



**ARLIS-NA/CP Wraps up 2009
with Fall Meeting and Officer Elections**

ARLIS/CP Fall Meeting: “The American Experience in Libraries, Archives & Museums”

The Chapter held its Fall 2009 meeting in Kansas City from October 22 –24. The meeting was superbly organized and hosted by Marilyn Carbonell of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art and M. J. Poehler of the Kansas City Art Institute. On the evening of the 22nd, the group attended an evening lecture at the Nelson-Atkins by Curator Catherine L. Futter, Decorative Arts, and Conservator Joe Rogers. They discussed and showed images of the recently completed restoration of the Hall of the Robert Hooper House, one of the museum’s most beautiful period rooms. The traditional Thursday night get-reacquainted dinner was then held, at Café Trio.

On Friday the business meeting was held in the Spencer Art Reference Library at the Nelson-Atkins. For details, see the official minutes elsewhere on the website. A real treat was next: the group was taken into the depths of the museum to a secure viewing room, where Jeffrey Weidman, Senior Librarian, awaited with the gorgeous sculpture “The Dying Centaur” by William Rimmer. Jeffrey, who had written his dissertation on Rimmer, shared with us his great expertise and enthusiasm about both the artist and the sculpture. After lunch at the museum’s Rozelle Court and some free time, we reconvened at the Central Plains Regional National Archives building in the Union Station district. A renovated freight storage facility that has been impressively adapted for this purpose, it houses historic documents and records from seven Midwest states, a research library, two exhibition spaces, a small gift shop, and more. Our host was Kimberlee Reid, who was also the sitting President of the Missouri Library Association at the time. Our superb dinner that night was just a couple of blocks away at Lidia’s, of “Lidia’s Italy” PBS television fame.

On Saturday a smaller number of members met at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, where a knowledgeable docent led a tour of two exhibits, one on contemporary photography, and one on the Wyeth family. An even smaller group had lunch at this museum’s restaurant before the group dispersed to head home.

Officer Election

The chapter extends its congratulations to **Skye Lacerte**, who has been elected to the office of Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. Skye joined Washington University Libraries in October 2008 as the first full-time curator of the Modern Graphic History Library (MGHL). This new unit of Special Collections acquires and preserves the works of modern illustrators and artists, including sketches and finished artwork from books, magazines, advertising, graphic novels, comics, and other sources. Skye previously worked at the Museum of Contemporary Art in Los Angeles. She

earned an M.L.I.S. degree, Archival Studies Track, from San Jose State University and a B.A. in Art History from the University of California, Irvine.

Special Project Report by Jeffrey Weidman, Senior Librarian, Spencer Art Reference Library, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kansas City, Missouri

About a year and a half ago, the Head of Library Services at the Spencer Art Reference Library, Marilyn Carbonell, apprised me of an opportunity for the Library to support the new installation of the American Art galleries, to be opened in April 2009. I was given the assignment of creating a file of websites, based loosely upon a series of subjects supplied by the American Art Department and also upon the URLs I had compiled in various subject categories, such as “American Art” and “American Literature” and “American Music,” with these being but a few of the 320+ categories I had created by which to organize over 14,000 URLs that comprised the Bookmarks File I had been compiling on my office PC since 1998, making available on the Library’s Reference-Area PCs through a series of regular updates, as well as regularly distributing these updates as WORD files sent via e-mail attachments to an international group of art librarians, art historians, other scholars, and friends.

Coincidentally as this work progressed, I was contacted by several members of the Executive Board of the Association of Historians of American Art (AHAA), who had simultaneously begun planning to significantly revise its website. Not only because I was a member of AHAA, but primarily because my Bookmarks File work, as well as my other scholarship, was known to these AHAA members, I was contacted to participate in this website revision.

As it turned out, the project as originally planned for our Museum developed into something else for the future, and so I turned all my energies into the single AHAA project. The newly-revised AHAA website went live in November 2009, and my contribution, which the AHAA decided to name “Web Resources for American Art Founded by Jeffrey Weidman,” is found in the “Research Links” section of the “Resources” option at the AHAA website, <http://www.ahaonline.org>.

Two paragraphs explain and detail “Acknowledgements” and “Organization”, and the “Table of Contents” gives the main- and sub-divisions used to organize the more than 850 URLs, the titles of which are given in the document, rather than the URLs themselves. My original document listed both and included close to 1,300 URLs, but the AHAA website editors have utilized what all good editors do, and have made the submitted document better. The larger document includes more specificity of collection levels, all of which are accessible in the AHAA website document, by utilizing the uppermost level for an institution’s Collections, and thenceforward clicking on specific sub-collection links at the specific website.

