are natural ones, and I hope they will prosper and grow along with our membership levels. I look forward to seeing many of you soon. Let's pray that the weather gods look kindly upon art librarians on June 19.

Inside: Report from Baltimore Conference; H.W. Wilson at the Met; Member News; and much more!

2003 ARLIS/NY Executive Board

Chair Deborah Kempe

Vice-Chair Judy Connorton

Past-Chair Paula Gabbard

Secretary Heidi Hass

Treasurer Caitlin Kilgallen

Members at Large

Membership Heather Topcik

Advertising Faith Pleasanton

Newsletter Editors

Alexandra de Luise

Suzannah Massen

James Mitchell

Website Manager Jim Viskochil

ARLIS/NA Northeast Regional

Representative

Carol H. Graney

ARLIS/New York News

Volume 24, Number 2, Summer 2003

ISSN 0894-3133

Contributors

Judy Connorton, Ross Day, Ted Goodman, Debbie Kempe, Deirdre Lawrence, Suz Massen, Christina Peter.

The ARLIS/NY Newsletter is published quarterly by the Art Libraries Society of New York, a regional chapter of the Art Libraries Society of North America, 329 March Road, Suite 232, Box 11, Kanata, Ontario K2K 2E1, Canada.

Copyright © 2003 by the Art Libraries Society of New York and individual authors.

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: Faith Pleasanton, 212-650-2857, faith.pleasanton@metmuseum.org.

Copy deadline for vol.24, no. 3 (Fall 2003): September 3.

To mark the retirement of Betty Turock from the School of Communications, Information, and Library Sciences at Rutgers University, ARLIS/NY issued the following resolution. William A. Peniston, ARLIS/NY Liaison to the Program Associates of SCILS-Rutgers, represented the chapter at a reception in her honor on April 1. Dr. Turock was active in ALA and many other library associations, and a number of our members were her students.

A Resolution for Betty Turock on Her Retirement

By the Art Libraries Society of New York

Whereas Betty Turock has had a distinguished career as a public, school, and academic librarian at Montclair (NJ) Public Library, Monroe County (NY) Library System, Forsyth County (NC) Library System, Wheaton (IL) Public Library, Alhambra Schools (Phoenix, AZ), and George Williams College (IL);

Whereas Betty Turock has had an impact on the careers of beginning librarians in her role as Professor of Library Science, Chair of the Department of Library and Information Studies, Director of the Masters in Library and Information Science Program, and Associate Dean of the School of Communications, Information and Library Studies at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey;

Whereas Betty Turock has served as an advisor to the United State Department of Education, as a trustee for Hazlet (NJ) Public Library and Keystone College (PA), as a member on the Hazlet Board of Education and the Board of the American Library in Paris, and as an officer of the American Library Association, culminating in the position of President in 1995-96;

Whereas Betty Turock has written several books and articles and has made numerous presentations and speeches on public librarianship, financial management, women and leadership, and information policy;

Be it resolved that the Art Libraries Society of New York congratulates Betty Turock on your retirement as the Associate Dean of the School of Communications, Information, and Library Studies at Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey.



ARLIS/NY officers, meeting at the Bard Graduate Center, April 28.

From l. to r.: Suz Massen, Jim Viskochil, Heather Topcik, Paula Gabbard, Debbie Kempe, Faith Pleasanton, Alexandra de Luise, James Mitchell, Judy Connorton. (Not present: Heidi Hass, Caitlin Kilgallen.)

Announcement: ARLIS/NY Meeting at New York Botanical Garden on June 19

The next meeting of ARLIS/NY will be held at the New York Botanical Garden from 3:00-6:30 on Thursday, June 19.

