

ARLIS *focus*

NEW
ENGLAND *Spring 2003*
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From the President

Thank you to all the chapter members for giving me the opportunity to serve as president for a year. The time has passed so quickly and there are so many more things I would like to accomplish. I look forward to remaining on the board for another year as past president and hope that I can provide assistance for Anne Haas. I know that having been president will make me a more valuable member of the chapter.

I want to thank my colleagues on the board, Anne Haas, Rachel Beckwith, Susan Myerson, Linda Zieper, Richard McElroy, Adeane Bregman, and Don Milliken for their hard work, good ideas, and delightful camaraderie.

Ellie Nacheman is chairing the Nominating Committee while Robert Garzillo will chair the Wolfgang Freitag Professional Development Award and Elmar W. Seibel Award Committees. More information concerning the awards is available on our web site: <http://www.amherst.edu/arlisne/>

There are several topics that I see as important for ARLIS/NE. First, there is the current process for nominating and electing officers. I have run for vice president/president elect twice. I lost the first election and won the second. I have watched the elections over the years. Invariably, both candidates for vice president/president-elect are excellent. Losing an election, no matter the situation, is not pleasant and has a dampening effect on the involvement of those candidates who do not win. This hurts the chapter. According to our bylaws, the Nominating Committee may present a single slate of officers for election. In fact, this is probably the form the election will take this year. I will ask the board to discuss this question in January and to place it on the ballot so that the members may express their opinions. I have already spoken with our

Northeast representative, Carol Graney, regarding this subject and she is supportive of the change. Apparently many chapters follow this procedure.

Thanks to our gracious hosts at the Boston Athenaeum for sharing their experiences and exceptional building and collections with us. Thanks also to our informative and entertaining speakers Carrie Bartels of NELINET and Chris Donohue of the Donohue Group. Thank you, also, Chris, for sponsoring our eye-opening and sustaining breakfast.

May you all have pleasant holidays and happy and prosperous New Years.

Regards,
Susan Lewis

Treasurer's Report

As of December 5, 2003

Checking account at Citizens Bank:
\$2,148.23

CD's at South Adams Savings Bank:
\$4,277.19; \$4,482.04

Submitted by
Susan Myerson

Slate of New Officers

The Nominating Committee, chaired by Ellie Nacheman of RISD, proposed the following slate of officers for 2004: *Vice president/president elect*: Kathy Ritter, library director, New Hampshire Institute of Art *Treasurer*: Susanne Javorski, art librarian, Wesleyan University.

Second Fall Meeting, Boston Athenaeum, December 5, 2003

After coffee and pastries provided by Chris Donohue of the Donohue Group, President Susan Lewis opened the meeting by greeting the members, our host, and our guests from Simmons College. The treasurer's report followed. Susan Myerson announced that there was \$2105.23 in the checking account, \$4177.19 in one CD and \$4487.03 in the other.

Rachel Beckwith, the chapter's secretary reported that there were six new members in 2003 for a total of 109 current members. She will be sending out renewal letters soon for 2004 memberships (membership is for the calendar year). She urged members to get their renewals in soon.

Susan Lewis announced that Ellie Nacheman would chair the Nominating Committee. Two positions will be open for next year, vice president/president-elect and treasurer. These positions are for two-year terms, providing some continuity on the board at all times.

Bob Garzillo will chair the Awards Committee. All of the information on the Seibel and Freitag awards will be on the web site (how to apply, etc.). The deadline for applications for both awards is March 1.

Susan then led a discussion about chapter support for officers to attend the national conference. She checked with the ARLIS/NA regional representative and learned that ARLIS/NA will not agree to waive annual conference registration fees for chapter officers. She said the ARLIS/NE board had discussed ways to ensure that board members can attend the national conference each year. The issue is tricky, because we would not want institutions to withdraw future support if they knew there were ARLIS/NE support available. Anne Haas pointed out that currently board members cannot apply for the Freitag award. Susan asked all members to think about whether we would want to change that stipulation or to consider other ways assist board members in attending the

conference. Please send your comments and suggestions to Susan. She would like something in place by the ARLIS 2005 conference.

Susan reported that there was a request for funds from chapters to support the opening party of the ARLIS/NA conference in New York. Traditionally the New England chapter has given \$250 or \$300. Deborah Barlow Smedstad said that the NY chapter usually gives around \$500 and that generally the smaller chapters give less. Some New England chapter members said they would prefer to support the conference as a whole, not just the reception. One member mentioned that at CAA, people pay \$30 each to attend the reception. After some discussion, there was a motion to donate \$300 toward the conference in general and then a motion that the board could decide how to allocate it. The motions passed.

Next there was a discussion about why ARLIS/New England has what some members consider an excessive amount of money (\$8000 plus in CD's). Some members thought that we would never need to have that much in reserve. Susan Lewis pointed out that we spend \$1500/ year in awards. The chapter funds also cover some meeting expenses, postage, and mailings. Anne Haas said that we used to have more money in our account when she was the treasurer and that we were slowly losing money each year. Susan invited any members interested in a discussion of the chapter funds to attend the board meeting in January.

