

From the President

A little over four years ago sitting at my desk at the Boston Athenaeum, I took a call from someone on the board of ARLIS/NE (Arleen Arzigan, I think) asking whether I could be persuaded to run for chapter office, specifically either for vice chair/chair-elect, or for secretary. I asked what the duties of the secretary were, and after assurances that I would be one of two candidates for the office, I agreed to run. I thought, well, good, nobody knows who I am. I must confess that at the time my membership had lapsed and I wasn't receiving any chapter mail, so I did not even have the opportunity to vote for the other candidate. You might well imagine my dismay when I received the call to inform me that I had been chosen, confirming the adage that "no good deed goes unpunished." This accidental elevation to chapter office was mirrored two years later, when Caron Carnahan resigned as president and I suddenly found myself in her place after the briefest of apprenticeships as vice president. Somehow, the Athenaeum got moved, I unpacked my office (mostly) and two fall meetings got planned; life went on. In contrast, this year has been a cakewalk. I was so pleased with the good response to the membership survey last winter; your suggestions for meeting venues and program content will be of real value to the chapter for years to come. So, as I enter active retirement as your past president, my thanks to all those who served with me on the board, and to those chapter members who make ARLIS/New England the successful professional organization it is by contributing your time, energy, and ideas. Seriously, it has been a real pleasure working with you all.

Speaking of elections, the chapter just concluded one, peacefully, with no manual recounts, dimpled chads, or bitter lawsuits. Not yet, at least. We had two fine candidates for the office of vice-president/president-elect: Richard McElroy (Wellesley College) and Kathy Ritter (Currier Gallery of Art) and two for the office of secretary: Jill Cirsella (Boston Architectural Center) and Helaine Davis (Museum of Our National Heritage). When the fifty-seven ballots received were tallied, you chose Richard and Jill to help lead the chapter beginning in 2001. Congratulations to them, and thanks to all four of our colleagues for participating in the process. I am especially grateful to Andrea

Manzi Frank, our outgoing (and friendly) secretary/membership officer, who has done wonderful service, getting mailings out, keeping the membership records up to date, producing the directory, hosting the listserv, and making sure that the mechanics of the organization are in smooth running order. Many thanks also to incoming president, Adeane Bregman, treasurer Anne Haas, Web-manager Katy Poole, and newsletter editor Linda Zieper for their unstinting support of the chapter. Thanks too to Deborah Kempe of the Frick Art Reference Library, our regional representative, for her welcome advice and counsel.

Keeping with tradition, the chapter had one spring meeting and two fall meetings in 2000. The spring meeting, on June 16, consisted of a lecture and tour of the Northeast Document Conservation Center in the morning, lunch at the Andover Inn, and an afternoon session at the Addison Gallery of American Art that featured a guided tour of an exhibition documenting Phillips Academy's buildings and landscape. The first fall meeting, September 15, was a day at the Fruitlands Museums, Harvard, Massachusetts. The second fall meeting, at Boston University, was held on November 3. In the morning, chapter members gathered at the B.U. School of Theology Library for presentations by Ruth Thomas and Adeane Bregman on searching images on the Internet. Following lunch in the Faculty Dining Room, we reconvened in Copley Square for an art and architecture tour of the Boston Public Library's newly renovated McKim Building.

Of course, on the horizon, but very much a present reality, is the upcoming joint meeting of ARLIS/NE and the Art Section of IFLA, scheduled for August 16-17. Coordinated by Hugh Wilburn, along with Sarah Dickinson, Merrill Smith, Carol Terry, and the members of the board, the pre-conference will provide a great opportunity to meet international colleagues.

Finally, the Secretary reports that the chapter has, at the end of the year, 128 members, in the following categories: 111 individual, 10 institutional, 5 student; we have, as well, two distinguished Life Members, Wolfgang Freitag and Elmar Seibel.

Best wishes to all for a peaceful, prosperous and productive New Year!

Stephen Nonack

Second Fall Meeting

Boston University and Boston Public Library, , November 3, 2000

Forty-two chapter members and guests gathered at the Boston University School of Theology Library on Friday, November 3, for the morning session of the second fall meeting. The theme of the morning's presentations was "Looking for Art in All the Right Places." Host Ruth Thomas, art history bibliographer at BU's Mugar Memorial Library, presented a "live" demonstration of how to find images on the Web, and provided meeting attendees with lots of useful hints for searching for specific images or images depicting certain subjects. Adeane Bregman, Baptist art librarian at Boston College, followed up with a presentation on how images found on the Internet can be put to use. Adeane offered technical tips, as well as practical applications. Her own presentation, for example, was created using PowerPoint software and incorporated images she had downloaded from the Internet. Copyright issues were also discussed briefly.