The schedule is as follows:

3:00-4:00 Self-tour of the garden, including sculptures on loan from MOMA in the Conservatory courtyards (entry fee will be waived)

4:00-5:15 Library Tour. View the recently renovated facilities and a display of illustrated books from the special collections of the LuEsther T. Mertz Library, one of the world's largest and most active botanical/horticultural libraries

5:15-6:30 Reception in the Library Rotunda in honor of the retirement of John F. Reed, Director of the Mertz Library

Also on view at the Library will be the exhibition "European Pleasure Gardens: Rare Books and Prints of Historic Landscape Design from the Elizabeth K. Reilley Collection."

ARLIS/NA Annual Conference April 15–20, 2004

We are very pleased that we were able to renegotiate the dates of the upcoming conference with the Roosevelt Hotel. Thanks to Sue Rawlyk and Elizabeth Clarke for their skilled negotiating!

The new dates are April 15–20, 2004.

The Conference Planning Advisory Committee (CPAC) is meeting June 13–14 at the Roosevelt. All the session proposals, workshops and tours will be examined and selected at this meeting.

We are very excited to announce that the convocation ceremony and reception will take place at El Museo del Barrio. Thanks to Ken Soehner and Clayton Kirking for their contacts with the Director. We will have access to the galleries and I am certain that members will enjoy the exhibitions. We also hope to give a bit of Latin flavor to the reception! (Think salsa/merengue and mojitos!)

We will need the entire chapter to help out with a variety of fun tasks! The hospitality and registration desks will need to be staffed and we will also need tour attendants, so please volunteer when the call for volunteers goes out!

The conference committee looks forward to working with all of you to make the upcoming conference a great success! If you have any questions about the conference, please feel free to contact me directly.

Ted Goodman
goodman@columbia.edu / 212-854-8407

Please RSVP to Suz Massen (massen@frick.org or 212.547.0661) by Friday, June 13.

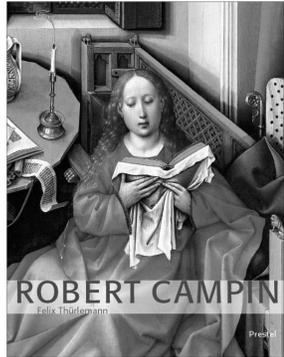
We hope you will be able to join us for what promises to be a memorable event. Support for this meeting has been generously provided by Prestel Publishers and Octavo.

Directions to New York Botanical Gardens:

The most direct and convenient way to reach NYBG is by Metro-North. From Grand Central Terminal, take the Metro-North Harlem local line direct to the Garden gate (Botanical Garden station), 19 minutes. Trains on Thursday leave Grand Central at 2:23 (arriving 2:42), 2:59 (arriving 3:18) and 3:22 (arriving 3:43).

For the return, trains leave at 6:04 (arriving 6:29) and 6:34 (arriving 7:00). Fares are less expensive when purchased at the station or on the web (www.mta.info/mnr/index.html)

Upon arrival at NYBG, enter through the Mosholu Gate near the train station, provide picture ID and identify yourself as an ARLIS/NY member. Your entry fee will be waived. For more information on NYBG, see their website at www.nybg.org.



Robert Campin
A Monographic Study with Critical Catalogue
Felix Thürlemann

With many fresh attributions and a comprehensive catalogue raisonne, this superbly illustrated volume sheds new light on the "Master of Flemalle."

396 pp., 404 illustrations, 87 in color. Hardcover.
ISBN 3-7913-2778-X
\$129

Prestel books are available at fine bookstores or by calling:
1 (888) 463-6110
www.prestel.com

Celine Palatsky Travel Award Winner Conference Report

By Christina Peter

Having worked in the Acquisitions Department of the Frick Art Reference Library for the past five years, I have had the most inspiring introduction possible to the world of art librarianship. The warm and nurturing atmosphere at the Frick and the constant encouragement I received from my supervisor and from all the librarians here strengthened my decision to join ARLIS and to become part of the art librarians' community. The Celine Palatsky Travel Award from ARLIS/NY made it possible for me to attend the annual ARLIS conference for the first time, and I was preparing for the trip to Baltimore with great anticipation.