Linda Zieper made her usual appeal for news (birth announcements, new homes, etc.) for the next *Focus*.

Susan Lewis suggested that members read the article, "The Great Library of Amazonia" in the November issue of *Wired* magazine, before introducing the first speaker in the morning's program.

Stephen Nonack, head of reader services at the Boston Athenaeum, began the program by discussing the long extensive and costly renovation of the Athenaeum. The Athenaeum was established in 1807, and the current building was built in 1849. Stephen

talked about how they had to plan to continue to provide reader services, cataloging, and programming throughout the renovation. It was supposed to be an eighteen-month project, but ended up taking twice as long. John Lannon, associate director of the Athenaeum, talked in detail about the renovations. He had slides which provided a look at the historic building, the building during the renovations, and the finished space.

Carrie Bartels, access and collection services consultant with Nelinet, then talked about how to go about the project of sending items to off-site storage. One has to target low-use materials and use circulation statistics carefully (certain items may be "browsed" often but rarely checked out). She talked about selection criteria, the physical preparation of materials, local system workflows, reports and statistics, and the retrieval process.

Chris Donohue, president of the Donohue Group spoke last. She talked about the need for a discrete project, a well-defined contract, and clear specifications. Ultimately, the project's outcome always depends on the quality of the data.

Susan then adjourned the meeting for lunch in area restaurants and reminded attendees to return by 1:45 pm for tours of the Athenaeum.

Submitted by Rachel Beckwith, Secretary

First Fall Meeting, Colby College, Brunswick, Maine, October 17

The New England chapter first fall meeting was held on Friday, October 17, at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine. First stop was the Visual Arts Center, home of the art library at Bowdoin. After coffee and muffins, the group of about fourteen walked to the Joshua Chamberlain House, which is maintained by the Pejebscot Historical Society. Volunteers at the house gave very informative and interesting tours of the house, combining historical content about the famed Chamberlain--scholar, Civil War hero and general, president of Bowdoin College and governor of Maine--with details

of the restoration, still ongoing. We then proceeded to the Historical Society's building, where there was an exhibit detailing the commission and making of a new statue of Joshua Chamberlain, which was installed at a memorial outside his home in May of 2003. The group then went to see the statue.

A short business meeting followed lunch in Bowdoin's newest dining hall.

Announcements concerned the treasurer's report, and the tentative date for the meeting to be held at the Boston Athenaeum later this fall. The December date seems to be preferred. A nominating committee will need to identify candidates for several offices on the board. More to follow on that from Susan Lewis, president of the chapter.

The afternoon was spent at Bowdoin's Art Museum, where Caitlin Nelson, curatorial assistant, gave us an informative talk about the current exhibit, *The Disembodied Spirit*, art of spirit/ghost imagery of from the middle of the 19th century to the contemporary. The group returned to the Art Library for refreshments for the road. The weather was beautiful, and on a personal note, I was very happy to show my colleagues some of my neck of the woods.

Submitted by Anne Haas

From the Members

Rachel Beckwith, public services librarian at Mass Art, and her husband, Andrew, proudly announce the birth of their son, Max Liam Podol Beckwith. Rachel was working at Mass Art on August 14, and Max was born on August 15! Three-year old Noah is enjoying his new role as a big rother. Rachel came back to work in early November.

Sheryl Brittig (formerly Sheryl Wilhite) was married on October 31 on Lexington Green. Her husband Jeff is a captain in the Air Force. In his spare time, he makes fine furniture his workshop in their basement. She is also a new stepmother to his three boys--ages 15, 12, and 5, who live with their mother in Tennessee.

Adeane Bregman is now a grandmother. Samuel Eugene Bregman was born September 5 to her son Joshua and his wife, Rebecca, who live in Acton. She has shifted her hours in order to spend Thursday mornings babysitting.

Brooke E. Henderson reports that she started her new position as the Wellesley College art librarian last year. She moved from Los Angeles, where she was a reference librarian at the Getty Research Library. Her news: "This past fall, I was one of ten American librarians selected to participate on a 2 week Germany Study Tour, sponsored by the Checkpoint Charlie

Foundation (www.cc-stiftung.de/en) and the Initiative Fortbildung für wissenschaftliche Spezialbibliotheken und verwandte Einrichtungen eV (www.initiativefortbildung.de). The emphasis was on art and architecture, and there were at least 3 other ARLIS/NA members in our group of ten. Some of the highlights included visiting the media library of the Zentrum für Kunst und Medientechnologie (ZKM) in Karlsruhe, the Herzogin Anna Amalia Bibliothek in Weimar, the Lyonel Feininger-Galerie in Quedlinberg, the Bauhaus archives in Dessau, and the Kunstbibliothek in Berlin."

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