



JUNE 2012

# THE IRREGULAR

## THE NEWSLETTER OF ARLIS/CENTRAL PLAINS

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### **ARLIS/CP Meeting, Spring 2011, Wichita, Kansas**

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The Central Plains Chapter (Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Oklahoma and Arkansas) of the Art Libraries Society of North America held its Spring meeting in Wichita, Kansas from April 25–27, 2012. Our three members there, representing the Wichita Art Museum (Lois Crane, Joyce Norris) and Wichita State University (Rachel Crane), did a wonderful job of organizing and hosting the meeting. We had a gratifyingly large number of attendees, including at least one member from all of our five states. It was a good combination of long-time and newer members. On Thursday the 25th, the group met in the late afternoon to explore a restored historic section of downtown, “Old Town”, and eat our traditional get-reacquainted dinner.

On Friday morning we met at the Ablah Library at of Wichita State. During the Business Meeting we again discussed ways of increasing chapter membership and consented to have a chapter Facebook page created. We also discussed the recent ARLIS/NA conference in Toronto and the chapter’s travel awards. For a change, the next two meetings have already been scheduled or spoken for. The Fall meeting will be held in Lawrence, Kansas from September 27 – 29, and the meeting next Spring will be in Omaha, Nebraska.

The program portion started with a presentation by chapter member Rachel Crane about the project to document and keep up with the outdoor murals and other street art of Wichita. View her website at: <http://library.wichita.edu/finearts/murals.htm>

Next, chapter member Ron Michael presented a program on artist Henry Varnum Poor, a well-known early 20th century painter and ceramicist who had ties to Kansas. Ron spoke about Poor’s life and work, and an upcoming exhibit of Poor’s work that he curated at the Birger Sandzen museum.

After lunch at the student center, we returned to the library where we were treated to a slide talk from Dr. Jerry Martin, distinguished anthropologist on the WSU faculty. Dr. Martin has traveled the world collecting artifacts (legally and ethically), and had wonderful stories and incredible photos of his adventures. In particular, two cultures in Papua, New Guinea that until just a few years ago were still headhunters and cannibals proved to be quite challenging.

We then adjourned to the Wichita Art Museum where the group enjoyed viewing the current temporary exhibits, the permanent collection, and of course the library. The last time the chapter met in Wichita, the new wing of the museum was under construction and we had only glimpsed the unfinished library space.

At the group dinner at the end of the day, we had time at leisure to discuss the fine presentations we saw and the various issues brought up in the Business Meeting.

Saturday morning, a smaller group met for breakfast at Rachel's home before touring more of Wichita or returning home. All felt that this meeting was a very successful combination of strong programming and fun socializing.

### **Mark your Calendars – Fall Meeting Scheduled**

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Susan Craig and Marilyn Russell will be hosting in Lawrence, Kansas Thursday September 27 to Saturday September 29, 2012. The meeting will include a Thursday night dinner at Mari Russell's home, a full day of programs at the Murphy Art & Architecture Library at KU and the Tommaney Library at Haskell Indian Nations University on Friday, a dinner in downtown Lawrence with an opportunity to participate in the Final Friday Arts activities, and Saturday morning tours. Watch the chapter's list-serv for details and registration information.

### **Chapter List-Serv**

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Don't forget that the chapter has its own list-serv. It is hosted by the ARLIS/NA management firm, TEI. It is private--only subscribers can receive or submit posts, and it does not have a moderator. Subscriptions are handled by TEI at the direction of the chapter's Secretary/Treasurer. To subscribe or unsubscribe, send a message to [Clare.Vasquez@slam.org](mailto:Clare.Vasquez@slam.org). It has become a very effective way to communicate directly with the group of chapter members and friends. It is now the primary vehicle for announcing chapter meetings, calling for newsletter contributions, and other announcements -- you are strongly encouraged to join. But don't worry, it won't fill up your in-box!

### **Chapter Officers for 2012**

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Chair: Ellen Urton, Kansas State University  
Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect: Philip Jones, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville  
Past-Chair: Skye Lacerte, Washington University  
Secretary/Treasurer: Clare Vasquez, St. Louis Art Museum  
Web Editor: Mikael Kriz, Saint Louis University  
Newsletter Editor: Suzy Frechette, St. Louis Public Library

This Fall, we will need to elect a new Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect and a new Secretary/Treasurer. Please consider serving!

### **Letter From the ARLIS/NA Chapter Liaison**

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Hello Central Plains Chapter!

I thought I'd share some of my notes from the Toronto conference and recent Executive Board

conference calls, especially items that relate to chapters.

