

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

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ARLIS/NY News

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Letter from the Chair

by Christina Peter, Frick Art Reference Library

It is my great pleasure to reinaugurate the ARLIS/NY newsletter after a hiatus of two years, thanks to the efforts of our new editor, Karyn Hinkle. In 2007 our chapter's quarterly newsletter was abandoned in favor of a more casual and dynamic blog, maintained at www.arlisny.org in an exemplary manner by our indefatigable web editor, Suz Massen. You will be pleased to know that the blog will remain in place and that the Board will now revert to the venerable tradition of publishing a more substantial newsletter as well. I encourage you all to get involved with our publication and forward your ideas to Karyn (hinkle@bgc.bard.edu).

I am pleased to report that despite the economic downturn our chapter is going strong. With 210 members at last count we have reached last year's membership level as early as the end of May. I don't need to remind you that in times of hardship community support is more important than ever. The chapter's gatherings provide wonderful networking and learning opportunities, and we are looking forward to a variety of exciting programs in the coming months. If you haven't found the time to renew your membership yet, please go to www.arlisny.org and do so now. I urge you to reach out to your art-loving colleagues and encourage them to join as well.

I am greatly honored to serve as the chair of such a thriving and vibrant chapter. My predecessor Paul Glassman, whose chairmanship was marked by strong leadership and an impressive array of outstanding programs, has been an inspirational example, and I am fortunate to have him on the Board as Past Chair, along with Elizabeth Darocha Berenz, our Treasurer, Elizabeth Lilker, our Membership Coordinator, and Suz Massen, our Web Editor. New to the Board this year are our Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Lisa Ryan, our Development Coordinator Charlotte Priddle, and our News Editor Karyn Hinkle. Returning to the Board is our Secretary Erin Elliott, who served in previous years as Membership Coordinator. It has been a stimulating experience to work with such an energetic and engaged group of people, and I am deeply grateful for their dedicated service and valuable contribution to ARLIS/NY.

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(Letter from the Chair continued from page 1)

Our programs so far have included two curator-led tours of current exhibitions at the Cooper-Hewitt National Design Museum, a visit to the Bard Graduate Center Library in its temporary location, and a panel discussion on collaboration among the members of NYARC, the New York Art Resources Consortium, at the Brooklyn Museum. You can find out more about these events in the following pages of our present newsletter. I am especially pleased with programs that involved collaboration among various art- and library-related organizations in New York: Many of our chapter's members attended lectures and meetings at the invitation of the International Foundation for Art Research, the Visual Resources Association, or the New York Technical Services Librarians.

ARLIS/NY had a strong presence at the streamlined, well-organized annual conference in Indianapolis, which, despite the cutback in travel funds at many libraries and almost against general expectations, was well attended and successful. Our chapter's Celine Palatsky Travel Award went to Maria Oldal, Head of Cataloging at the Morgan Library and a long-standing, very active member of ARLIS/NY. New Yorkers were well represented in the national awards: Patricia Barnett received the ARLIS/NA Distinguished Service Award, presented by Eric Wolf, and Rodica Tanjala Krauss won the ARLIS/NA Conference Attendance Award. Congratulations to all of our recent award winners!

As the season is slowly turning from a rather cool spring into a lovely early summer, we are looking forward to another busy season of tours and events. By the time you read this, we will have met at the Bartos Theater at the Museum of Modern Art for a presentation featuring the Art21 documentary project and MoMA's collection of artists' books. The following week we will be attending a tour of the library at the New-York Historical Society. Members of our chapter have been invited for a visit and tour of the new Robert B. Haas Family Arts Library at Yale. We are planning a visit to the Noguchi Museum and Gardens combined with an informal picnic, and two tours in association with the Society of Architectural Historians are also in the works for the summer. You will be receiving announcements of these and other upcoming programs as we get closer to the dates. I am looking forward to seeing you at our next event. ❖

New York's Newsletter Returns

by Karyn Hinkle, Bard Graduate Center

ARLIS/NY News resumes publication with this Spring/Summer 2009 issue, the first since 2006. As Christina Peter describes above in her letter from the Chair, the board found during the hiatus that they missed the larger space the newsletter had provided for longer articles and fuller descriptions of programs. Other members found that we missed reading details of the events we were unable to attend ourselves. Thus I've been appointed by the board to begin editing and producing ARLIS/NY News again. It will be published in PDF twice a year, spring/summer and fall/winter. As in the past, PDF copies will be distributed via the listserv and then archived on our website with the other past issues. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you'd like to be published in ARLIS/NY News: We will strive to cover all ARLIS/NY events and we are also eager to accept submissions on any other topics of interest to our membership.

