

ARLIS *focus*

Linda Zieper, editor

NEW ENGLAND *Spring 2009*

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From the President

Greetings to you all. A year from now ARLIS/NE will have successfully hosted the 38th annual ARLIS/NA conference, "Revolution and Innovation: At the Hub of Discovery," Boston 2010 at the Seaport Hotel. Obviously, it is going to be a busy year for the chapter!

Our recent spring meeting at the Newport Preservation Society was wonderful. Our warm thanks go to Linda Eppich, the Preservation Society's archivist, for hosting us in such stunning surroundings and for sharing some of the treasures from the archive. Jeff Moore, the society's conservationist gave a fascinating presentation on the preservation and conservation of the Newport mansions including the meticulous research performed on and off site to keep the buildings in top authentic form. After afternoon tours of the mansions, the meeting retired to the Benoist Cottage in Jamestown for afternoon tea, sun, and relaxation. Special thanks to Gabrielle Reed for graciously hosting us at the cottage, in addition to helping organize the Newport meeting *and* providing us with coffee and pastries in the morning. Three cheers for Gabrielle!

The business meeting in Newport focused on the 2010 conference planning. The conference will be held at the

Seaport Hotel, in Boston, April 23-26. The conference co-chairs, Jennifer Friedman, Rachel Resnik, Deborah Barlow Smedstad, and Ann Whiteside brought us up to date with the planning, including a description of survey results from the Indianapolis conference, an update of committee chairs, and the unique opportunities and challenges that hosting the conference in a time of economic troubles presents us. We were fortunate to be joined at the meeting by Amy Lucker, ARLIS/NA president, who reiterated that this will be a great conference, in part because we will have to do things differently, and more creatively, due to the economy, but more importantly, ARLIS members are eager to come to Boston and want some revolution and innovation!

That said, the Indianapolis conference was a resounding success. Expertly managed, the programming was terrific and everything functioned like clockwork. It was good to see so many New Englanders there. We decided against having a chapter get-together there as our chapter members were busy meeting with counterparts in preparation of 2010 and our Newport meeting was so soon.

This past October, 2008, Rensselaer

Polytechnic Institute hosted a joint ARLIS/Western New York, ARLIS/NE, VRA/NE, & VRA/Upstate New York meeting. The programming was great and we toured the new, stunning, Experimental Media and Performing Art Center.

This coming October 16, 2009 there will be another joint ARLIS/Western New York, ARLIS/NE, VRA/NE, & VRA/Upstate New York meeting, this time hosted by the Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute in Williamstown, MA. Thanks to Valerie Krall for doing so much to organize this meeting. I'm sure we will be soliciting volunteers as October approaches. Book your tickets for the weekend now, come early and stay late, there is much to see in western Massachusetts.

Last, but certainly not least, this is the last print issue of *Focus* and I would like to thank Linda Zieper for her most excellent work as editor and to member John Woods for the generous support he has provided for the printing and distribution of our newsletter. Our new ARLIS/NE blog/website, <http://arlisne.org/>, designed and maintained by Deb Verhoff, ARLIS/NE vice president/–president-elect, will continue to post chapter news and provide a forum for communications, both past and present, so please continue to send in your news and visit the blog often. Have a great summer!

Darin Murphy, President.

ARLIS/NE Spring Meeting. *Newport Preservation Society, Newport RI
May 15, 2009*

President Darin Murphy called the meeting to order at 10:15, welcomed the members and guests in attendance. He introduced and thanked Linda Eppich, the archivist of the Newport Preservation

Society, who had arranged for the chapter to meet in the society's beautiful headquarters. Ms. Eppich, who is also a grant writer for the preservation society, spoke about the society, its history, mission, membership, and visitors. She introduced the archives which document the mansions and their contents. She had brought examples of the files associated with filming various movies at Newport mansions for the group to peruse.

Darin then reviewed the meeting agenda and the day's schedule, which included, for those who had chosen, a tour of one of the mansions. He introduced Amy Lucker, ARLIS/NA president, and the chapter's officers: Debbie Verhoff, vice president/president-elect and web master; Janis DesMarais, treasurer; Gabrielle Reed, publicity officer; Linda Zieper, secretary and *Focus* editor; and Rachel Resnik, listserv manager. Vanessa Kam is the ARLIS/NA board member designated the chapter representative.

