

## From the President

The ARLIS/NA annual conference in March was eye-opening on a number of levels. On the one hand, the meeting in Pittsburgh afforded a rare opportunity to view one's colleagues in formal attire (at the gala Ars Libri-sponsored reception in the Carnegie Music Hall foyer). On the other, the increasing dependence on digital technology and the Internet in the art library was on stunning display. Speakers at a riveting session that was not to be missed, "The Art Librarian in the 21st Century," threw out a number of provocative ideas and observations, among them: "ILL is the fastest-growing department in the library"; "We've developed a subject guide to our Web site"; "The number of patrons visiting the reference desk has declined but the amount of time spent doing e-mail reference has increased"; "Library users prefer centralized libraries. Branch libraries [like specialized art libraries] are withering"; "There is a growing international network of digital libraries now offering reference service"; "The Art Museum Network offers access to any museum in the world with a Web site." Henry Pisciotta, now at Penn State, gave such a captivating presentation that I was unable to take any notes. One hopes that the chapter can arrange at some point to invite this engaging, visionary speaker to Boston, perhaps in the context of our joint meeting with the Art Section of IFLA. The sessions as a mass were of uneven quality; there were too many presenters simply reading the paper in front of them. Some professional groups, like SAA, offer public speaking workshops from time to time, and ARLIS should follow suit. But the vendor exhibits of products and services were excellent, and a great place to escape to from a dull recitation.

Finally, I want to thank our editor, Linda Zieper, and treasurer, Anne Shankland, for their work in creating a bounteous New England gift basket that helped to raise almost \$7000 at auction to benefit the ARLIS 25th Anniversary Scholarship fund.

A happy summer to you all!

**P.S. Save these (still somewhat tentative) fall meeting dates. Friday, Sept. 15, Fruitlands Museums (Harvard MA); Friday, November 3, (Boston University; Newbury Street art galleries).**

## ARLIS/NE Spring Meeting

June 16, 2000 NEDCC/Addison Gallery of American Art

Eighteen meeting participants gathered on a warm and sunny day at the spacious headquarters of the Northeast Document Conservation Center in a converted mill. Following coffee and tea, President Stephen Nonack welcomed everyone present and in his introduction of NEDCC's field service director, Steve Dalton, revealed that one of the first book conservation labs in the country was established at the Boston Athenaeum by George Cunha, who later went on to establish the NEDCC. Steve Dalton gave an interesting talk on the NEDCC, its history and purpose as a non-profit regional conservation center (founded in 1973) specializing in the preservation of paper-based materials in libraries, archives, museums, and other institutions. The NEDCC serves as an educational resource for the state, region, and nation and has an extensive and active field service program. It also conducts research, developing new preservation and treatment standards, and disseminates information through workshops, lectures, and publications. Tours of the conservation labs were followed, with technicians on hand to discuss their work and show examples of items being treated. Meeting participants visited the paper conservation area and saw materials ranging from Japanese prints to a Rembrandt etching, and the book conservation area, where old bindings were skillfully repaired and contemporary bindings created using antique tools. The reprographic services operation is a busy one, with bound newspapers in abundance awaiting microfilming. Microfilm is still the format of choice, given its stability over time, and fancy new cameras provide excellent copying technology. After the tour, the group reassembled in the meeting room to share personal experiences with library disasters. Mary Daniels of Harvard's Loeb Library and Adeane Bregman of the Bapst Library at Boston College vividly detailed their horrifying encounters with, respectively, steam and mold, and how they and their institutions coped with crisis.

Lunch was at the elegant Andover Inn on the campus of Phillips Academy. At the business meeting, Stephen welcomed Northeast Regional Representative Deborah Kempe of the Frick Art

Reference Library, as well as new chapter members Kathleen Meszaros, Oscar Palacio, and Rachel

Resnik, all of the Massachusetts College of Art. Hugh Wilburn gave an update on plans for the August 2001 meeting in Boston of the IFLA Art Section, to be hosted by ARLIS/NE.

After the business meeting, chapter members walked across the street to the Addison Gallery of American Art. Disappointment that the permanent collection was not on view was brief. Amy Peters of the Education Department conducted a terrific tour of the special exhibition on display, "Academy Hill: The Andover Campus 1778 to the Present," illustrated with an array of documents, prints, drawings, photographs and artifacts drawn from the academy archives.

Though the turnout for the meeting was modest, it proved to be an instructive and stimulating program.