Along with Christina's letter, this issue contains three articles on ARLIS/NY events that took place earlier this year, two reports on national conferences attended by ARLIS/NY award winners, and an update on the national chapter by the ARLIS/NA chapters coordinator. I hope you enjoy reading them as much as I enjoyed collecting them! ❖

ARLIS/NY Visits the Cooper-Hewitt Museum

by Janis Ekdahl, Bard Graduate Center

Saturday March 8 about fifteen ARLIS/New Yorkers gathered at the Cooper-Hewitt, National Design Museum for two wonderful curator-led tours. Elizabeth Broman, the museum's Reference Librarian, welcomed the group and introduced Susan Brown, Assistant Curator of Textiles. Ms. Brown's show, *Fashioning Felt*, showcases both innovations in handmade felt and contemporary uses of industrial felt. She has also included a few objects from the Cooper-Hewitt's collection for historical context. One-of-a-kind clothing designed by Andrea Zittel and Christine Birkle is displayed alongside industrially produced furniture by designers such as Ben Mickus and Louise Campbell. Especially stunning is *Palace Yurt*, a beautiful felt environment that West Coast artist Janice Arnold created for the museum's conservatory. The only frustrating aspect of Ms. Brown's tour was the fact we were not allowed to touch any of the felt until reaching the educational display in the final hallway! *Fashioning Felt* continues at the Cooper-Hewitt until September 7.

Next, the museum's Chief Librarian, Stephen Van Dyk, guided us through *Wall Stories: Children's Wallpaper and Books*, a delightful and nostalgic exhibition juxtaposing wallpapers from the museum's vast collection with children's books from its 70,000-volume library. Books and wallpapers produced specifically for children gained popularity as a result of social and economic forces of the late nineteenth century. One of the earliest wallpapers exhibited was a moralistic 1875 paper depicting "The Pilgrim's Progress" in dreary shades of brown and beige. However, most of the wallpapers displayed in *Wall Stories* were upbeat and playful, animated with "literary" characters such as Popeye, Winnie-the-Pooh, Peter Pan, Pinocchio, Cinderella, Mickey Mouse, and Goofy.

Before leaving the museum many of us also toured *Solos: Tulou/Affordable Housing for China* and *Shahzia Sikander Selects: Works from the Permanent Collection*. Kudos to Elizabeth for arranging and hosting this very special event. ❖

A Report on "How to Move a Library to a Temporary Location and Back Again"

by Ross Day, Metropolitan Museum of Art

(New York, April 2) ARLIS/NY members braved a beautiful early spring day to venture to West Midtown for a tour and reception at Bard Hall, a residential building that is the site of the temporary quarters of the Bard Graduate Center Library. Our hosts for the event were Heather Topcik, Chief Librarian, and Karyn Hinkle, Reader Services Librarian. Also on hand were Bard Graduate Center (BGC) librarians Alicia Ackerman and Janis Ekdahl.

After welcomes by ARLIS/NY Chair Christina Peter and Peter Miller, Dean and Chair of Academic Programs at the BGC, Heather delivered a history of the Bard Graduate Center Library leading up to the BGC's purchase of a townhouse next door to the existing library building. Plans called for expanding the library through the common wall into the new space. While this would mean a significant increase in the library's footprint, it would require the library to relocate during the construction. That is how the BGC Library

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came to reside in a residential building for a year. To introduce the temporary space, Karyn narrated a PowerPoint presentation showing photos of the Bard Hall facilities before, during, and after the library's installation.

The BGC's pressing issue was how to fit the library into this new (and significantly smaller) temporary space. After assessing student and faculty research needs for the year, approximately three-quarters of the collection was sent offsite to the Clancy-Cullen facilities in Patterson, New York. The balance was moved to the temporary quarters at Bard Hall over ten days in June 2008. Remarkably the library was ready for regular business by August. Heather and Karyn described their negotiations with the architects and administration, and discussed some of the challenges posed by the new space. Among other questions, attendees asked about student and staff reactions to the relocation; logistics, procedures for and frequency of offsite recalls; and how materials were selected for retention on-site.

