

# ARLIS *focus* NEW ENGLAND *Spring 2001* vol.14,no.1

## *From the President*

The transition from one administration to another was running fine. All the new officers, Richard McElroy (Wellesley College), vice president/president-elect, Jill Cirasella, (Boston Architectural Center), secretary, Anne Haas (Bowdoin), treasurer, Linda Zieper (U Mass, Dartmouth) newsletter editor, and Katy Poole (MIT), Web person and our outgoing ARLIS/NA liaison, Debora Kempe (Frick Art Reference Library) and incoming ARLIS/NA liaison Laurie Whitehill Chong, (RISD) were all in place ready to start the 2001 year.

Then the e-mail with the Subject "Change of address" came from Jill. She had accepted the perfect job at the Dance Notation Bureau in NYC. With much regret, she resigned from the board. I sent an e-mail to the board with the subject "Good news, Bad news" to signify the mixed emotions I had between a colleague landing a wonderful job and losing a valued board member.

Then a week later I receive an e-mail with "More Good news, Bad news" as a subject and this time it's from Katy Poole, who writes that, "after twenty years as a librarian I have reached a decision to leave librarianship in order to take advantage of an exciting opportunity to redirect my energies and skills." Katy also resigned from the ARLIS/NE board as Webmaster.

So using our ARLIS/NE board listserv, we try to figure out what we are going to do to guarantee that the operation of the chapter continues smoothly. The following was decided. Since Jill had barely started her duties as secretary and the election was close, we would ask Helaine Davis from the Museum of Our National Heritage, who had also been a candidate for secretary in our fall election, if she would be willing to serve. Helaine graciously accepted and she was unanimously ratified at our meeting.

As for the Webmaster position we made an announcement on our ARLIS/NE listserv asking for volunteers and received several inquiries. Ultimately we asked Don Milliken from Amherst if he and his institution could host our site. The files have been transferred and the site has a new address: [www.amherst.edu/arlisne](http://www.amherst.edu/arlisne)

Please send any suggestions to Don at:  
[dpmilliken@amherst.edu](mailto:dpmilliken@amherst.edu)

Next the board agreed to support the ARLIS/NA annual conference financially. This year the conference, which was held in Los Angeles, had close to sixty members on the attendees list from New England. Our chapter contributed \$250.00 to support the welcome party and donated a complete New England clambake for the silent auction, which supports the ARLIS/NA Speakers Fund! We recently received a lovely thank you note from Ted Goodman, ARLIS/NA president.

Our first meeting was a terrific success, with forty-three members in attendance at the Museum of Our National heritage. Special thanks to Helaine Davis, public services librarian and all her colleagues for an outstanding day. (See meeting report elsewhere)

When I agreed to run for office in the special election in the summer of 1999, I wrote that we (ARLIS/NE) should "reach out to those new to our profession, to those contemplating joining our profession, to those unaffiliated potential members and most importantly, to our sustaining members to insure that our local chapter continues to meet our immediate and future needs." Early in my tenure, as we faced all these changes and challenges, I began to realize that this was quite a lofty goal, but looking out at the over forty people in attendance at our first meeting at the Museum of Our National heritage, it was evident that we were well on our way. Where else can colleagues, new to a position, meet up with others in similar positions to compare notes, where else can we hear the latest news on important new digital initiatives or international conferences, or where else can we just catch up with old friends?

This is your chapter, I am just taking my turn to keep the wheels going, make the most of the resources available to you. See you at the IFLA pre-conference, August 16-17, which will serve as our second meeting. Please reserve October 26 for our third meeting at Yale Details will follow. Have a wonderful and productive summer.

*Adeane Alpert Bregman*

***ARLIS/NE Board Meeting, Boston College, January 19, 2000***

The first board meeting of 2001 convened in Boston College's Bapst Library and was attended by Adeane Bregman, host and incoming president; Stephen Nonack, outgoing president; Richard McElroy, incoming vice president/ president-Elect; Andrea Frank, outgoing secretary/ membership officer; Jill Cirasella, incoming secretary/membership officer; Linda Zieper, newsletter editor; Katy Poole, Web manager; and Hugh Wilburn, chair of the 2001 IFLA Satellite Conference sponsored by ARLIS/NE. Ann Haas, treasurer was absent.