The **main-** and sub-divisions are: **General Topics; Timelines; Artists and Artists’ Files:** General Artist Topics & Overviews; Specific Artists; **Collections: Museums, Galleries, Auction Houses, Historic Houses, and Libraries:** Collections: General Topics & Overviews; Commercial Galleries & Auction Houses; Museums, Galleries, and Libraries; **Artistic Media:** Decorative Arts; Photography; Architecture; **Genres:** Portraiture; **Historic Events:** General Historic Topics; States and Regions; Cities, Towns & Neighborhoods; Presidents of the United

States: General Topics & Overviews; Individual Presidents; Slavery; Civil War; Scientific Discoveries, Inventions, Scientists, and Inventors; Exploration & Travel; The West; Women in America; African-Americans; Native Americans/American Indians/Mesoamericans; **Literature, Visual, and Popular Culture:** Literature; Popular Culture; Broad sides & Other Ephemera; Sheet Music; Music: Other.

An especially powerful feature that has been added to this resource by the AHAA website staff is Keyword Searching, which brings up not only relevant material within a particular section or sub-section, but throughout the entire document!

MEMBER NEWS

KANSAS

——— *Wichita Art Museum* ———

Joyce Norris has taken on the position of part-time librarian at the Wichita Art Museum. She was formerly a high school librarian in Wichita and has taken course work in archives at Emporia State University. She also serves as a docent at the museum. She attended her first Central Plains meeting in Kansas City in October.

——— *University of Kansas* ———

In August 2009, **Susan Craig** completed the revised & updated version of the *Biographical Dictionary of Kansas Artists (active before 1945)*. The new version, like the one from 2006, is available free on the Internet through the KU digital repository at <http://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/dspace/handle/1808/1028>. The new version includes an additional 900 artists' entries as well as additional information about Kansas art museums, art organizations, and art schools. As was true for the first edition, Susan thanks all the librarians who preserved the archives and "grey literature" that was so important for this project and who helped her locate the needed information.

Susan Craig has "embraced" the LibGuides content management system that allows librarians to prepare path finders, subject guides, information portals, and course guides. She's posted several art and architecture guides online at <http://guides.lib.ku.edu/>. Some of the general introductions include Art Resources, Architecture Resources, Design Resources, Urban Planning Resources while more specialized topics include Crimes against Art: Theft & Repatriation Issues, East Asian Art Resources (in English), Researching Objects in the Spencer Museum of Art, The Business of Art: Markets, Auctions, Appraisals, Galleries, and The Display of Art: Exhibitions, Biennials, Salons.

The Art and Architecture Library at KU now has a new Express Scanning Station, funded by the KU Endowment Parents' Campaign. The Express Scanning Station is equipped with a Bookeye GS400 overhead scanner that has an easy-to-use touch screen interface. The scanner can produce color or black-and-white images of materials up to 17" x 24" and is ideal for scanning large or fragile items. Features include auto focus and book mode with auto book fold correction. Images

can be saved in a variety of digital formats including PDF and JPEG, and users have the option of emailing the scanned images to themselves or saving them to a USB flash drive. Use of the scanner is free, and a KU Online ID is not required.

——— *Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence* ———

Marilyn Russell reports that she hired a new Library Technician who began work at Haskell Indian Nations University Library in October. She expects a new full-time Librarian to start in January. The library has been without a Librarian for two years, so she is elated to have someone coming on board. She also hired a Tribal Library consultant in November to redesign the Library's web page. This project will be completed by January, 2010 so folks can find the library and its resources using the latest technology.

Marilyn has been traveling a great deal on ARLIS/NA-related business. She attended the CPAC (conference planning committee) meetings in Boston in August and the Mid Year Executive Board meetings in New York City in September. She joined the ARLIS/NA-sponsored "Art Study in Germany" tour in October. Twelve ARLIS/NA members toured libraries and museums in Berlin and Munich. She describes it as a spectacular trip.

On the personal side, she spent five days in Santa Fe, NM in November, just for fun, and her son Paul Russell, who lives in Seattle, is coming for a visit to Lawrence, KS in December.

MISSOURI

——— *Kansas City Art Institute* ———

M. J. Poehler announces that beginning in January 2010, the Kansas City Art Institute will celebrate its 125th Anniversary. The theme for the anniversary is "Honoring the Past, Creating the Future." There will be a yearlong celebration that begins with a Gala event February 20th at the Grand Ballroom of the Kansas City Convention Center featuring alumnus Nick Cave ('82 Fiber). Throughout the year area art museums and galleries will host exhibitions of work by KCAI graduates and faculty, and on October 8th the college will host an alumni reunion, symposium and old-fashioned birthday party. In addition, Jenni McSpadden and M. J. Poehler will be contributing historical tidbits, alumni memories and information on anniversary celebration events in a "Birthday Blog" which will appear in January 2010, at www.kcai.edu.

