

# ARLIS *focus*

Linda Zieper, editor

## From the President

We were very pleased to have such a large gathering of members attend our fall meeting at the MIT Museum on October 6, including several students. After coffee and pastries, members chose whether to tour the MIT Museum on their own, the Rotch Library of Architecture and Planning with Library Director Ann Whiteside, who is also president of ARLIS/NA, or the galleries with curator Gary Van Zante. Ann Whiteside graciously hosted our meeting at MIT, and we were fortunate to have her there at our business meeting (as well as Carole Ann Fabian, our regional representative) to help answer questions about the Chapter Affiliation Agreement. After the business meeting and lunch, we had two guest speakers: Rachelle Jones, director of retail operations at Mass Moca, and Sean Halpert, senior book buyer at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. It was interesting to hear what factors go into their decisions to purchase books for their respective institutions, and to learn which vendors and online resources they each use. Those of us who stayed for Bill Arning's tour of outdoor sculpture on the MIT campus enjoyed a real treat: the curator of the List Gallery was full of fascinating stories about the history of the sculpture on campus.

*Rachel Beckwith, president*

**ARLIS/NE will host the 2010 ARLIS/NA conference. Look for more news about this in the coming year!**

## Election Results!

Forty ballots were returned on the question of whether to sign the affiliation agreement with ARLIS/NA; thirty-nine were in favor. The slate of candidates presented was also

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*vol.19, No 2*

approved, and the officers who will begin their terms in January are: Michael Young, vice president/president-elect; Elizabeth Darocha-Berenz, secretary, and Rachel Resnik public relations officer. Congratulations and good luck to them all!

## Ars Libri First-Friday Event

*Boston, Massachusetts*

On Friday, December 1, twenty ARLIS/NE members braved the rain for a reception at Ars Libri. We were joined by a couple of art library-curious students from Simmons. Our gracious hosts, Elman Seibel, Gabrielle Ouellette, David Stang, and John Rutter, treated us to wine and cheese in their South-end bookstore. David spoke to the group about the collections on exhibit, including rare avant-garde pamphlets and books. Mario Diacono, who curates the gallery space situated at the front of the store, then introduced the group to the work of Vincent Szarek, on view until December 30. The reception coincided with the first-Friday open galleries sponsored by the South of Washington (SOWA) Artists Guild. This was the second year in a row that Ars Libri hosted a first-Friday reception for ARLIS/NE. I hope this is the beginning of an annual event. There is nothing as civilized, festive, and re-energizing as starting the holiday season socializing with art librarians at Ars Libri and then taking in the Boston art scene in the South End.

*Rachel Resnick*

## ARLIS/NE Fall Meeting

MIT Museum, Cambridge, Massachusetts, October 6, 2006

**Welcome:** President Rachel Beckwith welcomed the group and thanked Ann Whiteside for hosting the meeting at MIT. She introduced Brooke Henderson, vice

president/president-elect, and Anne Reid, secretary.

**Announcement:** Rachel announced the November 17 deadline for the Gerd Muehsam Award. The award is given annually “to recognize excellence in a graduate student paper or project on a topic relevant to art librarianship.” Application details are available on the ARLIS/NA website.

**Treasurer’s report:** Rachel Beckwith presented the treasurer’s report on behalf of Robert Garzillo. The checking account balance as of 4/30/06: \$918.68. The two-year CD balance is: \$4,892.51. The one-year CD balance is: \$3,552.42.

**Secretary’s Report:** *2006 Membership:* Anne Reid reported 106 current members for 2006. *ARLIS/NE and ARLIS/NA Membership:* Of the 106 current members, 52 are ARLIS/NA members; 54 are not.

**ARLIS/NA Chapter Affiliation Agreement:** Rachel Beckwith distributed copies of the agreement ARLIS/NA has asked local chapters to sign and provided an update on the discussion. Chapters must sign the agreement to retain their relationship with ARLIS/NA; if we do not sign, ARLIS/NE would sever all ties with NA and would not be able to use the ARLIS name anymore. The affiliation agreement provides protection for NA against legal claims. It does not provide legal protection for chapter officers, although chapter officers currently do not have legal protection. For example, if an attendee at an ARLIS/NE event drinks at that event and then gets into an accident driving home, chapter officers could be sued. As part of the new affiliation agreement, all chapter members would be required to be members of NA, a rule which has been in the NE bylaws, though it hasn’t been enforced. Since approximately 50% of NE members are not NA members, an alternate category, such as affiliate, will be created to help retain those members who do not belong to NA. Dues would continue to be collected through local chapters. The deadline for signing the agreement is December 20; ballots on this issue will be mailed to current NE members later this fall.

Rachel opened up the topic to questions. Ann Whiteside, ARLIS/NA president, and Carol Ann Fabian, ARLIS/NA northeast regional representative, helped answer questions about the legal implications of the agreement. In response to a question about options for providing legal protection to the chapter and the chapter officers, Carol Ann Fabian presented four of the possible options for legal coverage:

1. Incorporated association – involves initial and annual fees, as well as annual reporting
2. General liability insurance – annual cost, covers events
3. Directors and officers insurance – protects officers’ personal assets
4. Schedule events at institutions that provide general coverage through their global insurance.