Janis presented the treasurer's report. (Which appears on the next page.)

Linda asked for news for the spring issue of *Focus* and raised the question whether *Focus* had outlived its usefulness. A short discussion followed. Debbie spoke briefly about the newly redesigned web site, which is blog-based and will be more easily updated. It will include a section for the upcoming ARLIS/NA conference in Boston. Amy noted that the society's new organization management firm, TCI, can host chapters' web sites and listservs.

The winners of the chapter's awards are: Sarah Dickinson, Wolfgang Freitag Professional Development Award, which she used her award to support her attendance at the Association of Architectural School Librarians in Portland, Oregon.

Gabrielle Reed, Travel Award, which she used to support her attendance at the ARLIS/NA conference in Indianapolis; and Sarah Burke, Elmar Seibel Scholarship, which she used to support her studies at Simmons College GSLIS. (Each winner has prepared a report for this issue.)

The fall meeting will be held in conjunction with the Western New York chapter of ARLIS and the New England and Western New York chapters of the Visual Resources Association at the Sterling Art Institute in Williamstown Massachusetts. Volunteers are needed to help with registration. Andras Riedylmayer will speak the evening before the meeting. This meeting will be in the midst of fall leaf-peeping season, so members were urged to reserve accommodations soon.

Amy Lucker, whose term as president began at the Indianapolis conference, noted that she was interested in assisting the chapters, and would ask what changes the chapters wanted. The new association management company will be able to provide more assistance.

The greater part of the business meeting was devoted to reviewing the status of conference planning and the results of the surveys completed by both those who had and had not attended the Indianapolis conference. Jennifer Friedman is still analyzing the results of the survey, which are rich in data and sometimes contradictory. The contract with the Seaport Hotel in Boston was signed before the financial crisis; the society is trying to renegotiate some aspects of the contract and that process has delayed some planning. Calls for papers and workshops will soon be announced in more venues than in the past. The idea is to enlarge opportunities to participate in the conference. Jennifer and her pro-

gram co-chair, Ann Whiteside, presented considerable information about the planning process to date.

Other announcements included: Panopticon the art librarianship interest group at Simmons GSLIS, which the chapter has frequently supported, has become an official student organization with twenty-four members and institutional support. Michael Young was the winner of the HW Wilson Research Award for his project: "*Santa casa in Bohemia sacra: Czech baroque copies of the Holy House of Loretto.*"

After the business meeting, Jeff Moore, the Newport Preservation Society conservator, gave a detailed illustrated talk on the challenges of understanding, preserving, and restoring the decorative objects that form the fabric and collection of the Newport mansions. The meeting was adjourned at noon and tickets for the mansion tours were distributed. After the tours, some members continued to the tea held on the lawn at Benoist Cottage, hosted by Gabrielle Reed.

*Respectfully submitted,
Linda Zieper*

Treasurer's report

May 15, 2009

Current Balances

1-year CD as of 5-13-09 \$3987.06
rate 2.75 % matures on 8-5-09

2-year CD as of 5-13-09 \$3812.49
rate 3% matures on 2-13-11

Checking Account \$2203.27

Activity

Contributed \$62.75 for food for the Simmons GSLIS Panopticon art show reception in October 2008

2-year CD was renewed on 2-12-09.
Interest rate changed from 4.75 % to 3 %

Received \$81.61 from John Woods for mailing costs of the *Focus* newsletter

Collected \$1787 in membership dues and gifts

Paid fee of \$95.40 in March to renew our arlisne.org domain name.