#### **Is your chapter membership up to date?**

You can tell by looking at the mailing label affixed to this newsletter. The numbers in the upper right corner indicate the year through which you have paid dues (e.g., "00" would indicate that your dues are paid for the 2000 membership year). If there is no number in the corner, you are not a member.

If you would like to become a member, or renew a lapsed membership, please contact Andrea Frank, ARLIS/New England Membership Officer, at franka@bc.edu or phone 617-552-8596.

Former and prospective members receive mailings for a limited time, but are not eligible for other chapter membership benefits.

#### **ARLIS/NE Board Meeting, Boston Athenaeum, January 14, 2000.**

In attendance: Stephen Nonack, president and host; Adeane Bregman, incoming vice-president/ president-elect; Andrea Frank, secretary/membership officer; Scott Kehoe, departing treasurer; Anne Shankland, incoming treasurer; and Katy Poole, Web master.

The meeting came to order at 11:10, with a review of the 1999 chapter annual report, submitted by Stephen. Stephen noted that the annual report was virtually the same as the "From the Acting President" column in the Fall 1999 issue of *Focus*; the only additions to the annual report were information regarding this year's Freitag Award winners, and the chapter's contribution to ARLIS/NA for annual conference expenses.

The board then turned its attention to new business, including a discussion of current officer responsibilities, and how they differ from those outlined in the bylaws. In order to bring the bylaws up-to-date, a chapter vote on changing the bylaws is required. The ARLIS/NA Executive Board will

approve minor changes effected by "show-of-hands" voting at chapter meetings. Therefore, the chapter board decided to hold a vote on this bylaws change at the next chapter meeting. Preliminary information regarding the proposed change will be distributed via the chapter listserv before the meeting.

The board also discussed the idea of creating "job descriptions" for each of the board positions, as none exists outside of the bylaws. Katy pointed out the many varied responsibilities that have been added to various board and non-board positions over the years (i.e., management of the chapter Web site, listserv, newsletter, and archives). She suggested that by taking a good look at all the tasks, we might be able to "un-bundle" some of them from board positions, making some of these positions less burdensome, and providing other chapter members with additional ways to become more involved in the chapter.

Andrea also suggested that we might find it necessary, in the future, to create listserv policies. Though requests to post inappropriate information to the moderated listserv are currently infrequent, she often has questions about what should be considered appropriate, and would like guidelines. She also proposed that, due to privacy concerns, we do not post the membership list/directory on the Web. The board agreed that the directory would be distributed only in print form for the foreseeable future.

In other membership matters, Andrea proposed a procedural change for the processing of membership forms and renewals. The board agreed that, starting in 2000, membership applications and renewals will be sent, along with payment, directly to the secretary/membership officer, who will then forward checks received to the treasurer. This procedure should expedite the processing of memberships, and ameliorate some of the confusion experienced by members regarding whom they should contact about membership issues.

As a member of the ARLIS/NA Membership Committee, Katy reported that lists of ARLIS/NA members would be distributed to the chapters to help in identifying chapter members who are not members of ARLIS/NA.

Stephen reported that Hugh Wilburn had received just over forty responses to his survey regarding the possibility of the chapter hosting a pre-conference event for the 2001 IFLA Conference, which will be held in Boston. The majority of respondents favored the proposals for a one- or two-day event, with a slight edge to those voting for a one-day event. The tentative date for the event, which may be proposed as a chapter meeting, is August 17, 2001. Nancy Allen at the MFA has ex-

pressed interest in hosting part of the program, possibly in the afternoon. A morning program may be held at the Massachusetts College of Art, and a late afternoon reception at the Gardner Museum. This "all-Fenway" program would simplify logistics, while offering attendees an opportunity to visit three of the city's premier cultural institutions.

Stephen stressed the need to develop a program that would be of interest to international visitors as well as chapter members. Katy inquired about the possibility of ARLIS/New England members receiving complimentary entrance to one or two IFLA sessions in a reciprocal arrangement (since the registration cost for the IFLA conference may be prohibitive for many chapter members.) Stephen will ask Hugh to look into this.

Adeane reported on this year's Freitag Award winner, Catherine Wodehouse of the Providence Athenaeum, who will use the award to attend a course on rare books at the University of Virginia in July. There was brief discussion on who should not be eligible for the award. The board agreed that board members and members who had won the award within the past five years are not eligible to apply. There was more extensive discussion on how to better promote the award, and increase the number of applicants. One suggestion was that award materials stress the varieties of uses to which past awards had been applied, to give potential applicants ideas about how the award might benefit them. The board also agreed that a list of past award winners, and a description of how each award was used, be listed in the directory, along with a brief biography of Wolfgang Freitag. Stephen will compile this page for inclusion in the 2000 Membership Directory. Finally, a flyer describing the award will be sent to new members in order to raise awareness.

