

# ARLIS *focus*

Linda Zieper, editor

## From the President

Aestival salutations to ARLIS New England members and friends!

The year has been a busy one for our chapter, and promises to become even more so as planning proceeds for the 2010 annual conference of ARLIS North America. This conference will be held at the Seaport Hotel from Thursday April 22nd to Tuesday April 27th, and planning and hosting activities are responsibility of our chapter. Conference planning co-chairs Deborah Barlow Smedstad, local arrangements, and Ann Whiteside, program, will begin putting together the conference planning committee this summer. The ARLIS/NE board has been gathering names, contact information, and areas of interest of those wishing to participate. If you have not signed up and wish to do so, please send me an e-mail. Only some conference planning work needs to begin this year; at this time next year we will again be soliciting volunteers.

Our joint spring meeting with VRA/NE on June 3 at Wellesley College was a resounding success, thanks to the efforts of our past president, Brooke Henderson, and Marci Hahn, her VRA-Wellesley colleague. After a splendid presentation on the changing landscape of visual resources by Robert Carlucci from Yale, there were tours of the campus and the art museum, where there was a fascinating exhibition of colossal format old master prints. The large turnout, the splendid weather and the presence of Ken Soehner, the new president of ARLIS/NA greatly enhanced the

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occasion. The day concluded with a reception in the art museum. On behalf of the chapter, I want to thank Brooke and Marci for producing an exceptionally interesting and enjoyable day. We also held a full ARLIS/NE business meeting, some current MLIS students and recent Simmons graduates were in attendance. Some of the issues we discussed included planning for the 2010 conference in Boston, the fall meetings this year and in 2009, and partnering with the New England chapter of the Music Library Association for the latter. We learned that ARLIS/NE members are invited to attend a joint meeting of ARLIS chapters Western New York and two VRA chapters (Upstate New York and New England) at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (Troy, NY) on October 23 and 24th, 2008, which will coincide with the opening of RPI's new Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC). The meeting minutes are included in this issue of *Focus*, so please read through them carefully.

Because the spring meeting followed closely behind the terrific ARLIS/NA conference held in Denver, we decided not to hold a chapter meeting at the conference but rather held another highly successful mixer for ARLIS/NE members and Simmons alumni at the conference hotel, where we enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. Anne Reid and Rachel Resnick organized this successful event, which has become an annual event at national conferences thanks to their efforts.

The ARLIS/NE officers are working on scheduling a summer board meeting to discuss chapter goals and work on an interesting program for the fall at a beautiful venue to be announced. Dates and details will be posted on the listserv and the web site. Stay tuned, and enjoy your summer!

*Michael Young, President*

**Membership Renewals Reminder!**

If you haven't renewed your membership for 2008, it's not too late! (If you haven't renewed, a renewal form is enclosed with this mailing for your convenience.)

**ARLIS/NE Business Meeting**

Joint ARLIS/NE-VRA/NE Spring Meeting  
Wellesley College, Tuesday, June 3, 2008

Changing Of The Guard: Introducing New Officers: President Michael Young welcomed new officers: Darin Murphy (vice-president/president-elect) and Janis DesMarais (treasurer) and introduced the returning officers, explaining that Linda Zieper (secretary) was unable to attend and that Brooke Henderson (past-president) would be returning shortly from picking up our guests at the train station.

Secretary's Report: Michael and Rachel Resnik announced that there are 80 current members and reminded those who have not yet renewed to please do so.

Treasurer's Report: Janis DesMarais Janis gave a very detailed report on the chapter's finances. [This appears on p. 3 of this issue. ed.]

Focus news : Michael requested, on Linda's behalf that members send news to her for publication in the chapter newsletter.

Call for Nominating Committee Chair: Michael requested volunteers for the position of Nominating Committee chair.

[After the meeting Ellen Petraits expressed her interest in the position to Michael.]

ARLIS/NA Annual Conference, Denver, CO, May 1-6

*Simmons/ARLIS/NE mixer report*

Anne Reid announced that this year's mixer at the national conference was very successful with about 30 attendees. Rachel thanked Anne for being the driving force behind this event and many others. Awards Report (Freitag, Seibel, Travel) Darin Murphy announced that Ashley Peterson won the Seibel award and Rachel Beckwith and Elizabeth Ehrnst won the Travel awards. There were no eligible applicants for the Freitag and it was not awarded this year. Amanda Bowen asked about the amounts of the awards and suggested that they be raised so more people would apply. Darin clarified the award amounts. The board will consider the suggestion that the Travel Awards be consolidated to make one larger award.