Jennifer Violette awarded \$100 for winning ARLIS NA 2010 conference logo contest

2009 ARLIS New England Awards

Sarah Dickinson – Freitag Award \$500

Sarah Burke- Seibel Award \$500

Gabrielle Reed- Travel Award \$300

*Compiled by Janis DesMarais,
ARLIS/NE Treasurer*

Focus Fades Away

Yes, this is the last issue of *Focus New England*. The Executive Board and editor have determined, probably belatedly, that the biannual newsletter no longer makes serves its purpose: to disseminate news and record the chapter's activities. The new, updated, blog-style chapter web site: <http://www.arlisne.org>, designed, maintained and *updated* by Vice President/President-elect Deb Verhoff does that and more better. Back issues of *Focus* and an opportunity to post news will soon appear on the web page. The costs of printing the newsletter can be redirected to other chapter initiatives, such as the professional development and scholarship awards. We are grateful to John Woods of John A. Woods Appraisers, who has underwritten the cost of mailing *Focus* since 2002! Thanks, too, to everyone who contributed content for *Focus* through the years—almost twenty!—I've edited it. It's been a pleasure.

Panopticon

This year Panopticon, the Simmons GSLIS group that is affiliated with ARLIS/NE, became an official club at Simmons. We wrote a constitution, voted on it, and were approved to re-

ceive annual funding as a club. In addition, we arranged a number of events on- and off-campus. We organized two shows of art by GSLIS affiliates, a career panel, and a well-attended lecture by Andras Riedlmayer. We took field trips to the Jamaica Plain and Fenway Open Studios, the library at MassArt, as well as to the Giza Archives at the MFA. There are already exciting plans in place for next year.

*Sarah Burke & Pamela Aghababian
outgoing co-chairs*

Development Award

I'd like to thank the ARLIS/NE chapter for supporting my first attendance of the Association of Architectural School Librarians meeting. The Wolfgang Freitag Professional Development Award supported my attendance at the conference, held this year in Portland, Oregon. Having lived briefly in this city way back in the early 1980s and well before my interest in architecture, I returned with my eyes newly opened to its charms, while at the same time befuddled by its transformation. Where was the old low-slung neighborhood I first lived in? It is now the Pearl District, explored on our wonderful walking tour of sustainability. Why did it seem as though one exited the city so quickly? Not, as my faulty memory proved, because of geographic limitations, but because of urban growth boundaries. Why did I have such a hard time find the Hilton once I stepped off the Max light rail in downtown Portland? Because zoning guidelines restrict the size of signage and made entries discreet and low-profile. Glad to know it was not just jet-lag affecting my ability to read signs and directions!

The program put together by Ed Teague included wonderful sessions on

local architecture and collections. On Thursday morning, after breakfast and a business meeting, Leland Roth opened our eyes to Portland architecture, a useful session to have before our first expedition out into the city. After a brief visit to Pioneer Courthouse Square and a lovely group lunch we all proceeded to the Oregon Historical Society, a wonderful orientation to the state and the region. A visit to the Portland Art Museum and library had many of us green with envy at the theatre-turned-library grandeur of the newly renovated library space in what was formerly a Masonic temple.

Friday's sessions started at the White Stag building, a LEED-certified renovation in the Pearl District. After a morning breakfast and members forum Ted Goodman updated us all on Avery activities, Jean von Bargen shared her experience with depositing student work in institutional depositories, Alan Michaelson, of University of Washington, spoke of his work documenting the architecture of the Pacific Northwest, and Janine Henri presented an overview of the newly renamed and about-to-publicly-launch SAHARA image database. We had a presentation by Kevin Matthews, president of Artifice Inc. who detailed the different publication platforms of ArchitectureWeek, Great Building Collections, and Archiplanet.

The afternoon concluded with a whirlwind 2 ½ hour tour of Portland, oriented broadly around sustainability themes, and led (at least my group) by a tour guide delighted to have a group already familiar with the lingo (can you name all 4 LEED award levels?) We took advantage of the fare-free zone to move around the downtown area, passing Powell's Bookstore (a pilgrimage for many...) on at least one occasion. And I can personally attest to Portland as a din-

ing destination, from the Louisiana-transplants at Screen Door who offer hush puppies and pulled pork in a mix-and-match menu of local and seasonal greens, to the charms of Higgins (filled with architects from the ACSA conference), the site of one of my best meals in recent history. No conference is complete without testing the local treats!