Katy reported on the chapter Web site, which she plans to redesign in the near future, incorporating the new logo and information about the Freitag Award. She also proposed attempting on-line registration for chapter meetings. She will create a form on the Web site so that people can register their intent to attend a specific meeting (and also provide any other necessary information, such as lunch choice). Just before the meeting, she will generate a list of people expected to attend, and send it to the chapter president (so that necessary arrangements can be made at the meeting site) and to the chapter secretary, who will print out a list of attendees and badges from the membership database. Payment will be collected by the treasurer, at the meeting site.

Finally, the board discussed possibilities for chapter meetings in 2000. For the spring meeting

in May, a program on preventing and coping with library disasters was proposed, with the Northeast Document Conservation Center in Andover as a possible venue. Katy will make preliminary inquiries regarding this possibility.

The program suggested for the first fall meeting would deal with a related theme, renovations and construction. In light of current projects, it was proposed that this meeting be held at two sites - M.I.T. and the temporary Boston Athenaeum in South Boston.

For the final chapter meeting of the year, in November or early December, Stephen proposed a program having to do with Native American materials, or perhaps a program on "Eclectic Americana," at the Mashantucket Pequot Museum and Research Center in Connecticut, possibly combined with a visit to nearby Mystic Seaport. Stephen offered to contact the Mashantucket Pequot Museum to inquire about their ability to host us, and to discuss with them a possible program.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:45.

### **Chapter Listserv Users**

Did you know that when you use the "reply" function in your e-mail to respond to a listserv posting that your reply is routed to all listserv subscribers? Since the listserv is usually moderated, I can generally catch these personal-type messages before they are redistributed to the list. But because I can't always tell if a reply is intended for the list as a whole (and also because the listserv is occasionally unmoderated while I am on vacation), if you intend for your reply to go only to the person who posted the original message, please use the "forward" function in your e-mail, and type or paste in the e-mail address of the person to whom you wish to reply.

The ARLIS/New England listserv provides a forum for announcements to, and discussion among, the members of the New England Chapter of the Art Libraries Society of North America and other interested individuals. The ARLIS/New England listserv is open to all interested individuals. You need not be a chapter member to subscribe.

#### To subscribe to the listserv

Send the following message to  
Majordomo@listserv.bc.edu  
subscribe ARLIS-NE-L [your e-mail address]

This command should be in the body of the e-mail, not in the subject line. Also, it is not necessary to include your e-mail address in the command unless you wish to subscribe an address other than

the one in the "reply-to" field of the e-mail client you are using to send the subscribe request.

If your subscription request is correctly formatted and received, it will be processed and you will receive a welcome message shortly thereafter.

#### To send mail to all list subscribers

Use the following address:

ARLIS-NE-L@listserv.bc.edu

Please send messages in the body of an e-mail message, as the listserv software may not be able to handle your attachment.

Always refer to this list as, and send postings to, arlis-ne-l@listserv.bc.edu as we may move it to another machine, but will keep this alias if we do.

#### To unsubscribe from the listserv

Send the following message to Majordomo@listserv.bc.edu:

unsubscribe ARLIS-NE-L [your e-mail address]

This command should be in the body of the e-mail, not in the subject line. Be sure to use the e-mail address that was originally subscribed to the listserv.

#### Miscellanea & "Fine Print"

Please be aware that any subscriber can retrieve a list of all e-mail addresses subscribed to the list. In contrast to the listserv software used by the listserv's previous host site, there is no way to "conceal" your subscription to the listserv.

Postings to the ARLIS/New England listserv will not be archived by the listserv.

This list is not to be used for commercial purposes and any abuse of this policy will be reported to the related authorities at Boston College. Opinions expressed by the members of this group are not necessarily the opinions of the Boston College Trustees.

If you have questions regarding or problems using the listserv, please contact the list owner, Andrea Frank, directly at franka@bc.edu.

