



THE MEDIUM

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS CHAPTER

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Margaret Culbertson, Editor
University of Houston Libraries

SPRING MEETING IN FORT WORTH

The Texas Conference of Art Historians, to be held in Fort Worth on April 3 & 4, will provide an opportunity for members of the ARLIS/NA Texas Chapter to get together and catch up on news and activities. The tentative schedule for the conference follows below. The important time to note is 12:30 - 2:00 p.m., which we have claimed for the ARLIS get-together with box lunches. The group will meet at 12:30, next to the bookstore in the Kimbell Museum. The box lunches are provided as part of the conference registration. If you're not planning to attend the conference, bring your own brown bag or box lunch and join in the fun with ARLIS anyway. If you haven't received information about the Texas Conference of Art Historians, registration is \$20 for Friday and Saturday, including dinner on Friday and lunch on Saturday, or \$10 for Saturday only, including the box lunch. The student rate is \$15 for Friday and Saturday or \$5 for Saturday only. The deadline for pre-registration is March 20, so if you haven't registered already, plan to register at the conference.

TEXAS CONFERENCE OF ART HISTORIANS - Tentative Schedule

Friday, April 3

Fort Worth Art Museum

3:00 - 6:30 p.m.

5:00 - 6:30 p.m.

Kimbell Art Museum

7:00 p.m.

8:00 p.m.

Registration
Cocktails (Cash Bar)

Buffet Supper
Address by Edmund Pillsbury, Director
Kimbell Art Museum

Saturday, April 4

Kimbell Art Museum Auditorium

9:00-10:30 a.m.

10:30 - 11:00 a.m.

11:00 - 12:30 p.m.

12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

Amon Carter Museum Theater

2:00 - 3:30 p.m.

4:00 - 5:30 p.m.

Art History Resources in Fort Worth
Coffee
Special Session: The Influence of Exhibitions
on Art History
Box Lunch - ARLIS members meet by the bookstore

First General Session
Second General Session

MINUTES OF THE FALL MEETING

The annual chapter meeting of ARLIS/TEXAS took place in Houston on Saturday, October 4, 1980, in the Special Collections Department of the University of Houston Library. Sixteen members and prospective members attended.

Chairman Kay Krochman called the meeting to order and introduced the special guest speaker, Caroline Backlund, Head of Reader Services at the National Gallery Study Center Library, Washington, D.C. Mrs. Backlund first gave an overview of Washington area art libraries, pointing out the strengths and limits of various collections, user policies, and unique holdings, then talked about her "own" library. The major libraries are making an effort to encourage cooperation and eliminate duplication by formulating and circulating detailed acquisition policies.

The National Gallery Library started with a collection of books from several families (Kress, Mellon, etc.) who had been major donors to the Gallery. The collection, a Western European and American art resource, now numbers some 80,000 volumes, with a goal of 3000,000. Retrospective buying has been extensive, and has been accomplished in part by buying large private libraries and existing collections as they have become available. The library joined OCLC several years ago when that data base seemed favorable, but could switch to RLIN in the future, following the major art libraries of the U.S.

Mrs. Backlund discussed various publications -- both very expensive and very widely available -- in the context of value and usability to art libraries. Currently, microforms are seldom used at the National Gallery.

Of considerable importance is the library internship program at the National Gallery. There are 4 openings each year, which require background in the Fine Arts and a specified number of credit hours in Library Science. A circular goes to accredited Library Schools and Art History Departments, but the University of Michigan has supplied more applicants than any other.

After a brief intermission, the Chairman called the business meeting to order. the Nominating Committee presented the following slate:

Chairman: Nancy Schuller
Vice Chairman/
Chairman Elect: Margaret Culbertson
Secretary/Treasurer: Charlotte Olin.

Lois Jones moved that the slate be accepted, the motion was seconded, and carried.

The major item on the agenda was how to fund the chapter operation. The Chairman noted that ARLIS/NA funding could not be expected to continue, and that all other state or regional groups appear to collect local dues. There seems to be no alternative to a chapter dues/newsletter subscription fee. Accordingly, Carole Cable made the motion that there be a charge of \$5.00 per year per member for chapter dues and newsletter subscription. The motion was duly seconded and carried. The Spring newsletter, to be published soon after the national meeting in San Francisco, will announce the dues and include a form for payment.