My general excitement must have been the reason why I almost ended up at the wrong conference: upon registration in the hotel lobby, I was rather disappointed to find that my name was not on the participants' list. Nevertheless I was able to register, and was offered apologies. Only as I started looking at the information packet did I realize the mistake: I successfully signed up for the Allergists' Conference! Happily, the situation was soon straightened out, and I was on my way to the first conference meeting.

Following my interest in the technical aspects of librarianship, I registered for the whole-day workshop entitled "Descriptive and Subject Cataloging of Art Materials," presented by three experts from the LC Cataloging Policy and Support Office and moderated by Sherman Clarke. Bob Ewald illustrated the finer points of descriptive cataloging of printed monographs containing art reproductions through numerous examples, while Bob Hiatt and Milicent Wewerka discussed name and subject headings respectively. I found this intense workshop, with a condensed presentation of pertinent rules and regulations a highly useful introduction to cataloging art materials. As an added benefit, I also learned about the ongoing concerns and issues of the art catalogers.

While the workshop drew my attention to the abundance of technical details and the high level of expertise involved in the day-to-day practice of cataloging art materials, the session entitled "The Next Generation of Catalogers" focused on the problems of education and training. Beth Picknally Camden, Director of Cataloging Services at the University of Virginia and Diane Barlow, Associate Dean of the College of Information Studies at the University of Maryland, represented opposing views in the debate about the dwindling number of young librarians choosing

cataloging as a profession. Drawing on the results of a survey of 32 new catalogers, Picknally Camden concluded that in most cases library schools do not provide adequate incentive and training for the prospective cataloger, while Barlow presented data to show that cataloging is the lowest enrolled area in library schools, and therefore there is no justifiable need for increasing the number of in-depth courses. A lively discussion ensued, in which the crucial importance of internships, on-the-job training and mentoring, as well as the role of self-education was stressed. Based on my own library school experience, I also consider some of the general, survey-level knowledge organization courses woefully inadequate.

In another fascinating career-related session, "The Road Not Taken: Art Librarians Outside the Art Library," four former art librarians presented different career opportunities outside libraries through their own examples: Nancy Allen is presently Director of Museum Relations at ArtSTOR, a Mellon Foundation project for the electronic storage and study of digital images; Alison Dickey as program director at the Palmer School of Library and Information Science is involved in the advising and placement of new librarians and thus indirectly in the shaping the future of libraries; Layna White is Collections Information Manager at the UCLA Hammer Museum, while Richard McElroy is employed by the high-end antiquarian book dealer F.A. Bernett. All speakers emphasized the fact that the typical skills and flexibility of librarians make them exceptionally well-suited to serve in collaborative projects with other organizations and cultural institutions, such as museums.

I also attended two extremely informative and entertaining sessions more narrowly focused on art: "Palimpsest: The Interpretation and Reinterpretation of Gardens and Landscapes," and "Cabinets of Wonder," both moderated by Greta Earnest, Chief Librarian at the Bard Graduate Center for Decorative Arts. Some of the high points of the sessions: Erik de Jong, visiting professor at the Bard Graduate Center, gave a high-spirited, discursive talk on gardens as places of learning and images of Paradise; Arthur Wheelock, Jr. described pictorial representations of collectors' cabinets, focusing on the 17th-century Flemish painting *The Archdukes Albert and Isabella in a Collector's Cabinet* in the collection of the Walters Art Gallery, while Andrew Morrall shed light on early collecting through the scholarly analysis of one object, an early 17th-century *Narwalhornbecher* (a decorative cup once thought to be made of unicorn horn) from the collection of the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna that originally belonged to the Emperor Rudolf II, an avid collector and patron of the arts. The most captivating lecture of the

conference, however, seemed somewhat removed from fine arts at a first glance: Dr. Gary Vikan, Director of the Walters Art Museum gave a talk on Elvis Presley. As a surprise, Dr. Vikan concluded his lecture with an image from a Roman sarcophagus in the collection of the Walters: without any doubt, one of the carved figures on the corner of the lid bore a stunning resemblance to The King.