Then ARLIS/NY got to tour the temporary library. In light of the size of the smaller rooms, attendees were split into three groups to tour the space, including the Reference and Reserves room, the staff offices, and one of the stacks-and-study areas. Most of the temporary spaces were conceived as dormitory rooms, complete with kitchen facilities but not library furniture. Since the spaces were destined to return to dorm rooms, most alterations had to be reversible. Library shelving was installed and overhead lighting added; library hardware (wastebaskets, pencil sharpeners, tables and chairs, computer terminals and photocopiers) was requisitioned; and closets and cabinetry were re-purposed as needed.

After the tour, everyone reassembled on the ground floor for refreshments and conversation. The BGC is planning a follow-up program in the fall so that ARLIS/NY can see the newly renovated space on W. 86th Street when it is completed. ❖



Touring the BGC's temporary library space at Bard Hall.

Photo by Ross Day



Fashioning Felt curator Susan Brown shows off the felt beads on her necklace.

Photo (and beads!) by Elizabeth Broman

More photos from ARLIS/NY events can be found on our website (www.arlisny.org), and on our flickr page (www.flickr.com/photos/arlisny/). Check them out!

A Symposium on the New York Art Resources Consortium

by Heidi Hass, The Morgan Library & Museum

Over eighty attendees gathered May 7 at the Brooklyn Museum's Cantor Auditorium for a symposium entitled "The New York Art Resources Consortium (NYARC): A Discussion About Collaboration." Moderated by Lily Pregill, NYARC Project Coordinator, panelists included Ken Soehner (Watson Library, Metropolitan Museum of Art), Debbie Kempe (Frick Art Reference Library), Deirdre Lawrence (Brooklyn Museum Library and Archives), and Milan Hughston (MoMA Library).

In each of the four presentations, a different area of collaboration was described and explored. Jim Neal's talk at the recent ARLIS/NA Indianapolis conference, "Convergence and Managing Progressive Change," provided a touchstone for the participants, who were united in their view that art libraries face a rapidly changing environment. Ken gave a brief history of the development of NYARC, including the initial assumption of the Mellon-funded planning study that the older model of independent operations at the four art libraries, while hitherto productive, was no longer sustainable.

Deirdre asserted that art museums are now following a similar path to libraries by putting images and records about their respective art collections online, providing unprecedented access. The addition of Columbia, NYU, and NYPL art libraries creates the NYARC 7, which is continuing to explore the coordination of cost-effective programs, improved access, resource sharing, advancing missions, and developing relationships to support content.

Debbie described several digital projects that the NYARC libraries have collaborated on, including digitization of nineteenth century American art periodicals, Macbeth Gallery catalogues, and Knoedler's public domain catalogues. Digitization of auction catalogues has been discussed with JSTOR representatives. Debbie recommends attending METRO workshops to gain technical expertise and to keep up with current trends.

Milan believes that digital initiatives are thrusting us into new and unaccustomed roles, where some will thrive and some won't. He urged those of us in the traditional museum environment to harness our energy and curiosity in the drive to change, which he thinks is more progressive than revolutionary.

The IMLS-funded collaboration between Pratt Institute SILS and the Brooklyn Museum's Library and Archives and Digital Lab was discussed throughout the question-and-answer session. The panelists believe that libraries need different skills now, and that new librarians are uniquely poised to contribute in the current environment. Remaining flexible and willing to learn was recommended to the students in the audience, but it was also stated that leadership at the top is required to implement institutional change and collaboration.

The meeting concluded with conversation at a wine reception in the Museum's Beaux-Arts Court. Many thanks to the Brooklyn Museum, to host Deirdre Lawrence, and to the panelists for an exciting and inspiring event. ❖

Note from the author: *Heidi has a fuller version of this article; contact her at vhass@themorgan.org and she will send you a copy if you are interested.*

Architectural School Librarians in Portland

by Chris Sala, Columbia University

Winner of the 2008 ARLIS/NY Professional Development Award

Thank you to the ARLIS/NY chapter for the 2009 Professional Development Travel Award. The award supported my first-time attendance to the Association of Architectural School Librarians (AASL) conference held in Portland, Oregon March 26 – 28. The program included sessions on local architecture and collections. The first day started off with a business meeting and was followed by the talk “Highlights of Portland Architecture,” given by Leland Roth of the University of Oregon. It was a good introduction to the city and its buildings, many of which we would see in the next few days. Afterward we explored Pioneer Courthouse Square, considered one of the premier public spaces in the United States.