*Membership:* Andrea reported that, as of January 18, the chapter had ninety new and returning members for the 2001 membership year and that forty members from 2000 had not yet renewed. Richard will send out a reminder. Twenty-five members included donations to the chapter and/or the Freitag Award with their registrations. In addition, Katy (who is the chair of the ARLIS/NA membership committee) discussed the desirability of being able to compare the North American member database with the New England database. With this capability, the chapter could identify local ARLIS/NA members who either do not know about the chapter or do not know about the benefits of membership.

*Chapter Communications:* Andrea will continue to administer the chapter listserv and Adeane will take charge of the board listserv. Both listservs have very low-traffic, but the board hopes to enliven the chapter listserv Katy will think about abbreviating the chapter's Web site address, and she asked the board to stay on the lookout for members who would like to assist with, or assume, chapter Web duties.

*2000 Freitag Award Winner:* Pam Born was announced as the winner of the 2000/2001 Freitag Award, which she will use to attend the ARLIS/NA conference in Los Angeles.

*Upcoming meetings:* The next chapter meeting will be on Friday, April 27, at the Museum of Our National Heritage. The meeting will include museum exhibitions, a summary of the 2001 ARLIS/NA conference, and a report on the upcoming 2001 IFLA Conference and ARLIS Satellite Conference. ARLIS/NA conference will be held March 29-April 5 in Los Angeles Program ideas for the future were also discussed. The board agreed that the ARLIS meeting at IFLA 2001 should count as the chapter's first fall meeting. Because IFLA is in August, the second fall meeting might be scheduled for October rather than November.

*IFLA:* Hugh Wilburn brought the board up to date on ARLIS/NA's upcoming joint meeting with the IFLA Section of Art Libraries. A satellite conference of the IFLA 2001 Conference, the meeting will be held in Boston on the August 16-17 and will be sponsored by our chapter. Expected attendance to the satellite conference is 150--about 50 IFLA and 100 non-IFLA.

The meeting adjourned at 12:09 PM.

***THE CHAPTER WEB SITE HAS MOVED TO  
[www.amherst.edu/arlisne](http://www.amherst.edu/arlisne)***

***Join the Chapter Listserv!***

At the beginning of this year, our chapter listserv manager and past secretary, Andrea Frank, reported "There are currently 110 subscribers to the ARLIS/New England listserv. Of these, 61 are chapter members [based on a comparison of e-mail addresses provided to us by chapter members, and e-mail addresses subscribed to the listserv.].. We have over 130 members, and it's possible that there are more members subscribed under other e-mail addresses, but if you are not subscribed please consider it. This is just another vehicle for chapter communication, announcements and calls for help and suggestions..

To subscribe to the listserv, send the following message to majordomo@listserv.bc.edu: subscribe arlis-ne-l [your e-mail address]

***Spring Meeting: Museum of Our National Heritage, April 27, 2001***

The spring meeting was held April 27 at the Museum of Our National Heritage (MONH) in Lexington, Massachusetts. MONH was founded as a gift to the American people by the 32° Scottish Rite Freemasons of the Northern Jurisdiction, United States of America in honor of the bicentennial. About forty-three members attended the wonderful and informative program.

The day started out in the Farr Conference Center with morning refreshments. We were welcomed by Hilary Anderson, director of collections and exhibitions who then introduced our morning speaker, Mark Tabbert, the masonic/ fraternal curator. Mr. Tabbert, himself a 32° mason, spoke on "Masonic Symbolism in American Art." He presented a slide lecture that explained many of the Masonic symbols and discussed the nature of Freemasonry. The society has been misunderstood in the past. Many have thought that it was a secret society, but as Mr. Tabbert explained, "it is a fraternal organization

with some secrets." Many prominent Americans, such as George Washington, Andrew Jackson, Harry S. Truman have been members.

Some of the more important symbols are the square and compass with the letter "G," an altar with a book of sacred law, and King Solomon's temple. There is a collection of pottery and plates with Masonic symbols displayed in cases on both sides of the conference room. A glossary of symbols from *Masonic Symbols in American Decorative Arts*, published by the museum in 1975, was distributed. Mr. Tabbert was an eloquent speaker and his commitment and love of the organization was apparent.

We were then given the opportunity to tour the Van Gorden-Williams Library and Archives, a research library specializing in American Freemasonry and American social history. The library has one of the most comprehensive collections on American Freemasonry in the United States with nearly 30,000 books on related subjects and 360 serial titles. The American history and American decorative arts collection also has over 30,000 volumes, as well as more than 500 dealer catalogs and serials titles and a collection of documents housed in the library's archives. Tours were guided by Helaine Davis, public services librarian, Catherine Swanson, archivist, and Julie Triessl, serials librarian. In the archives, we were given a glimpse of just some of the Masonic treasures such as documents with the signatures of Queen Isabella of Spain, George Washington and Benjamin Franklin. Helaine had prepared a display with a selection of books on artists who were Masons, including Marc Chagall and Alphonse Mucha.