- a) The Executive Board continues to work with VRA on an agreement about future joint conferences. It will be more like a template for how to arrange matters, and less a strict schedule of having one every set number of years. I feel that a set schedule is quite limiting and puts a great deal of pressure on chapters who are interested in hosting a conference, so I am pleased that we're looking at a more flexible plan.
- b) At the chapter chairs meeting in Toronto, we agreed that it was important to have a set time for chapter business meetings during the conference. The Pasadena team is well aware of this issue.
- c) The membership committee is interested in working with chapters on recruitment strategies, particularly when it comes to ways of reaching out to students. Special regional events can be a draw for those chapters that cover a large geographic area. I will be coordinating with Rina Vecchiola on this issue.
- d) Several chapters have started using Paypal to collect dues, and that seems to be working well. Our management company, TEI, can only collect chapter dues if all chapters agree to participate so Paypal is a more viable option.
- e) Just a reminder that chapters are encouraged to use the “gotomeeting” software that TEI has in order to hold online meetings. I can find out more details for anyone who is interested.
- f) Speaking of TEI, Debbie Kempe has been working very hard on drafting a new contract with them, and I expect an announcement shortly on ARLIS-L.
- g) I hope you all saw the call for proposals for papers, sessions, and workshops for the Pasadena conference (<http://www.arlisna.org/pasadena2013/>) and are considering submitting an idea. Their deadline is June 22.

That's all for now! Free to contact me at [lbliss@rohan.sdsu.edu](mailto:lbliss@rohan.sdsu.edu) if you have any questions.

Happy summer,

Laurel Bliss  
ARLIS/NA Chapters Liaison  
Fine Arts Librarian  
San Diego State University

## MEMBER NEWS

### ARKANSAS

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—*Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art, Bentonville*

**Catherine Peterson**, Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas, sends this report:

The Library at Crystal Bridges Museum, Bentonville, Arkansas, has welcomed over 10,000 visitors since opening on November 11, 2011. The Library is located on the third floor of the Museum and has beautiful views of the Museum trails and grounds. Many Museum guests admit to initially visiting the Library for its amazing overlook of the campus; however, soon after arriving, most guests find the Library's browsable stacks of over 35,000 titles and large display case invite them to "... celebrate the American spirit in a setting that unites the power of art with the beauty of landscape" -- a fitting phrase describing the Museum's mission.

Since opening, cherry wood end panels on the library shelves displayed librarian recommendations for the six Museum galleries. These selections included titles on Early American Artists and 19th and 20th century art to contemporary artists shown in the Museum's first temporary exhibition, *Wonder World*. Belly band wraps on each of the books cite additional recommended titles along with which titles can be found at which local circulating libraries. The end panel recommendations currently feature books related to the Museum's recently opened exhibitions, *The Hudson River School: Nature and the American Vision* which runs through September 3rd, and *American Encounters: Thomas Cole and the Narrative Landscape*, which runs through August 13th.

The Library display case housed a selection of rare items from the Library's 19<sup>th</sup> century American color plate book collection for the first six months of the Museum's opening but currently features rare nationalist Americana such as: a first edition printing of *The Federalist*, a small visitors album to the Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia in 1876, and an engraving by du Simitere of George Washington based on the design of the "Washington Cent" of 1791 – one of the earliest one-cent coins produced in the United States.

The Museum Library is open the same hours as the Museum: Mon, Thurs., Sat. and Sun. 11am – 6pm, and Wed. and Friday 11am – 9pm. Volunteer Library Guides welcome guests. More in-depth reference inquiries are referred to the librarians. The Museum Library catalog can be accessed at <http://library.uark.edu:2082/search~S2> and please e-mail any questions or comments to [library@crystalbridges.org](mailto:library@crystalbridges.org)

—*University of Arkansas, Fayetteville*

**Phil Jones**, University of Arkansas, reports that he is searching for a new evening library specialist for the Fine Arts Library. Also, a paging and delivery service is being developed for the entire library system. Once it has been implemented patrons will be able to pick up books from the Fine Arts Library at other locations and pick up books from other locations at the Fine Arts Library.

## KANSAS

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—*Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence*

**Marilyn Russell**, Haskell Indian Nations University, writes: It is with a sigh that I completed my three year tenure on the ARLIS/NA Executive Board at the Annual Conference in Toronto this past April.

Coming up on May 11 is our university graduation, then summer school begins at on May 21. In between I am heading to Santa Fe, NM for some R & R before summer school begins. Professionally, I will be attending the Tribal College Librarians Institute in Tulsa, OK June 2 - 4. Then I will be heading to Washington D.C. to attend my granddaughter's high school graduation in mid June. She has been accepted to Wellesley so she is excited about that prospect. My summer plans include traveling to Hawarden, Wales in July where I will be taking two courses at the Gladstone Library for two weeks plus seeing some of northern Wales; then I travel to York, England for a week of sightseeing there plus seeing the Lake District and the Yorkshire Dales. From there, I am taking a watercolor class at Parcevall Hall in Skipton, England. Last but not least, in August I will be joining the ARLIS/NA Art Study Tour to Helsinki and to Stockholm along with twelve other ARLIS/NA members.