After a buffet lunch in the BU Faculty Dining Room, Stephen Nonack, chapter president, called to order a business meeting, welcoming new chapter members and guests. Stephen advised members that they would soon be receiving ballots to vote for the offices of vice-president/president-elect (Richard McElroy and Kathy Ritter, candidates), and secretary (Jill Cirasella and Helaine Davis, candidates); he introduced those candidates present at the meeting.

1999 Freitag Award winners Trudy Jacoby and Ellie Nacheman spoke about the projects to which they had devoted their award funds. Trudy's award contributed to her ongoing endeavor to photograph sites in Europe, especially gardens. Ellie used her award to help fund her completion of a directory of Rhode Island artists born between 1800 and 1899.

Hugh Wilburn, ARLIS/NA IFLA Task Force member, updated attendees on the plans for the ARLIS/New England-sponsored IFLA Satellite Conference to be held in Boston on August 16 and 17, 2001 (see report of first fall meeting, below) report), and once again appealed for volunteers to help on various committees.

In other business, Secretary Andrea Frank reported on our current membership (123 members, perhaps the highest chapter membership has ever reached), and reminded attendees to return their renewal forms. Ann Haas reported on the chapter's bank account, and Linda Zieper asked members to send in their news for the fall issue of the chapter newsletter. Stephen closed the meeting by thanking Boston University's Arleen Arzigian, who had

made logistical arrangements, and Ruth Thomas, for hosting the meeting.

For the afternoon program, meeting attendees boarded the Green Line to Copley Square. Volunteer guides provided informative and often entertaining tours of the Boston Public Library, which is currently undergoing extensive renovations.

First Fall Meeting

Fruitlands Museum, September 15, 2000

Twenty-two intrepid chapter members and one guest made their way through a late summer monsoon to attend ARLIS/New England's first fall meeting, held at Fruitlands in Harvard, MA (www.fruitlands.org).

The day began with an introduction to Fruitlands, provided by the librarian, Jennifer Perry, who was filling in for the scheduled speaker, Curator Mike Volmar.

Fruitlands was established in 1947 by Clara Endicott Sears, who had purchased the property in 1910. Miss Sears first became interested in the history of the area when she discovered that an old farmhouse on her property had served as the home of Bronson Alcott's Utopian "camp" for seven months during 1843. The farmhouse was opened in 1914 as a museum of the Transcendentalist movement, and contains representative objects from the movement and the Alcott family, as well as a Henry David Thoreau exhibit.

Over the years, Miss Sears also grew interested in Shaker culture, as she had become friends with the eldress of a Shaker community that existed in Harvard during the early part of the twentieth century. In 1920, with the encouragement of the remaining Shakers in the area, she moved the oldest building from the settlement to her property, where it was turned into a museum housing Shaker furniture and objects, as well as displays of typical Shaker industry in this area (e.g., seed-packing).

Her inquisitiveness not yet satisfied, Miss Sears next turned her attention to the American Indian history in the area, inspired by objects found at Fruitlands and in nearby areas. Augmenting these with acquisitions from across the country, she opened the Indian Museum in 1929, in an old clapboard schoolhouse building moved to her property.

The final museum was the Picture Gallery, built at Fruitlands in 1949 to house Miss Sears' collection of American painting. When Miss Sears died in 1960, her house was razed (per her instructions), but the museums, as well as the tea room, remain as a testament to her intellectual curiosity and interest in history and culture, and her desire to share what she had found and learned with others.

More recently, Fruitlands has expanded its mission to become a "Museum of the New England Landscape." To anyone who has visited on a glorious autumn day, this would seem a natural broadening of the museum's scope. A self-guided tour of the walking trails at Fruitlands takes one past natural habitats and features, evidence of man's activity on the land over the centuries, and even sites undergoing archaeological investigation.

The library at Fruitlands, staffed on a part-time basis by Ms. Perry, is open to researchers by appointment. Consisting primarily of documents acquired by Ms. Sears, but augmented somewhat by materials added over the years for the use of museum interpreters, the collection's strengths are manuscripts, especially relating to the Shakers and Transcendentalists. As an interesting aside, Ms. Perry noted that, since none of the museum buildings at Fruitlands are heated, the (heated) library also serves as a storage site for the museum collections during the winter months, when the museums are closed.