ARLIS/NA 2010 Boston Conference Status Report.

Rachel gave an extremely brief recap of the CPAC meeting in Denver and explained that while the majority of conference planning will not start for another year, there is in fact quite a bit of work to be done in the upcoming year. She then read a blurb from the conference planning documentation as way of a pep talk. She asked for people interested in helping to sign up after the business meeting. A message will be sent to the listserv also calling for volunteers. Michael announced the two co-chairs: Deborah Barlow Smedstad, local arrangements and Ann Whiteside, program. He mentioned that both co-chairs would welcome co-chairs for their areas. Debbie, who went on the site visit of hotels, described some of the wonderful

features of the Seaport Hotel where the conference will be held.

The ARLIS/NE board did not yet know the dates of the conference, but promised to find out and send that information via the listserv. [The dates have subsequently set: April 22-27, 2010.-ed] Rachel talked about the structure and roles of the conference planning committee.

Fall Meeting Ideas :Michael announced some of the ideas for upcoming ARLIS/NE meetings such as a joint meeting with the New England Music Libraries Association. They are interested at looking at interdisciplinary collections especially as they relate to museum collections, like the one at Colby College. This idea was brought up by Margaret Erickson at Colby (present) and Marlene Wong at Smith College.

We have also been invited by Valerie Krall at the Clark Art Institute to come to the Clark and Williams for the fall 2009 meeting. Their new conservation lab on the Clark campus by Tadao Ando will just have been completed. This fall, in addition to our regular ARLIS/NE meeting, we have been invited to ARLIS/ Western NY's meeting at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy. The meeting is October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> and focuses digital media initiatives.

Other ideas: Michael suggested Newport at Salve Regina or Roger Williams in Bristol. Lisa Zeidenberg from Brandeis recommended a meeting on copyright as it relates to art, music and theater. Hugh Wilburn suggested a meeting on next generation library catalogs and discover tools. PRIMO and Worldcat were suggested as tools to look at. Ellen Petraits suggested a meeting on models for streaming media. Rachel Resnik asked if anyone else was interested in the preservation of AV mate-

rials—there wasn't an overwhelmingly enthusiastic response.

Website Changes: Darin and Michael announced that two volunteers, Lisa Harrington and Jennifer Friedman, will be migrating our current website to a blog so that it can be maintained more easily.

Distinguished Guest: Michael introduced and welcomed Ken Soehner ARLIS/NA president. Ken spoke for a few minutes--expressing his gratitude to ARLIS/NE for the invitation and suggesting that ARLIS/NY and ARLIS/NE work more collaboratively in the future.

## **Treasurer's Report**

June 3, 2008

### Current Balances

1-year CD as of 4-30-08 \$3855.90  
rate 5 % matures on 8-5-08

2-year CD as of 4-30-08 \$3652.73  
rate 4.75 % matures on 2-12-09

Checking Account \$2098.12 (includes 1 check for \$20 not yet deposited)

### CD Activity

2007 Interest 1-year CD \$165.29

2007 Interest 2-year CD \$192.17

### Checking Account Activity

Awarded 2 Travel Awards of \$300 each to Rachel Beckwith and Elizabeth Ehrnst

Awarded 1 Seibel Scholarship of \$500 to Ashley Peterson

Contributed \$300 towards the costs of the ARLIS/NE reception at the Denver conference

Contributed \$99.70 to cover the cost of refreshments for the Panopticon career panel at Simmons College in April

Since February 2008, have collected \$286 in membership dues

Membership dues received since fall meeting \$2108

Received \$125 in contributions towards the Freitag Award

Received \$65 in unspecified gifts  
Received \$57.40 from John Woods  
for postage

Mailing costs:

Ballot and membership renewal,  
November 2007 \$127.72  
Focus mailing January 2008 \$129.61  
*Janis DesMarais, Treasurer*

**Denver Conference—ARLISNE & Simmons Mixer**

ARLISNE and Simmons GSLIS hosted a lovely cocktail reception at the ARLIS/NA conference in Denver. The mixer was very well attended with between 30 and 40 guests. It gave ARLIS/NE members and Simmons graduates and current students an excellent opportunity to reconnect with old friends and meet new acquaintances. The mixer was held directly before the party at the Denver Art Museum on Sunday evening so it was particularly festive, as everyone was dressed up and in a celebratory mood. The catering/bartending staff of the Grand Hyatt Denver was extremely friendly and helpful and really added to the jovial atmosphere. A warm thanks to Anne Reid from Simmons for organizing this wonderful event.