A delicious lunch was provided by the museum's caterer, Currier and Chives and a business meeting followed.

Adeane Bregman opened the business meeting. Anne Haas, presented the treasurer's report and Helaine Davis gave current membership figures of over 100 dues-paying members. Linda Zieper asked for submissions for the chapter newsletter.

Adeane announced that the chapter had two resignations, Jill Cirasella, secretary and Katy Poole, Webmaster. Since Jill has left the area to become a dance librarian in NYC resigned almost before she began her duties, Helaine Davis, who ran for the office in the fall, was asked if she would consider serving this year and she graciously accepted. The members in attendance unanimously approved. The Webmaster position

will be filled by Don Milliken of Amherst College.

Max Marmor of Yale University spoke briefly about his involvement in "ArtSTOR," a new digital imaging initiative being launched by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. While on leave 2000/2001 as a fellow of the Digital Library Federation, Max has been working as part of a small ArtSTOR planning team with colleagues from Mellon and the DLF. ArtSTOR aspires to create a digital library that will respond directly to the needs of teachers, students, and scholars in the history of art and related disciplines that depend fundamentally on the use of visual resources. For a preliminary description of the project, see the Mellon Web site at <http://www.mellon.org> under "recent announcements."

Hugh Wilburn of Harvard GSD spoke about the upcoming IFLA conference and the Pre-Conference Satellite meeting, August 16 and 17, which is being sponsored by ARLIS/NA and our chapter. There will be opportunities for volunteers to help out. People are needed to get attendees from the MFA to Harvard via public transportation, to host groups at restaurants, to work at the registration desk and to help with mailings. The IFLA Conference is August 16–25 in Boston, registration deadline is June 15! Highlights include walking tours of Victorian Back Bay, federalist Beacon Hill and the Copley Square area. There will be a boat tour of the Charles River, a reception at Ars Libri, a morning at the MFA, an afternoon at Harvard University, Harvard Design School, and a closing reception at the Fogg Art Museum. IFLA site <http://www.library.yale.edu/arlis-ifla-2001/>

After the business meeting, Elysa Engleman, guest curator and Matthews fellow at MONH, presented some slide images of the *Return to Route 66* exhibit and spoke about her experience pulling together the entire exhibition. Originally, the exhibit now at the museum through September, consisted of about sixty photographs taken of the actual road and surrounding environment of Route 66 by photographer, Shellee Graham. Elysa and other exhibition staff at the museum, located memorabilia, neon signs, and other items such as a circa 1920 Model T Ford to enhance the photos and bring the story of Route 66 to life. Following Ms. Engleman's lecture, Jane Schwerdtfeger, director of education and public programs at MONH guided a tour through *Return to Route 66*, while museum teachers, Ethie Slate and Janet Scudder, led tours of *Lexington*

*Alarm 'd*, one of two permanent exhibitions at MONH, and *Made in Massachusetts*.

The program concluded with soda and cookies for the road at about 4:00 PM.

*Helaine Davis and Adeane Alpert Bregman*

### ***From the Freitag Award Recipient***

I would like to offer my thanks to the ARLIS/NE membership and to the Wolfgang M. Freitag Professional Development Award Committee, Adeane Bregman and Catherine Wodehouse, for selecting me this year to receive the Freitag Award. The award allowed my participation in the ARLIS/NA annual conference in Los Angeles.

At a poster session I presented Artifact, an interactive Web-based curriculum tool for the teaching of art history. Artifact was developed in-house and contains images for thirteen art history courses taught at Tufts University. Some of the unique features of Artifact include image comparisons; flashcards and matching games for slide study. A student exhibition feature allows students to select and mount an exhibition online with an essay.

This was the second time that ARLIS held poster sessions at the annual conference and it was, I believe, a great success. It allowed presenters and viewers an arena for viewing a great variety of projects in a relaxed atmosphere. Artifact was well received and the session proved gratifying.

The conference as a whole was a wonderful experience with informative sessions and exciting events. The ability to interact, face-to-face, with peers is an invaluable opportunity anytime but certainly proves to be a highlight of attending the annual conference.