Following this introduction to the museum, President Stephen Nonack called to order a business meeting. Secretary Andrea Frank gave a membership report (there were, as of that date, 118 chapter members), and Stephen reminded meeting attendees that they would soon be receiving membership renewal forms. Stephen encouraged members to include a donation to the Freitag Award when they return their forms. On a related note, he announced that the 2001 Freitag Award Committee will soon be formed, as will a nominating committee for the two chapter offices to be open in 2001: vice-president/president-elect and secretary.

Hugh Wilburn then updated attendees on the plans for the ARLIS/New England-sponsored IFLA Satellite Conference to be held in Boston on August 16 and 17, 2001. The conference will begin Thursday, the 16th, with registration at the Boston Architectural Center. An introductory lecture on the art and architecture of Boston (speaker TBA) will be followed by walking tours, and the day will conclude with a reception at Ars Libri.

Friday's busy program will begin at the Museum of Fine Arts with a keynote lecture by Henry Pischotta, from Penn State, on the theme of "How do I find a picture of...? (The Changing Nature of Picture Research)." Following the talk, meeting attendees will gather into small discussion groups, mixing people from various countries and types of libraries, to discuss questions posed to them. The morning program will continue with gallery visits at the MFA, and then attendees will ride buses to Harvard Square for lunch. The afternoon will consist of demonstrations of some electronic imaging

initiatives in progress at Harvard's Graduate School of Design, and the formal presentation of three papers. After a summary and closing remarks, the satellite conference will come to a festive end with an ARLIS/NA-sponsored reception at the Fogg Art Museum.

Having summarized this ambitious program, Hugh put out a call for volunteers to work on various committees: Development (chaired by Merrill Smith), Housing (chaired by Stephen Nonack), Transportation, Web site, Program, Program Design and Registration. Members interested in volunteering for any of these committees should contact Hugh at hwilburn@gsd.harvard.edu. Hugh noted that there would be a fee associated with the conference: \$35 for IFLA members, \$65 for all others (e.g., ARLIS members).

Stephen reminded attendees that the next chapter meeting was scheduled for Friday, November 3, 2000. Ruth Thomas will host the meeting at Boston University, with a theme foreshadowing that of the IFLA Satellite Conference: How to find pictures on the Internet. The afternoon portion of the program is not yet finalized, but could consist of visits to Newbury Street galleries, or to the ICA.

Linda Zieper ended the business meeting with a call to members to send their news to her for inclusion in the fall newsletter, which will be published following the second fall meeting. Meeting attendees then enjoyed lunch in the Fruitlands Tea Room, and in the afternoon were free to tour the museums at Fruitlands on their own (but with the enthusiastic assistance of the knowledgeable interpreters).

ARLIS/NE FREITAG AWARD 2000

I applied for this year's Wolfgang Freitag Award for funding to attend the course *Book Illustration to 1890* taught at the Rare Book School (RBS) in Charlottesville, Virginia. RBS offers five-day non-credit courses concerning rare books, manuscripts and special collections. Courses are primarily directed towards research librarians and archivists, and are taught by professionals in the field. The RBS director Terry Belanger has taught the course that I selected since 1982. It concerns the identification of illustration processes and printing techniques used in book illustration, and is the only known course of its kind in North America.

The five-day intensive course closely follows the printing techniques outlined in the required reading *How to Identify Prints* by Bamber Gascoigne (New York: Thames & Hudson, 1986). The class is limited to twelve students and is taught almost exclusively from the Book Arts Press illustration packets. There are over 400 folders, and each

packet contains twelve identical illustrations so that each student can study the same print simultaneously. The processes that were discussed include woodcut, etching, engraving, stipple, aquatint, mezzotint, lithography, wood engraving, steel engraving, process relief, collotype, photogravure and color printing. The focus of the class is on the process, and learning how to distinguish between the various types of printing techniques, and the history of book publishing.

Terry Belanger began the school at the University of Columbia in the 1970s. Since 1992, Book Arts Press and RBS have been located at the University of Virginia, where the school continues to grow. This summer, seventeen courses were taught between June and August. If you are interested to learn more about RBS and the courses offered, see the Web site <http://www.virginia.edu/oldbooks> I highly recommend the course and thank the Freitag Award committee for giving me the opportunity to attend RBS this summer.

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