The afternoon was spent visiting two Portland institutions, The Oregon Historical Society and its neighbor across the street, the Portland Art Museum and Library. Both are located on the lovely South Park Blocks, a stretch of twelve blocks in downtown each featuring public artwork. At the Historical Society we were given a guided tour of “Oregon My Oregon,” an exhibition celebrating the 150th anniversary of Oregon’s statehood. Later Debra Royer, Head of the Library at the Portland Art Museum, showed off their new library. The museum had acquired an adjacent building, a former Masonic temple, and converted it into additional space for the museum, including the library. The library renovation kept in place the existing stage and red velvet stage curtain, not something one sees everyday in an art library.

The second day started early with a panel presentation on the “The Architecture Library of the Future.” Ted Goodman, General Editor of the Avery Index, started off with updates on the Index’s activities. Jean von Bargen, an architect and University of Oregon adjunct instructor, discussed her experience in requiring her students to deposit their studio work in the University of Oregon’s institutional repository. Alan Michaelson, Head of the Architecture & Planning Library at the University of Washington Seattle, demonstrated his database, PACG (Pacific Coast Architecture Database), which documents the architects and architecture of the Pacific Northwest and includes biographical information, building lists, and images. Finally Janine Henri, Architecture Librarian, UCLA, presented an overview of SAHARA, the image cooperative of the Society of Architectural. To finish things off Kevin Matthews, president of Artifice, Inc., spoke about architectural publishing and the different platforms of his company’s products, *ArchitectureWeek*, *Great Building Collections*, and *Archiplanet*.

The conference finished up that afternoon with an enlightening two-and-a-half-hour guided tour of sustainable Portland. Our guide, a transplanted New Yorker, focused on the three themes of transportation, livability, and planning. To encourage public transit use and to make travel easier for commerce, retail, and recreational purposes the light-rail system can be ridden for free in a 330 block area of downtown Portland. The city has also designated certain major thoroughfares as bus-only streets. In addition every street has bike lanes. Perhaps the most unique aspect was the parking spaces reserved for both Zipcars and electric cars, complete with charging stations. The city has also created design guidelines for the growth and development of the downtown area, one of which requires an unobstructed view in any direction for six blocks. The tour finished up with a visit to Portland’s Office of Sustainability, where information resources and help with green building initiatives are provided to the public. ❖

Convergence in Indianapolis: The ARLIS/NA 2009 Conference

by Maria Oldal, The Morgan Library & Museum
Winner of the 2009 ARLIS/NY Celine Palatsky Travel Award

The ARLIS/NA annual conference in Indianapolis was an overwhelming success. Despite severe financial constraints and institutional reorganization affecting almost all of us, 375 members convened to hear and talk about convergence, the conference theme, and many other issues advancing and influencing our field. The organizers put together a program that left very little time to walk around the friendly but quiet Indianapolis downtown. For the second year in a row, conference programs kicked off with the convocation, giving us a chance to learn about this year's winners and honorees. It was especially uplifting for all of us ARLIS/NY members to give a standing ovation to this year's Distinguished Service Award winner, Patricia Barnett. The local hosts outdid themselves with a splendid welcome party at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art. Following his convocation speech and our introduction to the Indianapolis Museum of Art's dashboard on the web (<http://dashboard.imamuseum.org/>), Maxwell Anderson, Director of the IMA, invited us for a visit to the Museum and a viewing of its exquisite collections of art on Sunday evening.

Change was second only to convergence as a conference theme. In his sweeping presentation at the opening plenary session, James Neal, Vice President for Information Services and University Librarian, Columbia University, made a strong case for professional, organizational, and personal changes in response to a changing world around us. The points he made served as topics of conversation throughout the conference and were echoed in venues far removed from Indianapolis, such as the NYARC Symposium on May 7 at the Brooklyn Museum. Change was also the theme of the session "Discovery on this Side of the Virtual Wall: Evolving Authority Control Resources and Technologies in the Digital Age," organized by Rodica Tanjala Kraus, and presented by our ARLIS/NY colleagues Sherman Clarke and Mark Bresnan, among others.