In addition to attending the conference events, there was also some time left to explore the city of Baltimore and the wonderful art collections of the Walters Art Gallery and the Baltimore Museum of Art. In the latter, I admired the breathtaking collection of early 20th-century art assembled by the sisters Claribel and Etta Cone. Of exceptional interest was the video created by students at the University of Maryland, presenting a virtual reconstruction of the Cone sisters' apartment crammed with Matisse and Cézanne paintings and drawings and other treasures. As Russian and Eastern European languages and culture happen to be my special interest, I found it serendipitous that all the temporary exhibitions featured Russian and Eastern European art: *Origins of the*

Russian Avant-Garde at the Walters introduced a number of little-known artists along with big names like Malevich, Kandinsky, Goncharova and traced the folk and popular elements in the artists' work, while a wonderful cabinet exhibition presented lithographs by El Lissitzky and László Moholy-Nagy. At the Baltimore Museum of Art I saw the fascinating and informative *Art of the Ballets Russes*, together with Leon Bakst's theater and costume designs, as well as a small exhibition from the private collection of the great cellist Gregor Piatigorsky. The Schaefer Court at the BMA with a stunning display of over 30 mosaics from Antioch served as a most fitting venue for the lavish convocation reception.

The series of fascinating and instructive lectures and sessions, the exhibition, the art treasures of the city, and, last but not least, the delicious crabcakes all became part of an unforgettable experience. Overall, my most memorable impression is a sense of community, of friendliness, of common interests, concerns and issues. I am very grateful that the Celine Palatsky award made it possible for me to become part of this stimulating community.

O C K E R & T R A P P

*We are dedicated to craftsmanship and understand
the need for consistent quality and efficient service*

COMPLETE LIBRARY BINDING SERVICE

- PRESERVATION PHOTOCOPYING
- CUSTOM DESIGNED ENCLOSURES
- SPECIAL HAND BINDING
 - CONSERVATION
 - DEACIDIFICATION
 - ENCAPSULATION
 - RESTORATION



SHORT RUN EDITION BINDING

17A Palisade Ave. • Emerson, NJ 07630 - 0314



**OCKER &
TRAPP**
LIBRARY BINDERY, INC.

www.ockerandtrapp.com

Tel: 201-265-0262 or 1-800-253-0262 • Fax: 201-265-0588

Spring Meeting at the Met with H.W. Wilson

By Judy Connorton

Tax Day turned out to be a fun and informative one for those attending the chapter's Spring meeting at the Metropolitan Museum. Watson Chief Librarian Ken Soehner graciously welcomed the 60+ members and guests assembled in the Douglas Dillon Board Room on the museum's invitation-only fourth floor. He then introduced Chair Debbie Kempe who conducted a brief business meeting before the main event, a "give-and-take" engagement, as Ken termed it, with Wilson Company representatives on new developments in its multi-database search engine and new Web interface.

Debbie thanked the Met for hosting the meeting and Wilson for sponsoring the reception that would follow the information session. She reminded us of ARLIS/NA's 2004 meeting in New York City for which Ted Goodman is the local chair. "Volunteers on several fronts" are needed and interested folks should contact Ted. One such "front" involves local tours, coordinated by Chris Sala and Kitty Chibnik who also welcome contact.

After a few other announcements, Ken introduced the Wilson representatives – Ron Miller, Director of Product Development, and Margaret Richter, Editor of *Art Index*. Ron explained that the goal of the enhanced WilsonWeb is to produce "expert searching results even for novices." The system does this through indexing improvements that enable the searcher to access material at the subject level achieving results prioritized by relevance, à la Google. Thus, the new All-Smart Search Query in advanced search enables searching on a term that, while not listed as a subject word, is listed in the database's thesaurus. That term seamlessly leads to the correct subject word. If one searches for "metaphysical art," for example, the correct subject word "surrealism" will substitute and produce relevant hits.