—*University of Kansas, Lawrence*

**Susan Craig**, University of Kansas, advises that the Murphy Art & Architecture Library is just completing a physical upgrade with installation of new carpet and public furniture. Later this summer they will install a monitor and software to support a new digital exhibition program that will feature aspects of their collections.

## MISSOURI

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—*Post Memorial Art Reference Library*

**Leslie Simpson**, Post Memorial Art Reference Library in Joplin, recently published a new book in Arcadia Publishing Company's "Postcard History Series." It features historic postcards illustrating all aspects of Joplin's history—mining, architecture, businesses, organizations, parks, transportation, etc. The book was already in press when the horrific tornado destroyed a third of the city, including several sites that were depicted in the postcard collection. Arcadia agreed to allow Simpson to add an epilogue about the tornado damage, and the company donated its profits from the first printing to rebuilding Joplin businesses that were destroyed. All other profits go to support the Post Library.

—*Nelson-Atkins Museum*

**Marilyn Carbonell**, Nelson-Atkins Museum, Kansas City, submits this news from Library Services (Spencer Art Reference Library, Museum Archives, and the Visual Resources Library):

### *Staff News*

I am very pleased to announce that Amelia Nelson will be joining the library staff as the new Public Services Librarian on July 2, 2012. She will be supervising operations in reference services, circulation, and stacks management. Amelia is currently the Catalog/Digital Services Librarian at the Jannes Library, Kansas City Art Institute, where she delivered reference services and taught information sessions for KCAI students and faculty incorporating knowledge of the relevant literatures and new technologies. Amelia's previous position was Library Director at the Delaware College of Art and Design (5 years) where, among other achievements, she redesigned the library's web presence. She has an architecture degree from Kansas State, in addition to her MLS degree, University of Missouri. Amelia had two internships as a student, including one at the Spencer Art Reference Library (2006) and one at the Georgia O'Keeffe Museum Research Center (2001). She is an active ARLIS member as a reviewer for *Art Documentation* and serves on the IRIG Visual Literacy Competency Standards advisory group. Amelia is a member of ALA and ACRL.

Tracey Boswell, Catalog/Reference Librarian, and Dawn Hunsicker, Cataloger, had both their presentation proposals accepted for the Missouri Library Association annual conference scheduled for Fall 2012, Springfield.

Lihui Xiong, Library Assistant, was selected and funded to attend a special week-long summer institute at the Freer | Sackler Galleries, Smithsonian Institution, in July 2011, on the topic of Chinese rare books. She has been able to assist both the Spencer Art Reference Library and the Museum's Asian Department with reviews of their respective special book collections.

As mentioned in an earlier edition, Jeffrey Weidman, Senior Librarian for Collection Development and Public Services, retired at the end of December 2011, after 14 years at the Nelson-Atkins. Jeffrey wrote more than 240 book reviews in ARLIS/NA and in *CHOICE*, the review publication from the ACRL. Other recent projects included the chapter on auction catalogs in *Art Museum Libraries and Librarianship*, edited by Joan Benedetti (2009), and the online project of Web Resources for American Art (Association of Historians of American Art (2009).

### *Library News*

We are working in partnership with the Linda Hall Library to complete implementation of a new ILS system ExLibris Voyager-based, including the PRIMO discovery system. The first phase, the classic library catalog was launched at the Nelson-Atkins on 12/21/2011 < <http://librarycatalog.nelson-atkins.org> >. The new discovery system with access to the electronic resources will provide single-search capability, and a mobile application is expected to be launched at the Nelson-Atkins in July 2012. This project has taken three years, with the first year spent on system selection and data upgrades. The previous ILS was SirsiDynix Horizon-based, and in operation for 18 years by both institutions.

In April 2011, a museum press release announced the special acquisition of the Barcelona Haggadah facsimile edition, donated to the library through the generosity of donors Sybil and Norman Kahn in memory of Thomas Leavitt, former president of the Society of Fellows of the Museum. The edition has been used for library instruction and presentations the Medieval

Spanish Jewish history from the 14<sup>th</sup>-century and the graphic tradition expressed in Haggadot up to the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century (Arthur Szyk).

As part of the OCLC Research Partnership national initiative to bring to light “hidden” assets, we cataloged the 95 distinct collections in the Museum’s Archives, a unit of Library Services. Collection-level records are in OCLC and our local ILS, from work done by Holly Wright, Museum Archivist, and Katharine Reed, Senior Catalog Librarian, on this project.