The next annual meeting will be held in San Antonio in the Fall of 1981. The incoming chairman will contact Mr. Helmut Naumer (San Antonio Museum Association) and/or the McNay Museum for support and local arrangements.

Members' attention was drawn to the annual Texas Conference of Art Historians, which is held in early April. The meeting is one of considerable interest to art librarians, and should draw greater participation from ARLIS ranks.

As and when openings in the field of art librarianship occur in our region, we could well serve as sources for recommendations for these posts.

After a break for lunch, Margaret Culbertson introduced the program on Houston resources. The first speaker was Dr. Tom Kreneck of the Houston Metropolitan Research Center. The Center has been a part of the Houston Public Library since 1976. It collects all kinds of material relating to Houston history -- books, papers, maps, diaries, photographs, etc. Existing collections are actively sought and gathered, processed to retrievable order, labelled and stored in acid-free boxes, with finding guides for each collection. The architectural collection holds plans and drawings of "historically significant buildings," drawings of landscape architects, and the archives of several prominent architects. The Center is a regional historical archive depository division of the Texas State Library.

Ms. Terrell James followed, and told of the work of the Archives of American Art, of which Houston is the 6th and newest branch. The Archives was started in Detroit in 1954 by E.P. Richardson at the Detroit Institute of Arts. Currently there are 8 million+ items on film, photographs, letters, documents, writings of artists, beginning in the 18th century. Here, too, collections are actively sought as gifts or loans. Usage is mainly through interlibrary loan of the microfilms made of accessioned items.

Margaret Culbertson told of the University of Houston Library resources. The first library building was constructed in 1951, has since acquired two wings, and has passed the "millionth book milestone." The Special Collections Department holds a Texana collection of special publishers and books by Carl Herzog, Tom Lea, and Jose Cisneros, as well as the personal library of Houston architect Kenneth Franzheim. To complement the latter, the University of Houston purchased the Liverpool Architectural Society Library when it became available.

Nancy Schuller, the incoming Chairman, thanked Kay Krochman for her years of interest in and contributions to the success of ARLIS/TEXAS. She thanked Margaret Culbertson and her Houston colleagues for their work which made this meeting one of the most successful ever held.

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte D. Olin
Secretary

POSITION ANNOUNCEMENT

Position Title: Head Librarian, Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth
Qualifications: Masters in Library Science or Art History, three years administrative experience, strong reading knowledge in three languages, including French and German, cataloging and supervisory experience.
Salary: \$20,000, 4 weeks vacation
Contact: David M. Robb, Chief Curator
Kimbell Museum of Art
P.O. Box 9440
Fort Worth, Texas 76107

SAN ANTONIO AT LAST

After years of wishful suggestions for an ARLIS/NA Texas Chapter meeting in San Antonio, definite action is being taken. Nancy Schuller has forged ahead with the planning and has contacted several San Antonio art librarians in the process. They have been very receptive to the idea of the meeting and generous in their planning assistance. The meeting will be held on the 10th of October, 1981, at the McNay Art Institute. Tentative plans include a tour of the McNay and a talk by Mrs. John P. Leeper, Librarian of the McNay. In the afternoon, there will be a special tour of the new San Antonio Art Museum, housed in the freshly renovated Lone Star Brewery. The architectural adaptation from brewery to museum was designed by Richard Tuve of the Cambridge Seven, so the building alone should be worth the visit. (See p. 74 of the February issue of Texas Monthly for more details about the new museum.)

This will undoubtedly be a special meeting, so plan to be with us as we break with tradition and gather in San Antonio on October 10.

MEMO FROM LOIS JONES

Regarding: ARLIS/TEXAS assisting the University of Texas at Austin become the outstanding art library in the midwest.

I cannot overemphasize the importance of creating a quality art library within the state of Texas. Because of its central location and because of the cooperative efforts of the Texas art librarians, the University of Texas at Austin is an ideal location.

Recently, Texas has moved forward to a major role in the art scene. The list of excellent and famous exhibitions, such as the Fauve and Pompeii shows, are too numerous to list. The new museums, as well as the additions to existing buildings have brought the works of such famous international architects as Louis Kahn, Philip Johnson, and Mies van der Rohe to Texas. Moreover, Houston has become a financial art center due to the branch of the New York auction house, Sotheby Park Bernet.

