Letter from the Chair

Dear Midstaters,

As we enter the final laps of Indy Con planning, I want to say thank you to those of you who have been working so hard on conference preparations. This ARLIS/NA conference will be held at a time when many art librarians are facing considerable challenges, and it is during such times that what happens at our conferences—continuing education, networking, interaction with vendors, and work for the association—becomes critical to individual and collective professional success. It is probably safe to say that, collectively, ARLIS/NA members contribute to most of the art research, education, and curatorial activities that occur in North America. I feel fortunate to be part of this process, and to get to work with all the dedicated and seemingly tireless people planning the conference.

See you in Indy!

Regards,

Marc Gartler
Chair, ARLIS/NA Midstates Chapter

Mark your calendars

The ARLIS/Midstates Chapter is meeting at the annual conference:

5:30pm, Saturday, April 18, 2009 in the Lincoln Room

Watch the ARLIS/Midstates listserv and the chapter website for details.

Mark your calendars

Circle City Convergence

Art Libraries Society of North America, 37th Annual Conference
Indianapolis, April 16-21, 2009

For information on sessions, local dining options, exhibitions in the city, and more, check out the conference web page and blog:

Conference web page: http://www.indiana.edu/~indycon/

Conference blog: http://arlisnaindy.wordpress.com/
Field Notes from Rome:
Project to Document Roman Church Art

By Marsha Stevenson, Head of the Arts, Architecture and Media Department, University of Notre Dame

This story begins last spring, in an Italian Laundromat. I was in Rome to work with the School of Architecture’s library and while my clothes were washing I decided to visit the church across the street to see if there was anything interesting in it. I found three Rubens paintings! This set me to wondering what other artworks might be lurking inside other Roman churches.

When I returned from that trip I began investigating this topic. I learned that it is difficult simply to determine exactly how many churches there are in the city, much less their interior contents. Everyone knows about St. Peter’s, and there is a secondary grouping of several dozen other churches that are mentioned in most guidebooks, but there are hundreds more that are far from famous. Notre Dame is fortunate to have a healthy endowment to support art, so I decided to begin collecting books documenting the artworks within the Catholic churches of Rome.

Using various sources I compiled a list of nearly 400 sites in the city, and began looking for literature on them. Notre Dame already held books on about 150, and I searched to find materials on the rest. I learned that the Frick Art Reference Library and the Clark Art Institute had good collections in this area, and used their holdings, along with others in WorldCat, to identify titles to try to purchase. I was able to acquire books on about 50 additional churches this way, but after that it became much more difficult to identify or procure materials.

After discussing this collecting project with faculty from art and architecture, it became clear that I needed to return to Rome to visit churches in person. Most sell materials about their buildings, but many are pamphlets that have not been widely acquired and cataloged by libraries. I returned to Rome last fall with a list of the churches for which we lacked documentation, along with detailed maps with their locations plotted.

I visited 87 churches in ten days, and brought back a wide variety of materials. Some were small pamphlets, others were postcards, others were full-fledged books. My most prized acquisition was a 827-page, two-volume set that was not listed in WorldCat. I worked with our cataloging and preservation personnel to develop appropriate housing and bibliographic descriptions for the smaller and more ephemeral items.

While in Rome I learned, to my dismay, that not all of the churches on my list are currently active parishes. I found myself standing outside many locked doors, wondering what might be inside. A few of the buildings even sported graffiti, which made me long to complain to the diocese, although my halting spoken Italian dissuaded me from making those phone calls.

At this point we still lack documentation on at least 100 churches. I am hoping to return to Rome to hunt down the remaining buildings, although I may need to rely on second-hand bookstores for those that are closed. I would like to make the Notre Dame library a destination for anyone studying Roman church art, and already have received my first email inquiry on that topic from a graduate student at another institution. To achieve my goal I am willing to schedule multiple future trips to Italy!
Offset Printing and Artists’ Books Featured in Recent Exhibition and Journal Issue

By Tony White, Head of the Fine Arts Library, Indiana University, Bloomington

This spring, I had the opportunity to curate an exhibition of artist’s books at the Columbia College Center for Book and Paper Arts in Chicago. “Makeready, Choke, Bleed and Knockout” included books by book artists’ who also operated high speed rotary offset lithography printing presses to produce their own books. The exhibition opened February 27 and closed April 1st, 2009. The closing reception was held from 5-9pm, Friday March 27; at 6pm that same evening I presented a lecture in conjunction with the exhibition.

High speed rotary offset printing requires a significant degree of craft. In the 1950s artists began using offset printing for reasons that often included: speed, accurate registration, use of color imagery, and the creation of multiples. This exhibition includes work by artist-printers who have operated high speed rotary offset presses to produce artist’s books — often their own. Featured artist-printers included: Kevin Riordan, Jan Voss, Helen Douglas, Telfer Stokes, Eugene Feldman, Rebecca Michaels, Miles DeCoster, Sally Alatalo, Cynthia Marsh, Brad Freeman, Clifton Meador, Joe Ruther, Philip Zimmermann.

