

MEMBER NEWS

► **The Hirsch Library at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston is Home to New Commission**

The Museum of Fine Arts, Houston has commissioned from Houston artist Matthew Sontheimer a site-specific installation entitled *Inside Out* for the museum's **Hirsch Library**. This commission continues the MFAH's long-standing commitment to works of art that can be integrated into the fabric of the institution. Sontheimer is known for creating exquisitely rendered drawings and murals based on fragments of text. At the museum's invitation, he created a wall drawing and corresponding screensaver for the library's Electronic Resources Room.

Sontheimer builds his drawings from an abstract alphabet that he has devised through the dissection of his father's signature into its component parts. Using this alphabet as a template, he then encodes a short message of his own choice, one generally based on a private experience, story, or insight. *Inside Out* was conceived with the demands of the library facility in mind, and after consulting with the museum staff, Sontheimer chose the following text as his point of departure: "Enter from a bound search to an open scroll."

► **Alexander Architectural Archive Continues to Provide Finding Aids on the Web**

The **Alexander Architectural Archive** (AAA), University of Texas at Austin will continue its efforts in providing their archival finding aids on the web by participating in the second round of the **Texas Archival Resources Online** (TARO) project. TARO is a project

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► **PRESIDENT'S COLUMN**

If you haven't already heard, the Austin crew of Laura Schwartz, Janine Henri, Elizabeth Schaub, and Beth Dodd put on a fantastic conference for our chapter this past October. Many of the events that took place during this weekend have been summarized by our members in reports below. They're worth a read to find out what you've been missing in Austin. I think there were more than a few revelations for many of us.



2002 Business Meeting

During the business meeting, we covered some important chapter issues, including recruitment, development, as well as progress on Mexican relations. Membership recruitment continues to be an issue of importance as we recognize that the future of this organization depends upon new members infusing the chapter with vitality and new ideas. Development is a concern of increasing interest as we review the possibilities for funding chapter causes

such as the Lois Swan Jones award and outreach to Mexican members. It is clear that we have reached a critical juncture in our efforts to attract members from south of the border. More than five years of work have laid a solid foundation for better communication with our counterparts in Mexico, though we have yet to see many enduring results. Consequently, the chapter has decided to pursue a more aggressive campaign by approaching the Society for support in this effort. We proposed the establishment of an ARLIS/NA Task Force devoted to Mexican relations, which our South Regional Representative will broach with the ARLIS/NA Executive Board this spring. If created, we anticipate that the task force will include members from our chapter to help guide its course.

I look forward to continuing the work that we have done thus far and to pursuing new challenges in the year ahead.

Thank you to our chapter officers for their ongoing work and commitment to the chapter, and congratulations to our incoming officers.

Have a safe and happy holiday.

Submitted by Jon Evans
Assistant Librarian, Cataloging & Reference
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

► **MESSAGE FROM THE SOUTH REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE OF ARLIS/NA**

of the Texas Digital Library Alliance. The TDLA includes Rice University, Texas A & M University, Texas Tech University, the Texas State Library and Archives, the University of Houston, and the University of Texas at Austin.

In the first round of TARO, the AAA produced 49 finding aids (3002 pages). These finding aids, as well as those of 8 other Texas repositories can be found by visiting the [TARO website](#).

In addition to TARO efforts, AAA staff has also provided links to the finding aids from the collections' MARC records found in the UT General Libraries online catalog. This summer's collections assessment project continued web related efforts resulting in an additional 33 provisional finding aids for unprocessed and partially processed collections. These finding aids were also added to the TARO site.

In all, 82 AAA finding aids now reside on the TARO site. Web access has already had an impact on public services. There has been an increase in international requests as well as a remarkable increase in use of more obscure collections. Although we expect an increase in public service requests, users now come to their appointments armed with a greater knowledge of our holdings as well as box numbers for ease in paging materials.

TARO2 promises additional finding aids, additional members of the TDLA, digital content, and a more robust search engine. As always, work continues on the TARO style sheet which rules how the finding aids are displayed on the site.