If Texans are serious about creating a climate which encourages the arts, steps need to be taken to create and develop the basic, and most important, aspect for encouraging scholars to come to this region--a research library. I believe that a supporting letter from the members of ARLIS/TEXAS would have great impact. I would like to propose at the spring meeting that we compose such a letter. I would also like to suggest that we also assist the University of Texas librarians in compiling a buying list. As you can see from the following list, the U.T. librarians recently requested some expensive items. Items to be acquired by the Fine Arts Library of the University of Texas at Austin include the following microfiche publications: Marburger Index, Index of American Design, Photographic Index of Art in France, Chadwyck-Healey Collection of Art Exhibition Catalogs, Photographic Archive of Ancient Roman Architecture, Victoria and Albert Collections, Bodleian Library Illuminated Medieval Manuscripts, Christie's Pictorial Archive, Photographic Record of the Wallace Collection, Index Iconologicus, Fratelli Alinari Photographic Archive, Dunlap Society's Visual Archives of American Art, and the Chicago Art Institute French Drawings. I would like to suggest that another area in which they could collect is that of art periodicals, developing complete runs, purchasing reprints and microfiche copies. Texas legislators understand bigness. I would like for us to think Texas style.

Lois Jones

IN MEMORY

Ilse S. Rothrock, librarian of the Kimbell Art Museum, Fort Worth, died January 24 after a long illness. She is survived by her husband, Walton H. Rothrock, professor of French at Texas Christian University.

Those of us who knew Ilse through ARLIS will surely miss her originality, strength, variety, and intelligence. Ilse was a charter member of ARLIS/NA. She developed the Kimbell Art Museum Library from its inception in 1967 to its current position as a major art reference library for the region. The collection grew from some 12,000 volumes by the time of the museum's opening in 1972 to more than 20,000 art reference books today.

Born in Riga, Latvia, Ilse was also a noted writer in her native language. She won the most prestigious award in Latvian letters, the literary prize of the Latvian American Association Culture Foundation, in 1971 for her novel, Non-Promised Lands (Neapsolitas Zemes). Earlier she had written two other novels in Latvian, in addition to short stories in English. She was elected to the Texas Institute of Letters in 1974.

Memorial gifts may be made to the American Cancer Society, the Community Hospice of St. Joseph, the TCU or Kimbell Libraries.

A memorial concert will be given at the Kimbell Art Museum in the spring.

ADVANCED STUDIES IN VISUAL RESOURCES

Chapter Chair Nancy Schuller, working with Susan Hoover, the Director of the UT Austin School of Architecture Reference Center, developed the program for Advanced Studies in Visual Resources: Production and Preservation of Color Slides and Transparencies, to be held at the University of Texas at Austin on March 27 and 28. This seminar will present an in-depth survey of the factors unique to color slides and transparencies that affect their production, use, and preservation. Registrants from as far away as Mexico and Italy will be attending the seminar.

NEWS OF MOBILE MEMBERS

Heather Goebel has left Baytown, Texas, for Fort Worth, in order to accept a position in the Art Department of the Fort Worth Public Library.

Charlotte Olin, Donna Rhein, Linda Nelson, Lois Jones, Heather Goebel, Carol Cable and Margaret Culbertson represented the Texas Chapter at the annual conference of ARLIS/NA in February. The programs were interesting, and everyone enjoyed the beauty of San Francisco.

STRAYING MEMBER RETURNS TO THE FOLD

Kay Krochman Marks, our most recent Chapter Chair, who bade us all a formal farewell at the Fall meeting in Houston, accepted the position of Art Librarian for Southern Methodist University in January. We are very glad to have her back in the profession and the Texas Chapter of ARLIS/NA.

CHAPTER DUES/NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION FEE

The decision to charge \$5.00 per year per member for chapter dues and newsletter subscription fee was made at the Fall meeting of the ARLIS/NA Texas Chapter, October 4, 1980. As recorded in the minutes, such a charge seems to be the only feasible method for funding chapter operation and future newsletters. Please complete the form below and send with a check for \$5.00 to Charlotte Olin before May 1, 1981.

(detach)

Enclosed is my \$5.00 chapter dues/newsletter subscription fee for the calendar year 1981.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip Code: _____

Return before May 1, 1981 to: Charlotte Olin
Secretary/Treasurer, ARLIS/Texas
Kimbell Art Museum
P.O. Box 9440
Fort Worth, Texas 76107