The topic of offset printing is also featured in the spring 2009 issue of the Journal of Artist’s Books: JAB 25, which I guest-edited. This theme-based issue focused on the influence of offset printing on the genre of contemporary artist’s books. A core graphical element of this issue is a timeline of offset printers involved in printing artist’s books; running across the bottom of every page, from page one (starting with 1948) to page 48 (ending with 2008). The issue includes cover art work by Jan Voss (using 29 colors; 15 on the exterior and 14 on the interior); introductions from the Editor in Chief, Brad Freeman, and the Guest Editor’s Introduction; a note about the cover art; an interview on the 20th anniversary of the Borowsky Center for printing at the University of the Arts; an homage to Philip Zimmermann’s Options for Color Separations; a discussion and review of the works by Clifton Meador; and two book reviews on the works of Sally Alatalo and a book by Eugene Feldman. The Pyramid Atlantic Critic’s Award is also reviewed.

Circle City Library Highlights

By Amy Griffin, Circulation Supervisor at the Indiana University Fine Arts Library

While in town for the conference, check out these Indianapolis libraries. In the past four years, all four of these library facilities were reborn.

See also: “Library Walking Tour” post on the ARLIS/NA 2009 Conference Blog.

Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library

Central Library

Location: 40 E. St. Clair St.
www.imcpl.org

Contact: 317-275-4100

Open:
Monday-Thursday: 9am-9pm
Friday: 9am-6pm
Saturday: 9am-5pm
Sunday: 1pm-5pm

Dates:
Reopened December 2007
Founded in 1873

Numbers:
2,000,000: Materials in the collection
476,448: Square feet throughout
237,069: Square feet of the library’s expansion
710: Total employees
22: Branches in the library system

Catalog: http://sherloc.imcpl.org/ (select Central Library)

Watanabe Family Library
at the Eiteljorg Museum of American Indians and Western Art

Location: 500 W. Washington St.
www.eiteljorg.org

Contact: 317-636-9378
library@eiteljorg.com

Open:
Monday-Saturday: 10am-5pm
Sunday: Noon-5pm

Dates:
Opened June 2005 in the Nina Mason Pulliam Education Center
Museum opened 1989

Numbers:
8: Dollars for Museum general admission
590: Square feet in the library
6,000: Volumes in the library’s collection
12,000: Pieces of hand-sorted Minnesota dolomite on the Museum’s exterior
118,000: Square feet in the museum

Catalog: http://sherloc.imcpl.org/ (select Eiteljorg Museum)
Circle City Library Highlights

Stout Reference Library

Location: Indianapolis Museum of Art
4000 Michigan Road

Contact:
www.imamuseum.org/explore/stout
library@imamuseum.org

Open: Tuesday through Friday, 2 pm to 5 pm
Thursday, 2 pm to 8 pm
Also by appointment

Note: The library will be closed during the conference.

Dates: Reopened May 2005
Museum founded in 1883

Numbers: 0: Dollars for museum general admission
10: Cents for one page black & white photocopy
120,000: Non-circulating volumes in the library

Catalog: http://sherloc.imcpl.org/ (select IMA)

Herron Art Library
at the Herron School of Art & Design

Location: IUPUI Campus
735 W. New York St., Rm. 117
www.lib.iupui.edu/herron/

Contact:
317-278-9484
herron@iupui.edu

Open: Monday—Thursday: 8am-6pm
Friday: 8am-5pm
Saturday and Sunday: Closed

Dates: Reopened June 2005 in Eskenazi Hall
1909: First year of art research service

Numbers: 3: Full-time library staff
150: Artists’ books in Special Collections
900: Students at the Herron School of Art & Design
5,500: Square feet in the library
26,000: Volumes in the library’s collection

Catalog: http://www-lib.iupui.edu/research/catalog

Indianapolis Museum of Art

Eskenazi Hall, IUPUI Campus

Hallway, Eskenazi Hall
Treasurer’s Update as of March, 2009

By Kitty Jansen, Secretary/Treasurer

Expenses since 1/1/2009: $250 taken from both accounts for this year’s Bunce Travel, for a total of $500, plus a $300 donation for the 2009 conference Welcome Party. Both of these checks have not been cashed yet.

Income since 1/1/2009: $300 from 4 student memberships, and 13 regular memberships.

Reminder: ARLIS/Midstates renewals are due April 1, 2009.