I stayed on to travel with Chris Sale, from Avery Library, on a road trip that included the Columbia River Gorge (on a damp and foggy day), Cape Disappointment (one of many Lewis and Clark expedition sites of note) and Astoria (with a big scary bridge), and hikes at various stops along the northern Oregon Coast, ending with a quick trip to the Portland Japanese Garden on the way back into town. I am definitely going to have to return, this time not waiting 25 years between visits!

Sarah Dickinson

ARLIS/NE Travel Award

I want to thank the ARLIS/NE Travel award committee (Rachel Beckwith and Ashley Peterson) for selecting me for the travel award this year. The award went to good use by defraying travel costs to the Indianapolis conference and allowing me to meet the Indy conference planners. Linda Zieper and I are co-chairs of publicity for the 2010 conference in Boston. So being able to learn first-hand from those who have "done" was very helpful.

I also found this year's conference in Indianapolis to be very informative. I enjoyed the diverse speakers at all the sessions I attended.

As always, most enjoyable is having time to network with our colleagues from all over North America with a glass of wine in hand. It was also great fun to do a little publicity in Indianapolis via

our Boston 2010 tattoos (Go Zakim Bridge!!) No better way to meet colleagues by slapping a tattoo on their arm! Special thanks to Rachel Resnik and Laura Haxer for a tattoo job well done.

Conference Logo Contest Winner!



The chapter held a logo design contest this winter, offering graphic design students at five institutions (MassArt, the MFA Museum School, Art Institute of Boston, RISD and UMass Dartmouth) an opportunity to submit designs to be used on promotional material and publications for the Boston 2010 ARLIS/NA conference, reflecting the conference theme: “Revolution and Innovation at the Hub of Discovery.” The prize was \$100, which was awarded to Jennifer Violette, of UMass Dartmouth. The selection committee—Jennifer Friedman, Heather McCann and Brooke Henderson—commended the dynamism and contemporary motif of the winning design, which is based on the Zakim Bridge.

Elmar W. Seibel Scholarship

I was thrilled and grateful to receive the Elmar W. Seibel Scholarship last winter. I am interested in books as art objects, so I felt particularly lucky to win a scholarship created in honor of a man who combined passions for books and art libraries. This spring I took two classes at Simmons GSLIS: Art Documentation and an independent study on the conservation and connoisseurship of bookbindings. After completing a few requirements and taking Digital Libraries and Database Management, I

plan to finish in December: sooner than I would have without this scholarship. Thank you.

Sarah Burke

ARLIS/NE Executive Board Meeting

*Claire T. Carney Library
University of Massachusetts Dartmouth
February 27, 2009*

Present: Darin Murphy, president; Michael Young, past-president; Debbie Verhoff, vice-president/president-elect; Rachel Resnik listserv manager; Janis DesMarais, treasurer; Linda Zieper, secretary

Excused: Gabrielle Reed, Public Relations Officer

President Darin Murphy convened the meeting at 10:00 am. The new officer present, Debbie Verhoff, vice-president/president elect was introduced and welcomed. Rachel Resnik, who is also a co-chair of the ARLIS/NA Boston 2010 conference offered to add the board members to the confence planning committee listserv.

Treasurer’s report. Janis DesMarais presented the treasurer’s report. The chapter had approximately \$3000 in receipts, chiefly membership renewals, not counting the most recent renewals. The chapter committed \$100 as prize money for the student conference logo design competition. A proposal to renew the chapter’s Luna webpage was made, seconded, and passed. The cost is \$94. Annual report. Linda Zieper had drafted the annual report for ARLIS/NA; the board offered additions and emendations. There was a discussion of NA’s request for an IRS filing, later withdrawn.

Chapter web page. A motion to maintain the chapter’s domain name, arlisne.org, at a cost of \$94.50, was made, seconded, and passed. Michael Young is the current web master, the members who had volunteered to update

and maintain the web site had been unable to do so. Deb Verhoff volunteered to explore other possibilities, such as changing the web site to a blog or some other format, such as a wiki, with distributed authorship. The chapter's web presence does not need to be particularly dynamic, but it must be kept current. She will also look into the possibility of recruiting a web master, possibly a Panopticon member.