Submitted by Beth Dodd
Curator, Alexander Architectural
Archive

As most of you know, I became South Regional Representative when Paula Hardin was forced to step down because she moved out of the region. I took over responsibilities in April and since have been to Baltimore in June for the Conference Planning Advisory Committee meeting and to New York in August for the Mid-Year board meeting. A quick note about my status as South Regional Representative: I have been asked to fulfill a full two-year term, and have agreed to do so.

As many of you know, the [ARLIS/NA annual meeting](#) is March 20-26, 2003 at the Wyndham Baltimore Inner Harbor. The registration form is now available online. The hotel is lovely. It is in a terrific location, walking distance to the Inner Harbor as well as several neighborhoods and plenty of eateries. The hotel prices have gone up a bit, the room rates are set at the following: Single: \$153 / Double:\$163 / Triple:\$173 / Quad:\$193.

The special events should be terrific. Friday night is movie night. There will be three documentaries on Baltimore: Little Castles, The Screen Painters, and Divine Trash. Saturday before the Welcome Party, there will be an Elvis Lecture by Dr. Gary Vikan. The convocation will be at Johns Hopkins, at which the guest speaker will be artist Joyce Scott. A reception will follow at the Baltimore Museum of Art. Tuesday night there will be a Poe Party to be held at Westminster Hall, a Gothic-style church with a burial ground holding the graves of Edgar Allan Poe and his wife. The event will feature tours of the graveyard and catacombs, as well as food and libations. And the closing plenary speaker will be Camille Paglia, noted author and cultural critic.

Tours include Row Houses, Cast Iron Architecture, the American Visionary Art Museum, Fell s Point Ghost Walk, Bolton Hill, Federal Hill, to name a few. Workshops include Looking at Pictures: How to Identify Illustrations in Books, Book Structures and Bookbinding Techniques, Descriptive and Subject Cataloging for Art Materials, How Books Fall Apart and What You Can Do About It, Effective Library Surveys: Creating, Administering, and Analyzing, and a disaster preparedness workshop. There will be great sessions as well. If you have any questions about the conference, please let me know.

The Executive Board met in New York in August at the Bard Graduate Center on the Upper West Side. For the most part we took care of standard Society business like the budget, conference planning decisions, renewing the contract for the management company, and Society document revisions (policy manual and chapter success book).

The most significant accomplishment at the meeting was the beginning of the organizational restructuring of the Society. Daniel Starr addressed three major areas of concern:

1. The number of committees and the resulting impact of so many business meetings on conference planning. (The number of rooms required to hold these meeting determines the size of the hotel needed for the annual conference and limits our choices as to when and where we can meet.)
2. The difficulty of effective communications between and among multiple committees with overlapping charges.
3. The challenge for the Executive Board members to serve as liaisons to so many groups.

A few standing committees were dissolved, a few ad hoc committees were made standing, and some committees were turned into task forces with very specific charges. If anyone has specific questions about our decisions regarding

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committees, please let me know. Furthermore, due to lack of interest and waning participation, the Indigenous Art Round Table and the Public Library Division were dissolved.

Our goal is to make the Society work better for all of you. We hope this streamlining and refocusing strategy makes the organization more effective and efficient in meeting the needs of the membership and our profession. Looking forward to seeing you in Baltimore!

Submitted by
 Laura Schwartz
 Art Librarian
 University of Texas at Austin

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 ► **SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT**

**2002 ARLIS/Texas-Mexico Business Meeting Minutes
 October 18, 2002**

I. Jon Evans, President, called the 29th annual meeting to order and welcomed everyone. Jon thanked Laura Schwartz, Elizabeth Schaub, Janine Henri, and Beth Dodd for their great work planning the meeting.