For the renewal form and full, updated treasurer’s reports, see the chapter website: http://www.indiana.edu/~arlismid/

| Current balance Bunce Account | $1300 |
| Current balance ARLIS/NA Midstates Account | $2446.29 |
| Current number of members | 36 |

News from the Chapters Liaison

By Cate Cooney, Chapters Liaison

ARLIS/NA has a new management firm, Technical Enterprises, Incorporated (TEI). TEI is headquartered outside of Milwaukee, WI, and as their name implies, they provide a wide range of technology support. It was their technical capabilities, combined with their personalized support and more than twenty years experience that put them at the top of the twenty-one association management firms that responded to our call for proposals. I am very excited about what they have to offer chapters. They intend to provide web hosting for chapters as well as chapter listservs, which should give great relief to chapters which have struggled to maintain their sites and lists on various institutions servers. The transition will be complete on May 1, when Nancy Short becomes our new Executive Director.

The ARLIS/NA Career Mentoring Program has expanded, and will have a kick-off workshop at the Annual Conference in Indianapolis. Because not everyone can attend the annual conference, the Mentoring Subcommittee invited chapter leaders to attend and learn how to present the workshop in their region.

The 2009 Summer Educational Institute for Visual Resources and Image Management has been announced. It will be held at Simmons College in Boston, MA, from June 8th - June 13th, 2009. The program, co-sponsored by ARLIS/NA and the Visual Resources Association Foundation, is in its sixth year. The SEI advisory group has recommended that SEI stay in one location two years in a row, which will ease pressure on the implementation team, while still allowing the program to move around North America and serve a wide audience.

The spring chapter meeting is a good time to brainstorm projects. Could your chapter’s idea be something the society would help fund? Applications for special funding are due July 1. Past projects have included support for symposia, and outreach materials targeted at library schools. Projects may be awarded up to $500 depending on merit of the project and availability of funds. The guidelines and a simple application form are available on the ARLIS/NA Web Site.

I am looking forward to a great conference in Indianapolis, and want to thank the Midstates Chapter for all your hard work hosting what promises to be an exciting program!

Have a question or comment to pass along to the board? Please don’t hesitate to get in touch: catecooney@gmail.com.

Rebecca Price Elected Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect

Rebecca Price has been Architecture, Urban Planning and Visual Resources Librarian at the University of Michigan since 1998. She has served on several ARLIS/NA committees and is just finishing up a term as secretary on the board. She is excited about and looking forward to serving at Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect for the Midstates Chapter. In addition she is an active member of VRA and will welcome opportunities to work with our Midwest VRA colleagues.

After the Indianapolis conference, we will all be coming back down to earth from the high of hosting the national conference (and some will be getting some much-deserved rest). Rebecca is looking forward to working with Marc and the rest of chapter to maintain our momentum into our fall meeting and through the year.
Reminder
ARLIS/Midstates membership renewals are due by April 1, 2009.
See the ARLIS/Midstates web site for the membership form:
http://www.indiana.edu/~arlismid/membership.html

MACDG
The Midwestern Art Cataloging Discussion Group (MACDG) is a loosely organized group of librarians who meet two to three times a year. Anyone interested in art and architecture or visual resources cataloging is welcome to attend.

The next meeting will be held at the Art Institute of Chicago, Friday, May 29, 2009. Please join us for a conversation about art cataloging issues and a visit to the Art Institute’s brand new Modern Wing! For more information or to add your name to the group’s mailing list please contact the current president, Laurie Chipps, at lchipps@artic.edu.

Indiana Reunion at the ARLIS/NA Conference
Calling all Irvinites!! You are cordially invited to attend the Indiana Reunion Honoring BJ Irvine at the ARLIS/NA conference in Indianapolis. The reception will be held from 8-10 p.m. on Saturday, April 18th in the Downtown Marriott hotel.

Please join us for refreshments and short program to honor BJ. Additionally, Kristen Mastel is soliciting photos from the past which illustrate your Indiana memories, including those featuring BJ Irvine, Indiana libraries, ARLIS/NA events and other topics. Please send these images to her at meye0539@umn.edu so that she can assemble them into a slide show.

Interested ARLIS/NA attendees are encouraged to register for the reunion as a part of their conference registration:
http://www.indiana.edu/~indycon/registration.html Registration for this reunion DOES NOT require an additional charge for ARLIS/NA members.

Reunion contacts:
Sarah Carter, scarter2@ringling.edu (general information)
Kristen Mastel, meye0539@umn.edu (slide show contributions)

New Appointment
Tony White, Head of the Fine Arts Library, Indiana University, Bloomington, was recently appointed to the newly created position of Field Editor for Artist’s Books and Books for Artists at the College Art Association’s caa.reviews online book review website. White will commission scholarly book reviews of artist’s books, art manuals, and books on art education and policy. In addition he will have the opportunity to commission reviews of conferences related to artist’s books.

In the News
Midstates member, and chapter Secretary/Treasurer, Kitty Jansen is currently featured on the “What Our Members Are Saying…” section of the ARLIS/NA website. Check it out at: http://www.arlisna.org/saying.html

Want to contribute to the Member News section in the next issue? Send your news item to Amy Trendler at aetrendler@bsu.edu