Basic searches too now offer the option of searching with natural language or Boolean operators. Furthermore, Wilson's new thesaurus also offers searching on over 1,000 art themes such as "abandoned buildings in art" and "Achilles (legendary character) in art."

Margaret noted that 51 new journals have been added to *Art Full Text* resulting in increased coverage of Central European art and art law, although the latter is not yet "a significant area." While the usual practice for adding new titles is to survey users, this time the index staff worked with outside consultants to make the selection. In response to Ken's question whether Wilson sees a role for ARLIS in identifying additional journals to be included, Margaret responded, "I hope so."

Both representatives willingly entertained many questions and took note of suggestions for user-friendly improvements. Someone asked, for example, about a user's ability to identify which publications in a particular foreign language are indexed. Ron said that this information, while in the record, is not yet a displayable field, but that Wilson will look closely at making this possible. A questioner suggested too that the company more clearly indicate on the screen that, when a searcher is emailing articles, accompanying images may be included only in the PDF version and not the HTML .

The size of the turnout and the number of questions asked testified to the value of this working session. Immediately following, attendees had an opportunity to speak with the representatives on an individual basis, while enjoying Wilson's reception in a wonderfully bright space that offered us a view of the museum's grounds.

Member News

Andrew P. Gessner has rejoined the Parsons School of Design as Director of the Adam & Sophie Gimbel Design Library. Andy's first library jobs were at the Gimbel Library as clerk and then Director of the Slide Collection in the late 1980s. After moving on to other libraries and collections, first at NYU and then Columbia, Gessner is very excited at the opportunity to bring his experience and leadership to the Gimbel Library once again. He can now be reached at gessnera@newschool.edu, and 212-229-8915.

Josephine Murphy, Head of Access Services at the Robert J. Kibbee Library of Kingsborough Community College, reports that her book *Novelli, A Forgotten Sculptor*, was published last December by Branden Books. It is a biography of an Italian-American sculptor who worked during the 1920s, creating WWI memorials. The theft of his Saratoga Monument from a Brooklyn city park in April 2000 first sparked her interest in his work. Novelli's story is set during the period between the great World Wars, a score of years filled with extremes of prosperity and depression, peace and anxiety, jubilation and sorrow. These disparities were echoed in the life and work of the artist. A rising star, with commissions coming in from cities throughout the U.S., Novelli's fortunes turned during the Great Depression. With a dwindling fortune and without a single commission, he committed suicide in 1940.

More Member News

Deborah Kempe, Chief of Collections Management at the Frick Art Reference Library and current Chair of ARLIS/NY, will be participating in IFLA's 69th General Conference and Council in Berlin this August. Her talk, "Sold! The Unique Research Role of Auction Sale Catalogs" is part of the "Art Auction Catalogues and the Art Library" session of the Art Libraries Section Programme.

Jenny Tobias, Collection Development Librarian at the Museum of Modern Art, is sure to wow them at the SLA conference in New York on June 10. Her presentation "Ad Lib: The Advertised Librarian" will consider the diverse range of contemporary media images of librarians.

Jim Viskochil has started his new position as Electronic Journals and Acquisitions Librarian at the NYU's Elmer Holmes Bobst Library. This is a faculty tenure track position managing the acquisitions unit as well as organizing the acquisition of electronic products. The job will involve dealing with a wide range of intellectual property issues, contract analysis and licensing.

Obituary: Allan D. Chapman

Allan D. Chapman, former librarian of The Robert Goldwater Library at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, died on Tuesday, April 1, 2003, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. He was 79.

