

THE MEDIUM

AN AGENT THROUGH WHICH ACTION TAKES PLACE

January, 1974

Quarterly

Vol. 1, No. 1

This is the first newsletter of the Art Library Society/North America - Texas Chapter. As a new publication its form will follow the material we have to print. Future issues will reflect the form and content ARLIS/Texas members give to it. We begin with humility and we strive for significance -- your opinions and ideas are always considered.

The Organizational Meeting of ARLIS/Texas

Minutes of that meeting, September 15, 1973, held at Kimbell Art Museum - Library, Ft. Worth, Texas.

Following an informal coffee, the meeting was called to order by Ilse Rothrock, Librarian at the Kimbell Museum. After making preliminary announcements concerning the agenda, Mrs. Rothrock introduced the key speaker and founder of ARLIS/NA, Judith A. Hoffberg of the Brand Library in Glendale, Calif. Among the professional experiences of Ms. Hoffberg cited were her associations with the Library of Congress, the Library of Bologna, and the Library of the University of Pennsylvania.

Ms. Hoffberg gave a history of the founding of ARLIS/NA and discussed the current status and activities of the organization. Among the facts presented were: there are 302 members; a bi-monthly newsletter is published which is edited by Ms. Hoffberg; there is a Handbook Committee to make a manual for art librarians; a directory of art librarians will be published which will include information from a questionnaire concerning budgets, salaries, positions, etc.

Ms. Hoffberg discussed certain questions about which she wanted group opinion. The first of these items was the Art Librarians Chapter of the College Art Association which is to meet in Detroit in January. She asked whether this group preferred tapes to document the meeting, a verbatim transcript, or a summary transcript. Our group decided on a summary transcript. She then gave a detailed summary of the business and social activities planned for the meeting. Ms. Hoffberg then discussed such points as the Art Publishing Award, open vs. closed stacks, the worst book award, the publishing of a "Who's Not Who in Art"... a standards committee for art libraries, the Inter

Documentation Co. (Switzerland) which copies books on micro fiche, and her desire to start a loan collection of brochures. She also discussed the idea of a Union List of Periodicals, a project which is already actively underway by North Texas art librarians.

Each member of the group introduced him or herself, told his position and institution, and mentioned some of his interests.

Following a break during which visitors viewed the Kimbell collection and the Russian exhibition, the Texas Chapter moved to the Amon Carter Museum Library and, after box lunches, resumed the meeting which was called to order at 2 P.M. The Nominating Committee presented the slate of officers which was passed unanimously by the membership: President: Shelby Miller, Art Librarian, Rice University, Houston; Vice-President: James W. Galloway, Asst. Librarian, Bishop College, Dallas; Secretary-Treasurer: Rebekah Connally, Slide Librarian, Kimbell Art Museum, Ft. Worth.

Shelby Miller then presided over the meeting. She directed our attention to the steps necessary to become an official chapter of ARLIS/NA. First, the constitution was read and ratified. Article VI, "Meetings," received the most discussion. Ms. Hoffberg felt that any state chapter of ARLIS/NA should meet more than once a year. Members said the size of the state made it difficult to have frequent meetings and that it would be desirable to subdivide the state into smaller areas for more frequent meetings. A change was entered in section B of Article VI to read: "B. A meeting shall be held at least once a year." Then a motion was made and seconded as to the acceptance of the constitution. This passed unanimously. The final step in becoming a legitimate chapter of ARLIS was a formal written request then submitted, along with the altered constitution, by the Secretary-Treasurer to Ms. Hoffberg.

The next item of business was the place and time the next meeting should be held. Ilse Rothrock proposed we meet either before or after the Texas Library Association in San Antonio, March 26-31, 1974. The group agreed to have the meeting on the following weekend, pending further announcements. It was decided that James Galloway, as Vice-President would be responsible for sending out a newsletter to keep the Texas Chapter informed of activities and changes in plans. The cost of printing and postage would be covered by donations. The contributions received totaled nineteen dollars.

The final item for discussion was the various projects of the Texas Chapter. Among the projects discussed were such items as: how to handle duplicate periodicals, the problem of indexing exhibition catalogues, and the project already underway, the Union List of Art Periodicals in Texas. After some discussion, it was agreed that a state-wide project was not feasible at this time. Rather, smaller areas should proceed with local union lists

which could be unified later. Ilse Rothrock handed out copies of a master list of art periodicals with instructions for reporting holdings. Another project mentioned by Ms. Hoffberg was the collection of non-book materials, such as exhibition announcements. She pointed out these materials may contain information which is not published elsewhere.

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted, Rebekah Connally, Secretary-Treasurer.

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Mrs. Rothrock has suggested that a valuable answering service might be started on a cooperative basis by our membership. She suggested a form be given in an issue of The Medium which could be used to send in requests for information from other members. The initial form could be copied by each individual so that enough copies would be on hand to satisfy a number of requests. Since the members who attended the Ft. Worth meeting seemed to feel that this form might be a useful service, the form is shown below.

An ARLIS/Texas Request

Date: _____

Dear _____:

Please supply any information you may have on the following question:

With appreciation,

At our first meeting Ms. Hoffberg indicated that one area of general interest to most ARLIS members was the need for re-evaluation of the curriculum offered in library schools for future art librarians. Dean Dewey Carroll of the North Texas State University School of Library and Information Science has expressed an interest in this subject also, and he would be interested in our opinions as practicing librarians. Your cooperation in responding to this questionnaire is requested. This is your opportunity to express your opinions knowing at least one administrator is interested. Please mail your completed questionnaire to Jim Galloway, 1610 Village East, Apt. 102, Denton, Texas 76201.