June 2012 marks the fifth year since the Nelson-Atkins Museum opened to great acclaim the Steven Holl-designed Bloch Building and the renovation of the Nelson-Atkins Building. If you are in Kansas City this summer to see the wonderful new exhibitions, *Inventing the Modern World: Decorative Arts at the World’s Fairs, 1851-1939* and *Timothy O’Sullivan: The King Survey Photographs*, please come and visit us in the Spencer Art Reference Library.

—*Kansas City Art Institute*

**M. J. Poehler**, Kansas City Art Institute, reports that the Jannes Library has had a busy year with new projects. Moodle Implementation: Library staff members became the primary resource for students and faculty in the campus implementation of Moodle, a course management system (aka virtual learning environment). Library staff happily developed new skills in the arena of instructional technology and have enjoyed working with KCAI's Campus Technology staff members on this. Under consideration: Creating an online course, to be hosted on the Moodle platform, to introduce Jannes Library to our students.

WRAP-KC: Jannes Library staff members worked collaboratively with Kansas City's public art administrator, Porter Arneill, and a consultant from Forecast Public Art (based in St. Paul, MN; <http://forecastpublicart.org/>) on a pilot project to catalog Web Resources for Art in Public (WRAP). Through funding from a local arts supporter, the project employed an art historian to aggregate and catalog digital data on over one hundred public art projects in KC: both permanent and temporary installations, as well as performance pieces, festivals and events, and related policies and critical analyses. As a pilot project, the database is not publicly available at this time. Our hope is to develop the database further and to find a robust and reliable site for public use.

Silk Worms: Jannes Library was home this past semester to about 500 silk worms. The sericulture was a project of KCAI's Fiber History and Properties class. The library was able to provide a warm and quiet environment for the squirming masses, while fiber students and instructor Erin Dahl provided the TLC and frequent feedings required to raise the worms from the size of a 12-point hyphen through to 3-inch worms and on to cocoon production. It has been one of the more interesting displays featured by Jannes Library, ever. Very little silk is actually produced by such a small (relatively speaking) number of silk worms; the point was to familiarize students with the process of silk production.



*A KCAI Fiber Instructor cleans the home of the silk worms.*

Lastly, congratulations to Amelia Nelson, Cataloging and Digital Services Librarian, who recently received news of winning a \$1500 travel award from ARTstor. Her winning essay, "Silk Worms in the Library", will soon be posted on the ARTstor blog at <http://artstor.wordpress.com/>. And still more congratulations for Amelia: Happy for her, sad for us, as Amelia leaves us next month to join the staff of Spencer Art Reference Library at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Amelia has been a great asset to Jannes Library and is sure to flourish in her new position.

The open position is currently advertised on KCAI's website.

—*St. Louis Public Library*

**Suzy Frechette**, St. Louis Public Library, announces that the two-year (plus) restoration and reconstruction of the Central Library will be completed late this Fall. Several previews and donor parties are planned for November, including a black-tie gala. The grand re-opening celebration will be Sunday, December 9, with the library opening for business the next day. Starting in July, the collections that have been stored and worked on at a large warehouse will gradually be moved back into the building, as each area is ready for occupancy. Photographic updates of the work are available at: <http://central.slpl.org/tour/renewal-underway/>

## **OKLAHOMA**

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—*Philbrook Museum of Art*

**Tom Young**, Philbrook Museum of Art, Tulsa is curating an exhibition, "Gladiator of the Political Pencil": Thomas Nast – Political Cartoonist", which will be on display at the museum, July 22 – Nov. 4, 2012. The exhibition is drawn primarily from eighty-three Nast items in the museum's permanent collection. It will include original drawings as well as finished printed material from Harper's Weekly, etc. Through his caricatures Nast had a profound influence on the people and events of his time. Some of his images that continue to resonate today are Uncle

Sam, Santa Claus, Columbia, Tammany Ring Tiger, the Republican Elephant and the Democratic Donkey.

In addition, the Philbrook will be celebrating its 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary beginning Fall 2013. As part of this celebration, a project to scan and digitize photographs from the museum's archives will begin.

—*Oklahoma State University*

**Susan Bobo**, Oklahoma State University, provided research and editorial assistance for the early drafts of a forthcoming book, *How Architects Write*. The book, authored by OSU colleagues Dr. Tom Spector and Dr. Rebecca Damron, will be published by Routledge Press in August 2012.

In March 2012, Professor Bobo coordinated the program, *Library Redesign on a Dime*, at the 105<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Oklahoma Library Association. Ms. Denelle Wrightson, Director of Library Architecture for PSA Dewberry, shared case studies and examples of how to update, renovate and re-image all types of libraries on a limited budget.

At the Spring 2012 Dean's Excellence Awards, Professor Bobo was surprised and delighted to receive Honorable Mention for notable achievement as a member of the OSU Library Faculty.