——— *Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art* ———

Marilyn Carbonell conducted a program for the Midwest Art History Society Annual Conference co-sponsored by the University of Missouri-Kansas City and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (April 3, 2009). The session, "Through a Glass Brightly: Library Collections & Art Research," was a roundtable discussion held at the Museum with graduate students, local art history faculty, and librarians featuring new approaches for art libraries supporting art historical research. Kasia Leousis, Subject Librarian for Art & Architecture Librarian, Washington University, presented a paper on integrating rare materials from Special Collections into library instruction for undergraduate art history classes. Attendees included chapter members Mari Russell, Haskell University, and M.J. Poehler, Kansas City Art Institute.

Beata Owczarski joined the staff of the Spencer Art Reference Library in September 2009 as a Catalog/Reference Librarian. She is a graduate of the School of Library and Information Science at Wayne State University, Detroit, Michigan. Previously she was Information Resource Cataloging and Conservation Specialist at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, at the Hatcher Graduate Library, where she catalogued materials in several foreign languages. Most recently, she worked as Technical Services Librarian at the Research Library and Archives, Detroit Institute of Arts. She attended her first ARLIS/CP Chapter meeting in October 2009 in Kansas City.

——— *St. Louis Art Museum* ——

Marianne Cavanaugh and **Clare Vasquez** report that the remaining library staff survived a round of layoffs in June, and that the museum is breaking ground on its postponed new wing in mid-January, 2010. Please note that during construction, the library will only be open to the public by appointment on Thursdays, between 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. The new hours and procedures will be in the next museum news magazine and should be posted on its website.

Marianne and Clare together taught a workshop, “The Art of Researching Art”, a two-session workshop on October 17 and 24. There were 12 registrants, researching a diverse array of works of art that they owned, wanted to acquire, or just liked—everything from contemporary painting of India to medieval cradles.

——— *St. Louis Public Library* ——

Suzy Frechette has created a blog for the Fine Arts Department. Although not updated frequently, it serves as a source for information that is not found on the library’s website, such as what can be found in the department and what the Steedman collection is all about. Find it at: <http://slplar.blogspot.com/>.

OKLAHOMA

——— *Philbrook Art Museum, Tulsa* ——

Tom Young announces that he is finally replacing the print edition of *Art Index* with the online version starting this January. He wishes he could afford to add ART Retrospective as well.

Tom organized two exhibitions for the museum’s Works on Paper Gallery: “The Color Woodcuts of Gustave Baumann” (June 21 – Oct. 11, 2009) and “Northern Renaissance Prints from the Permanent Collection” (Oct. 18, 2009 – Jan. 10, 2010).

The museum is also in the process of cataloguing and digitizing several collections of photographs in the library’s special collections. Much of this work is being done by volunteers. There are over 700 photographs, primarily images of Native Americans, including some photographs of Native American artists. At this time about 90 % of these collections have been catalogued and digitized. The next step will be to go through the Native American artist files

and pull any photographs of the artists and process them as well. They have also been cataloguing the Native American artist files, adding the records to OCLC and to the museum's on-line catalogue. This project is approximately 2/3 completed. They are also just beginning to catalogue the Oklahoma artist files and adding those records to OCLC and the on-line catalogue.

Tom recently received a small gift of 21 books, dating between 1497 and 1823, illustrated with original engravings, etchings and woodblock prints. They are a gift from Kathryn Burke from the library of her sister and brother-in-law, Charles & Marion Weber. These books are part of a larger collection that Charles Weber assembled with the intent of owning a book published in each decade since the invention of the printing press. The earliest work in the gift is a copy of Sebastian Brant's well-known work *Stutifera nauis* (Ship of Fools), dated 1497. The *Ship of Fools* was originally published in German in 1494, and this is a later Latin edition, published by Johann Bergmann de Olpe in Basel in 1497. Part of the reason for adding these to the library is to provide a connection with the museum's print collection. Here one sees the print in its original form, and connects with the prints in the permanent collection that were originally produced as an illustration for a book. Many of these same books were part of an exhibition, "The Illustrated Book," held at the museum in 2008.

——— *Oklahoma State University, Stillwater* ———

After more than three years of planning and two years in a temporary facility, the Cunningham Architecture Library at Oklahoma State University, moved into its new home in the Donald W. Reynolds School of Architecture Building in time for fall term. The building design features an open plan with mechanical systems left exposed for teaching purposes. This concept is carried over into the library as well. The new library is in a highly visible location overlooking a Zen-like courtyard at the front of the building. It is furnished with reproductions of iconic designs from 20th century masters.

Susan Bobo, Architecture Librarian, says of the sometimes-arduous process, "It was worth it. The design team created an airy, light-filled, serene space, conducive to study and reflection."

Along with the new library, there are new services. The Writing Studio, a satellite of the OSU Writing Center, is now open in the Cunningham Architecture Library. The Writing Studio is staffed by graduate students from the English Department trained as writing tutors and provides help to any OSU student with a writing project.

Contact information and images of the new library are available at: <http://www.library.okstate.edu/arch/index.htm>