ACADEMIC PREPARATION: UNDERGRADUATE

1. Was your undergraduate degree in art?

Yes ___ Major in art ___
 No ___ Minor in art ___

2. If your undergraduate degree was not in art, did you take art related courses?

Yes ___ No ___
 Please indicate the nature of these courses.

3. Did the art courses taken at the undergraduate level provide information which has been helpful to you in your current position?

Yes ___ Limited ___ No ___

4. Were there any art courses offered at this level that you now wish you had taken?

Please specify and describe the course(s):

ACADEMIC PREPARATION: GRADUATE

1. Do you have a subject field degree in art in addition to your library degree?

Yes ___ If yes, what was the emphasis in your
 No ___ degree?

2. If you do not have a subject degree, have you taken advanced courses in art or related areas?

Yes ___ If yes, please explain their usefulness:
 No ___

3. If you are taking any courses, or have taken courses in the past, was the initial purpose an advanced level subject degree?

Yes ___

No ___

4. If you have a degree in art, what courses have helped you most in your current library position? Please elaborate.

ADVANCED LIBRARY EDUCATION: GRADUATE

1. Which advanced library courses have provided the most help in your current librarian's position?

2. What specific type of information was not presented during your library course work that you feel should be included for anyone holding your position?

3. What specific courses do you think should be offered to future art librarians that may not be taught at the present time?

4. Would you prefer that these courses be taught in the library science department or the art department(s)?

Why? Art ___

Library Science ___

RELATED STUDY

1. What routine work habits did you have to learn about your job that were not mentioned in either your library or art education?

2. What unique educational objectives have you pursued on your own to help you function more effectively in your position?

3. What single educational experience has given you the greatest expertise for handling your job, whether formally taught or learned through some other source?

Please give brief details:

4. How important are foreign languages to your present position?

Very important ___
Moderately important ___
Some what important ___
Rarely used ___

5. What skill(s) must someone absolutely have in order to function in your position?

6. How important would courses in accounting, administration, law, preservation of specific materials, material evaluation, equipment designed for specific uses, etc., be to you?

Indicate which would be useful and why:

7. In reviewing your present job routines, what specific area(s) did your formal education fail to prepare you for?

In December, 1973, ARLIS/NA Newsletter, two new art bibliography tools were discussed: RILA (Répertoire International de la Littérature de l'Art) and ABM (ARTbibliographies MODERN).

Dr. Lois Jones submitted several questions to THE MEDIUM with regard to these new publications. Please send your responses to THE MEDIUM so that we may pass them along to our readers.

First, does anyone own, or plan to purchase, one or both of these items? If you already own one or both of these items, what is your opinion of their worth or usefulness to your library? Should each and every art library have a copy, or would one copy in a region suffice?

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From those persons who attend the ARLIS/NA Detroit meeting this month, may we have your observations, opinions, tall stories, and anything else you consider significant for publication in the next issue of THE MEDIUM.

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Houston has a new \$4 million art gallery, the Brown Pavilion, which completes the master plan of the Houston Museum of Fine Arts. Designer/architect Mies Van Der Rohe once wrote, "The ideal museum is one large area, allowing complete flexibility." The upper gallery is 25,000 square feet (300 ft. long, 83 ft. wide, and 20 ft. high). Three of the four walls are glass panels allowing plenty of natural light to illuminate the art works on exhibit. Opening Jan. 15th, the inaugural exhibit is "The Great Decade of American Abstraction: Modernist Art, 1960-1970." The exhibit includes the paintings of: Mark Rothko, Larry Poons, Frank Stella, Morris Lewis, Helen Frankenthaler, Barnett Newman, among others and sculptural selections by Anthony Caro and David Smith.

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If you have art news of special interest, brief articles of interest to our group, requests for information or ideas from all our membership, or other announcements, please forward them to:

James W. Galloway, Editor
THE MEDIUM
1610 Village East, Apt. 102
Denton, Texas 76201

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"Art is a human activity having for its purpose the transmission to others of the highest and best feelings to which men have risen." -- What Is Art? (1898) Tolstoi.

Application for Membership--Art Libraries Society/Texas

Name _____

Position _____

Library _____

Address _____

Zip _____

Phone _____

Is this your home _____ or library _____ address and phone number?

I am hereby applying for membership in ARLIS/TEXAS.

Signature**Please mail to:****Ms. Rebekah Connally
Slide Librarian
Kimbell Art Museum
Will Rogers Road West
Fort Worth, Texas 76107**

ARLIS/NORTH AMERICA*application for membership*

I hereby apply for membership in the Art Libraries Society/North America (ARLIS/NA) in one of the following categories:

- INSTITUTIONAL MEMBER \$25.00 per year
- PERSONAL MEMBER 15.00 per year
- STUDENT MEMBER 5.00 per year
(Please submit student certification from your institution.)

The membership year of the Society runs from January 1 to December 31. Subscriptions to the Newsletter generally begin with the current volume of the year in which the active membership begins.

NAME *(please print and indicate Miss, Mrs., Ms. or Mr.)*

ADDRESS *(please indicate St., Ave., Rd., etc., and include Zip Code)*

_____ Date _____

Please make checks payable to ARLIS/NA and send with this application to:

ARLIS/NORTH AMERICA

**P. O. BOX 3692
GLENDALE, CA. 91201**

Linda J. Nelson
Librarian of the Arts, Houston
1001 Folsom
Houston, Texas 77005

EISENHOWER-USA



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