#### **Chapter Members in Print**

Three chapter members have published a new and important work in the ARLIS/NA Occasional Papers series: *Collection Development Policies for Libraries & Visual Collections in the Arts* (Occasional Paper No. 12) compiled by Ann Baird Whiteside, Pamela Born [Krupanski] and Adeane Alpert Bregman. Adeane writes, "If you need to develop a collection policy or to evaluate an existing one, *Collection Development Policies* is for you. It contains statements from twenty-eight academic, architecture, museum, art school libraries, and visual collections, in addition to statistical ana-

lyses by library type. Also included is a collection development form that will help you get started and simplify the process. We spent about three years gathering, selecting and editing those policies. It was a fun project and a great opportunity to work with Ann and Pam."

#### **News of Members and Friends**

**Adeane Bregman** spoke at the Vermont Library Association on "I need a picture of.... Finding Images on the Web." She reports that Boston College is migrating to a new library system: ExLibris and there's been a lot of work in preparation for the move

**Tom Jacoby** has announced that the Art & Design Library at the University of Connecticut is about to make Web accessible the CtCOPAR database (Connecticut Committee on the Preservation of Architectural Records). It can be previewed at the library's Web site: <http://www.uconn.lib.uconn.edu/libraries/art/> or directly at: <http://www.uconn.lib.uconn.edu/libraries/art/CtCOPAR/index.htm>

Also mounted on the Web this fall is the ConAP database (Connecticut Artists Project--a database on Connecticut artists from colonial times to date.). Until it is Web accessible, you can ask us to look at the file folders on each artist via e-mail at tom.jacoby@uconn.edu or fax us at (860)486-3593. If you are in a real hurry, call me at (860)486-1243 (with voice mail). Again, go to the Art & Design Library Web site for more information on the project. We will send out announcements on the ARLIS/NE and ARLIS/NA listservs when both projects are Web accessible. **Heidi Abbey**, Art & Design Library Web master is responsible for the creation of the Art & Design Library Web page.

The slide curator position at Northeastern is being filled by **Mary Hughes**. She's formerly ran the video library in the Boston College School of Nursing.

**Marie Companion** writes that she has retired from Wellesley College and will be moving to 563 Eight Rod Way, Tiverton, RI. "I will continue my ARLIS membership and hope to see all of my long-time friends from time to time. After I get settled in the new house, I hope to find some type of part-time employment with the local universities or preservation groups, etc.

It has been wonderful knowing my ARLIS colleagues from New England who have always been so helpful and supportive to me. I am so grateful for all that they taught me and the information they provided. It made my job so much easier with their help."

**Vanessa Kam** is the present Kress Fellow in Art Librarianship at Yale. Vanessa comes to Yale

from the University of Texas at Austin, where she got her MLS and a master's degree in art history. She will be at Yale at least through September and looks forward to meeting her ARLIS/NE colleagues as opportunity permits.

While at Yale, Vanessa has been working in the Arts of the Book Room, and she is planning a major exhibition of Latin American/Latino artists' books for the fall (September-November). We hope many ARLIS/NE colleagues will be able to attend!

**Stephen Nonack** writes: "I have received an Andrew Oliver Wellspring Professional Development Award from the Boston Athenaeum. This research fellowship has enabled me to work on a collection of papers I inherited as the friend and literary executor of writer Adrian Cathcart who died of a heart attack in Boston last June. Adrian Cathcart, one of the most prolific and most unpublished gay writers of his time, was the author of novels, plays, poems and limericks, and critical essays and reviews; around 1980 he was editor of *artzone* magazine, published in Boston. With his precise English-accented diction, Edwardian attire, and sophisticated repartee he seemed a creature of an other world. In fact, he was born John Kearney, raised in a working-class Dorchester neighborhood, and concluded his formal studies with a degree from English High. As part of my project, I hope to write a biographical study concentrating on the twin themes of concealment and performance that went to create the character 'Adrian Cathcart,' and attempt to get some of his more accessible work published. His papers will undoubtedly be transferred to the Boston Athenaeum."

**Ruth Thomas** gave a version of her "Finding Images on the Web" tutorial at the annual conference of the Rhode Island Library Association on June 1 at Johnson and Wales University in Providence. It was retitled "Visual Images on the Web." She will give a one-day (about five hours with lunch break) hands-on workshop on finding images on the Web in Connecticut on August 25, presented by the Connecticut State Library Division of Library Development. It will be held at the Middletown Library Service Center Computer Training Center. (It will cover image resources, downloading images and creating files, and inserting images into Web pages and word-processed documents.) She has also turned "Finding Images" into a hands-on workshop for the Lexington Community Education program. In that incarnation it is called "Where Can I Find an Image of...?"