*Pamela Born*  
*Tufts University*

### ***IFLA Satellite Meeting in Boston***

ARLIS/New England is sponsoring the upcoming satellite meeting designed to bring together members of the Art Section of IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations) and ARLIS/NA. The meeting, on Thursday and Friday, August 16 and 17, is built around the theme: "How do I find a picture of ...? : The Changing Nature of Image Research." Speakers from throughout the United States and around the world will address topics related to the impact of the Web and digitization on the identification of and access to visual image collections. Sessions will take place in Boston, at the Boston Architectural Center and the Museum of Fine

Arts, and in Cambridge, at the Harvard Design School. The satellite meeting offers an unusual opportunity for North American art and architecture librarians and image curators to meet our international colleagues. It precedes the annual meeting of IFLA which is visiting the United States for the first time since the mid-1980s.

A full program listing and registration form are available on the Web at:

**<http://www.library.yale.edu/arlis-ifla-2001/>**.  
Registration deadline is July 1.

Questions can be addressed to: Hugh Wilburn, Frances Loeb Library, Harvard Design School ([hwilburn@gsd.harvard.edu](mailto:hwilburn@gsd.harvard.edu); 617-495-4010)

### ***New publication from MassCOPAR***

The Massachusetts Committee for the Preservation of Architectural Records announces the publication of *Blueprints to Bytes: Architectural Records in the Electronic Age*. This volume, the proceedings of a public program held by MassCOPAR on March 12, 1999 at the Boston Architectural Center, includes papers that examine the problems of CAD long-term record keeping, approaches to record keeping, and the impact that a lack of planning will have on the preservation of documents for firm survival and the study of architecture and engineering structures in the future. Copies of *Blueprints to Bytes* are available for \$15 from MassCOPAR, Box 425129 Cambridge, MA 02142-0004.

### ***The MECA Library is moving!***

Laura Graveline, MECA library director reports that the Maine College of Art Library is moving down the street, to the second floor of the Porteous building, at 522 Congress St. The phone number will remain (207-775-5153) the same, as will the Web site (**<http://library.meca.edu>**), and summer hours (M- F, 8:30 -4:30).

The library will close during the move, from May 19 through June 17. Both the Baxter building and the Porteous building will also be closed to the public during this time, for renovations. All library materials currently checked out will either have a due date after June 17, or must be renewed or returned before May 19.

The library will host a public opening on Monday, June 25, from 5 to 7, to dedicate the new library space to Joanne Waxman. Joanne Waxman was the librarian at MECA from 1974 to 1989, and was instrumental in building the library collection, and achieving accreditation for the library and the college. Please join us in opening the new library space!

The Porteous Building has a new policy which asks all library visitors, members, alumni, and friends to sign in at the security desk in the Porteous. We appreciate your cooperation with this policy.

An architectural rendering of the new space can be found at

**<http://library.meca.edu/screens/plan.html>**.

Great care has been taken to preserve the original tin ceiling of the building, and to restore the prismatic glass tiles of the Chicago style windows on the facade!

### ***From the Members***

Sheryl L. Wilhite joined the Art Department at Wellesley College as its new visual resources curator in January. She comes to New England from Texas, where she was VR curator for the Art Department at the University of Houston. Sheryl holds a B.A. in art history from the University of Houston, an M.A. in art history from Rice University, an M.L.S. from the University of North Texas, and was a doctoral student in Instructional Technology at UH's College of Education before leaving Houston. She is a member of the Visual Resources Association and serves on its Membership Committee and as chair of its Travel Awards Committee. She is the vice-moderator/ moderator-elect for the

Visual Resources Division of ARLIS/NA, and serves on the ARLIS Technology Committee. Her special interests include Early Netherlandish painting, copyright concerns, data standards, and how use of new technologies can improve the learning experience of art and art history students.

Sheryl reports that she is getting used to the milder New England temperatures and the aggressive Massachusetts drivers, and that she enjoys working with Richard McElroy and other colleagues at Wellesley who gave her a warm welcome when she arrived mid-winter. She is very happy that Andrea Bailey Cox, assistant curator, has also joined ARLIS and is already involved with planning 2002 conference activities for the Visual Resources Division. If you have occasion to visit the Wellesley campus, please stop in and say "Hello" to these new ARLIS/New England members.

Linda Zieper, UMass Dartmouth, has been promoted in rank from associate librarian to librarian. She intends to spend some of her raise on touring Iceland with the William Morris Society of Canada this July.

*Thanks to John Woods, of Woods Appraisals, who has generously funded the mailing of this issue.*

***focus*** NEW ENGLAND  
c/o Linda Zieper  
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth  
Library  
Old Westport Road  
N. Dartmouth, MA 02747