**An Invitation from ARLIS/ Western New York.**

As mentioned at our Spring meeting, we've been invited by the ARLIS/ Western New York chapter to attend a two-day meeting about the fields of experimental media and electronic arts at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute along with two VRA chapters (Upstate New York and New England). The meeting will coincide with the opening of RPI's new Experimental Media and Performing Arts Center (EMPAC)  
<http://empac.rpi.edu/> .

The ARLIS/WNY chapter received special funding from ARLIS/NA to develop this program. Please note that we will hold our official ARLIS/NE fall meeting somewhere in New England, but this meeting at RPI is a wonderful opportunity to attend another fascinating event and to socialize with a neighboring chapter.

**From the Members**

**Linda Callahan** reports that she was the recipient of two honors this year: "In February , I was among a group of staff who were honored at the Employee Service Awards Breakfast at Mount Holyoke College. I was recognized for being the slide curator in the Art and Art History Department for 30 years (almost 31 now--hard to believe!). I do think it's time to update my title to visual resources curator, and my department chair agrees, so that's another little news item. Finally, just this past May, I was honored by my graduating student assistant from Ghana in the "Seniors of Color" ceremony. She selected me as the staff member whom she considered to be an especially significant mentor to her during her college career. For me, it was a very humbling surprise and certainly one of the greatest honors I've ever had in my time at Mount Holyoke, so I'll mention it just as a reminder of how important we are to the students, even when we are simply being ourselves, doing our jobs, not realizing how much others may indeed be looking up to us." **Laurie Whitehill Chong**, special collections librarian, Fleet Library at RISD, was promoted in May to Librarian IV, the final rank for librarians at RISD. Laurie also published an exhibition catalog, *IT IS UP TO US IF WE GO ON AS IS: Ruth Laxson's Persistent Muse*, to accompany the current library exhibition

( May 9-July 3 2008) of artist's books and book making process archives of Atlanta artist, Ruth Laxson. This catalog includes essays by Clifton Meador and Brad Freeman, excerpts from an interview with the artist, and images from the Laxson Archives collection.

**Linda Cucurrullo** retired on June 30 from the MIT libraries, where she had worked in cataloging for *38 years*, since shortly after her graduation from Wheaton College. After earning her MLS from Simmons College, she became a professional cataloger and held a variety of positions in cataloging and authority control, notably as art and architecture cataloger, a position she began in 1976, shortly after she joined ARLIS/NE! She became authorities coordinator in 2000. She combined her expertise in art and authority work as a member of ALA's Subject Analysis Committee and as ALA liaison to ARLIS. Her article, "Kicked a Heading Lately? The Challenges of Establishing Headings for Buildings and Other Structures," appeared in the fall 2006 issue of *Art Documentation*. on the establishment of building names for the name and subject authority files. Her supervisor concluded the notice announcing her retirement and celebrating her career this way: In this stronghold of practicality that is MIT, Linda has provided a much needed dash

of color and flair. I will especially miss her sense of style!" Linda assures us that she is not retiring from the chapter and will continue to attend meetings. Congratulations to **Darin Murphy**, who joined the MFA as librarian, SMFA Library on March 17.

**Ellie Nacheman**, cataloger/reference librarian at the Fleet Library, RISD, was a co-recipient of the Worldwide Books Publications award at the Denver ARLIS/NA conference in May. The award was presented in recognition of her recent publication *Unveiled: a Directory and Guide to 19th century Born Artists Active in Rhode Island, and Where to Find their Work in Publicly Accessible Rhode Island Collections*. Anyone interested in purchasing a copy should contact her ([enachema@risd.edu](mailto:enachema@risd.edu) or 401-709-5943). The cost of the book is 30.00, which includes shipping.

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