I myself had the opportunity to give an update at the Cataloging Section meeting on applying Cataloging Cultural Objects (CCO) in MARC. The Morgan Library & Museum has been experimenting with using CCO as its guidelines for describing objects in its collections. I spoke about our experiences with these records in the Morgan's online collections catalog, CORSAIR (<http://corsair.themorgan.org>), and in OCLC's WorldCat. I invited my ARLIS/NA colleagues to join in this experiment

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Indianapolis from the conference hotel.
Photo by Karyn Hinkle

(Palatsky Award Winner continued from page 7)

in the hopes of generating a set of sample MARC records to supplement other examples on the CCO Commons website (<http://www.vrafoundation.org/ccoweb/index.htm>).

After serving two years as a member, I took over as Chair of the Gerd Muehsam Award Committee (http://www.arlisna.org/about/awards/muehsam_info.html). The award is given annually to recognize excellence in a graduate student paper or project on a topic relevant to art librarianship. I was delighted to attend the New Voices in the Profession session and hear Maureen Whalen, this year's Gerd Muehsam Award winner, present her paper entitled "What's Wrong with This Picture? An Examination of Art Historians' Attitudes about Electronic Publishing Opportunities and the Consequences of Their Continuing Love Affair with Print." ARLIS/NA has had a successful mentoring program co-chaired by Heidi Hass and Tony White for the past three years, and, as a consequence, new professionals entering the field of art librarianship showed a strong presence in Indianapolis. In his convocation speech, ARLIS/NA President Ken Soehner extended a warm welcome to fifty first-time attendees.

I am grateful to the ARLIS/NY chapter for its generous support of my conference attendance. I am fortunate to have known Celine Palatsky. I remember her voice, her smile and exuberant personality from ARLIS/NY meetings of times long past. It is a privilege to join the group of travel award recipients honoring her memory. ❖



The New Voices in the Profession conference session.

Photo by Maria Oldal

More conference photos and photos from other ARLIS/NY events can be found on our website (www.arlisny.org), and on our flickr page (www.flickr.com/photos/arlisny). Check them out!



A deer sculpture at the Eiteljorg Museum.

Photo by Suz Massen

ARLIS/NA News

by Cate Cooney, ARLIS/NA Chapters Coordinator

ARLIS/NA has a new management firm, Technical Enterprises, Inc. (TEI). TEI is headquartered outside of Milwaukee WI, and as their name implies, they provide a wide range of technology support. It was their technical capabilities, combined with their personalized support and more than twenty years experience that put them at the top of the twenty-one association management firms that responded to our call for proposals. I am very excited about what they have to offer chapters. They intend to provide web hosting for chapters as well as chapter listservs, which should give great relief to chapters which have struggled to maintain their sites and lists on various institution servers. The transition will be complete on May 1, when Nancy Short becomes our new Executive Director.

The ARLIS/NA Career Mentoring Program has expanded, and had a kick-off workshop at the Annual Conference in Indianapolis. The Mentoring Subcommittee invited chapter leaders to attend and learn how to present the workshop in their region.

The 2009 Summer Educational Institute (SEI) for Visual Resources and Image Management has been announced. It will be held at Simmons College in Boston MA, from June 8 – June 13. The program, co-sponsored by ARLIS/NA and the Visual Resources Association Foundation, is in its sixth year. The SEI advisory group has recommended that SEI stay in one location two years in a row, which will ease pressure on the implementation team, while still allowing the program to move around North America and serve a wide audience.

Spring is a good time to brainstorm chapter projects. Could your chapter's idea be something the Society would help fund? Applications for special funding are due July 1. Past projects have included support for symposia and outreach materials targeted at library schools. Projects may be awarded up to \$500 depending on merit of the project and availability of funds. The guidelines and a simple application form are available on the ARLIS/NA website.

We had a great conference in Indianapolis. Thanks the Mid-States Chapter for all their hard work hosting an exciting program! ❖

Reach ARLIS/NY members through ARLIS/NY News

Contact board member Charlotte Priddle, ARLIS/NY Development Coordinator (cpriddle@nyss.org), if you'd like to place a newsletter ad with us.

See your byline in ARLIS/NY News

Contact news editor Karyn Hinkle (hinkle@bgc.bard.edu) to submit a photo, write up a program, suggest a topic, or request an article assignment. Your pieces are welcomed!