Spring meeting, Newport Preservation Society. Darin and Gabrielle Reed are planning the meeting to be held at the Newport Preservation Society on May 15, with a talk from a staff member of the society followed by lunch on our own and tours of one or two of the Newport mansions. They have talked to Jeff Moore, the head conservator, as a possible speaker. Darin will send out a "save the date" message next week.

ARLIS 2009 Conference in Indianapolis. Darin, Rachel, and Gabrielle will attend. There was a question of whether to sponsor a mixer for New England members at the conference. In the past, the cost has been shared with Simmons College. Other events at the conference that are of special interest to the chapter are the CPC meeting and the mentor program. Mentors participate in a half-day workshop and have an ongoing, chiefly e-mail, relationship with their mentees. The group decided to table an effort to engage chapter members in the mentorship program until the Boston conference. The chapter has been asked to make a donation to the silent auction. After a short discussion considering various possibilities, including a gurgling cod pitcher and a personal architectural tour of a Boston neighborhood, it was decided to offer a voucher for \$35 or \$40 to a Boston restaurant.

ARLIS 2010 Conference in Boston. The chapter is funding the \$100 prize for a logo competition among selected area art schools and committing \$70 for temporary tattoos to be distributed at the Indianapolis conference. Conference co-chairs and coordinators for most roles have been appointed. Rachel and Jennifer Freedman will present the "please come to Boston" slide show at the annual membership meeting.

Summer Educational Institute. The Summer Educational Institute for Visual Resources will be held at Simmons College. Local ARLIS chapters typically contribute to the institute, by funding a break for the participants. A motion to provide \$150 to fund a snack for the institute was made, seconded, and passed. Fall meeting, Clark Institute. We have been invited to participate in a joint meeting with ARLIS/Western New York and VRA/New England and Western New York at the Clark Institute. Valerie Krall asked about what costs we would assume. We anticipate no more than forty members are likely to attend and, with lunch, a charge of approximately \$20.

A motion to adjourn was made, seconded, and passed. The meeting adjourned at 12:50.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Zieper, Secretary

Connick Collection at MIT

AnnWhiteside reports:

The MIT Libraries were recently given a significant collection of stained glass panels, drawings, and archival records from the famed Connick Studio of Boston. The gift was from the Charles J. Connick Stained Glass Foundation, who along with the Boston Public Library has stewarded the collection since the studio's closing in 1986. Charles J. Connick (1875-1945) is con-

sidered to be one of the greatest American designers of traditional stained glass. His work can be seen in churches, cathedrals, libraries, and chapels across the U.S. and abroad. Intense colors and strong lines from medieval influences often characterize his style. Connick received many commissions through prominent architects of his day, Ralph Adams Cram and Bertram Goodhue, both of whom had connections to MIT. The Charles J. Connick Studio he started in 1913 continued receiving commissions and operating from its location in Boston's Back Bay several years after his death in 1945, until its eventual closing in 1986. MIT's Rotch Library for Architecture and Planning was chosen by the Connick Foundation's board of directors as a fitting home for the collection because of the library's history and experience stewarding rare materials. Rotch Library was created to serve the nation's first academic architecture and planning program, which began at MIT in 1868. It remains one of the top academic architectural libraries in the country, serving the research needs of the MIT community and sharing many of its unique collections with researchers worldwide.

The Charles J. Connick Stained Glass Foundation Collection was transferred to the MIT Libraries' Library Storage Annex (LSA) in December of 2008. With funding from a grant, the collection will be thoroughly inventoried over the next year and an early assessment of its condition will be made. It is estimated that the collection contains over 30 stained glass panels ranging in size from 2'x2' to 7'x3', approximately 6 temporary panels, numerous preliminary charcoal drawings (known as "cartoons"), approximately 20 oil paintings by Connick himself, many tools used to work with stained glass, as well as many boxes of archival records.

Membership Renewal Reminder

The mailing label on the envelope that enclosed this newsletter had an "08" or "09" on it. If it is "09," thank you for renewing your membership in the chapter; if it is "08," please consider renewing? Your participation is particularly important this year as we prepare for the ARLIS/NA 2010 conference in Boston!