ARLIS/NA will provide chapters with what coverage they might pursue, but it is up to chapters to determine what level of coverage they are comfortable with. Because of the cost, it is not feasible for NA to extend protection to chapters.

The discussion continued, during which the following issues were addressed:

ARLIS/NE is not currently incorporated as a non-profit; incorporation would make the chapter legally responsible rather than officers individually.

A chapter has never been sued.

Other professional organizations have similar structures (ex. ACRL)

ARLIS/NE could form a committee to explore incorporation and insurance options (ok to do so after December 20<sup>th</sup> signing).

The new agreement will allow chapters to maintain the autonomy and flexibility to set membership and affiliate categories to encourage involvement of students, for example.

ARLIS/NA has formed a task force to address communication problems in the association. An attendee suggested opening the chapter officer listserv to membership as read only.

At the close of the discussion, Rachel encouraged members to review the ARLIS/NE bylaws and to use the chapter listserv for

additional questions and additional comments. Later this fall, members will receive agreement ballot, officer ballots, and a renewal letter in the mail.

**Awards Committee:** The awards committee this year will be Christina Jedniziak, Rachel Resnik, and Janis Manzo, chair. Information on the Freitag (professional development), Seibel (scholarship), and travel awards to attend the national conference is available online. The application deadline for the Freitag and Seibel is December 15. Rachel encouraged students and all members to apply.

**Nominating Committee:** The nominating committee this year is Ellie Nacheman, Susan Milstein, and Kathy Ritter, chair. Positions open for 2007 are vice president/president elect, secretary, and public relations officer. Anyone interested in being an officer should contact the committee or a current officer.

**December Meeting Ideas:** Brooke Henderson asked members for December meeting ideas (the original plan seems unlikely since ICA opening has been delayed). Attendees recommended the Rose Art Museum, and based on the popularity of last year's event, ArsLibri/South End First Friday open studios, or First Friday at the MFA.

**Spring Meeting:** The spring meeting will again be a joint meeting with VRA New England and will be held at RISD. The proposed meeting date from RISD is May 25.

**Simmons Career Panel:** Rachel asked for volunteers to staff the ARLIS/NE table at the October 19 Career Panel/Networking event at Simmons, sponsored by the GSLIS Alumni Board. Alix Reskind, Adeane Bregman, and Brooke Henderson volunteered.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Reid, Secretary*

**REMEMBER:** Minutes of business meetings, back issues of *Focus*, and other chapter information is available at [www.arlisne.org](http://www.arlisne.org)

## **Exhibits of Artists' Books**

**Laurie Whitehill Chong** reports:

The opening reception for the exhibition "Creating with Abandon: Process in the Artist's Books of Angela Lorenz," held October 23 at the new Fleet Library at Rhode Island School of Design, was a <http://www.mfa.org> or contact Lorien Bianchi huge success. Some ARLIS members came from as far away as Washington, DC to attend. The exhibition includes artist's books and process materials ranging from preliminary sketches and mock-ups to test prints, false starts, and production leftovers. It will remain up until January 24th. If you haven't had a chance to see the exhibition or the new library, there's still time.

The Museum of Fine Arts library invites us to celebrate an exciting new collaboration as the Museum School Library hosts a series of exhibitions of artists' books from the combined collections of the museum and Museum School libraries. The exhibits at the Museum School change monthly. The December show presents works created by the students of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. It was curated by Aubrey Baer and organized by **Lorien Bianchi** and **Paul McAlpine**. The book conservator was Marie Oedel. **Lee-Anne Famolare** will make the selection of artists for the January show and **Darin Murphy** will follow in February. The William Morris Hunt Library of the Museum of Fine Arts (located in Horticultural Hall on Massachusetts Avenue) also invites us to view their current exhibition: *Wanderlust*, which is an exhibit of student work that will be up until late spring. Each student was asked to select a book from the library that has been an influence in his or her life and work; these books are set aside for library patrons to view on a separate shelf. For additional information please visit the library at <http://www.mfa.org> or contact Lorien Bianchi at [lbianchi@mfa.org](mailto:lbianchi@mfa.org).

**From the Members:**

**Claudia Covert**, readers' services librarian at RISD was the subject of the Job of a Lifetime column in *C&RL News*. The article includes an endorsement of art librarianship and ARLIS/NA.: Ann Wheeler, "Job of a Lifetime: You can hear the smiles in Claudia Covert's voice." *College & Research Libraries News*. 67,9 (October 2006): 572-573.

The chapter welcomes **Moirra Steven**, who began work as the new library director at the Joanne Waxman Library, Maine College of Art on August 21. She had previously served as director of library services at Atlanta College of Art for seven and a half years before the college merged with the Savannah College of Art in June 2006.

**Laurie Whitehill Chong** is the proud new grandmother of Finn Robert McGreevy, born December 7, 2006 in Berkeley, CA. Laurie had the honor of being part of her daughter and son-in-law's birthing team and helped to welcome little Finn into the world. There is nothing like the miracle of birth to put everything else in perspective.

Thanks to John A Woods Appraisers for underwriting the cost of mailing this issue of <i>Focus</i> .
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