From 1975 until his retirement in 1989, Allan was Museum Librarian in charge of the Robert Goldwater Library in the Department of the Arts of Africa, Oceania, and the Americas. He started the collection when he was the Librarian of the Museum of Primitive Art on 54th Street in New York City (1957–1975). He used to recall that when he began his job he had "fifty books and a desk lamp"; the typewriter, he added, came later. From that modest beginning he built the library and the Photograph Study Collection into one of the premier research centers dedicated to the art and archaeology of Africa, Native North and South America, and the Pacific Islands. When the library and collections of The Museum of Primitive Art were transferred to The Metropolitan Museum of Art in the mid-1970s, Allan was responsible for planning the space for the Goldwater Library, which opened at the Metropolitan in 1982.

Intent on creating greater access to this important research collection, Allan was responsible for several bibliographies on the arts of these culture areas, including the Museum of Primitive Art's Primitive Art Bibliographies (1963–1971) and the "Art of the Native Americans" section in *Arts in America: A Bibliography*, edited by Bernard Karpel (1979). He directed the publication of the library's card catalog by G.K. Hall in 1982.

He was active in the Special Libraries Association, especially its Museums, Arts and Humanities Division, and in the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA). For many years he served on the board of the Heye Foundation's Museum of the American Indian Library.

Prior to his association with the Museum of Primitive Art, Allan was a well-regarded member of the Brooklyn Museum of Art staff working as a cataloger in the Library from 1952 to 1957. In addition to his cataloging of the anthropological library collections, he actively contributed to the preparation of exhibitions and catalogs. In 1994 and 1995 Allan donated his private library of over 1,000 books predominantly on the art and archaeology of Mesoamerica to the Brooklyn Museum of Art, enhancing their research collection with many rare titles on Mexico.

A native of Wisconsin, he received his bachelor's degree in anthropology from the University of New Mexico and his master's degree in library science from the University of Wisconsin. By nature an unpretentious and soft-spoken man, Allan was a strong advocate for the importance and professional standing of librarians. He was a noted scholar in the bibliography of his field and known as someone who was a true professional within the museum community. He will be missed by many librarians who benefited from his guidance over the years.

Allan's ashes will be inurned at Green-Wood Cemetery in Brooklyn, his adopted "native" borough.

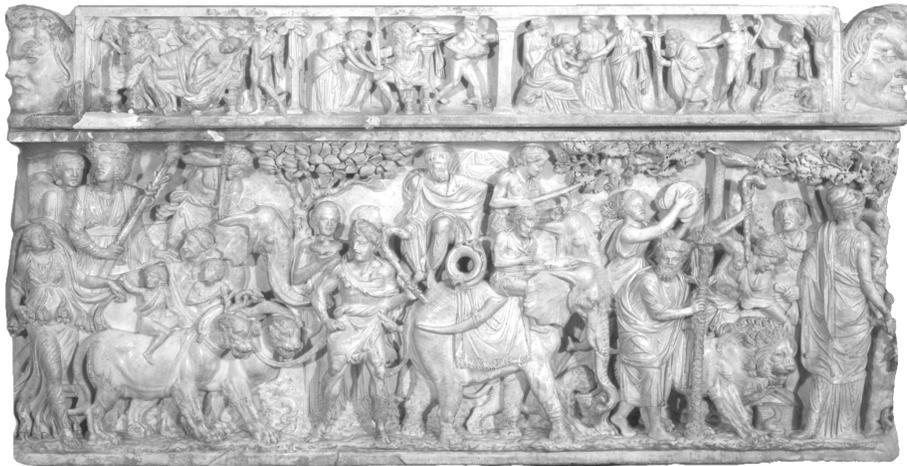
Submitted by,

Deirdre E. Lawrence
Principal Librarian and Coordinator of Research Services
Brooklyn Museum of Art

Ross Day
Associate Museum Librarian
The Robert Goldwater Library
Metropolitan Museum of Art

ARLIS/New York News
Heather Topcik, ARLIS/NY Membership Coordinator
Bard Graduate Center Library
38 West 86th Street
New York, NY 10024

FORWARDING & RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED
ADDRESS CHANGE REQUESTED



Sarcophagus with the Triumph of Dionysos, Roman, later second century AD, the Walters Art Museum.