II. Jon recognized the chapter officers and members introduced themselves.

III. President's Report

Highlights from the past year:

- ARLIS/NA has provided special funding for the 2002 regional meeting in New Orleans
- Texas has two members serving on the ARLIS/NA board--Laura Schwartz as South Regional Representative, and Phil Heagy as treasurer. Also, Allen Townsend, ARLIS/NA President, has accepted a position at the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth and will be returning to Texas in January.
- The Texas-Mexico basket raised \$95 in the silent auction at the annual conference; over \$6,000 was raised in all. The silent auction was coordinated by chapter member, Mark Pompelia.

Our webmaster, Sam Duncan, has done an excellent job managing our website and keeping it up to date.

ARLIS/NA approved the change in the Texas-Mexico chapter bylaws, splitting secretary and treasurer into two offices.

One of our challenges is to decide what direction we want to go in our relations with Mexico.

IV. Beverly Carver, Secretary/Treasurer, presented the Treasurer's report showing a balance of \$1,655.68, as of October 16, 2002. The report will be published in *The Medium*.

V. The minutes of the 2001 business meeting were approved with changes. The minutes will be amended to change "National" to "ARLIS/NA."

VI. Report from the South Regional Representative--Laura Schwartz accepted the position when Paula Hardin moved to Ohio. As a member of the annual conference planning committee, she reported that the Wyndham Baltimore is a great location for the conference, which will be held March 20-26, 2003. There

are a number of special events planned, including a movie night on Friday, a Poe party, an Elvis lecture. The convocation will be at Johns Hopkins; Joyce Scott will be the speaker.

The mid-year board meeting was held in New York. ARLIS/NA will undergo significant restructuring. Some of the more significant changes are the number of committees, more effective communication, refocusing goals to make the society more efficient, streamlined, and effective. Some ad hoc committees have been dissolved; others have been changed to task forces or standing committees. For more information, read Daniel Starr's article on the ARLIS/NA website.

VII. Election of officers--The chapter elected Mary Leonard to the office of Vice-president/president elect, Beverly Carver as Treasurer, and Elizabeth Schaub as Secretary. Jon thanked the nominating committee, Chia-Chun Shih and Bonnie Reed, for their work.

VIII. Lois Swan Jones Award--After some discussion, the group decided that this year there would be one award for \$875.00. Phil Heagy was commended for his generous donation toward the fund this year. The committee, composed of John Hagood (chair), Marty Stein, and Merriann Bidgood will decide on a timetable, and announce the application deadline through the listserv.

IX. Development Committee--Elizabeth Schaub reported that the committee has identified possible funding sources and thus far has primarily been research focused. One idea is to contact the approximate 40 members of The Mexican Association of Librarians (AMBAC) and encourage them to join ARLIS/NA. Also, it was suggested that we get more support from ARLIS/NA. Laura Schwartz will take the idea of setting up a taskforce to the next board meeting. Any ideas or suggestions should be sent to her.

X. Recruitment--Laura Schwartz mailed out 24 letters to art librarians and visual resources librarians in Texas, introducing them to the chapter and the benefits of membership.

XI. Sam Duncan, Webmaster, reported that three electronic editions of *The Medium* were published last year. The site now has searching capability. Several ideas for better utilizing the website were broached. They included: advertising employment opportunities and creating an online conference registration form. Using a service like PayPal would allow the chapter to accept payment online with only a nominal fee. Interesting and unique sites are needed for the art resources page - send links to Sam.

XII. Conference updates

- The 21st Annual VRA conference will be held at the Warwick Hotel in Houston, April 7-12, 2003. If anyone wants to volunteer to help with local arrangements, contact Marc Pompelia.
- ARLIS/NA has inquired whether the Texas-Mexico chapter would be willing to host the 2005 annual conference in Houston. There was consensus this would be a great opportunity.
- ARLIS/NA has provided special funding to help support the regional meeting next November in New Orleans. Janine Henri, Merriann Bidgood, Margaret Culbertson, Jeannette Dixon, and Mary Leonard volunteered to help with programs and local arrangements

XIII. The chapter agreed to send a \$200 donation to ARLIS/NA to support the welcome party at Baltimore.

XIV. New business--Janine Henri suggested that the chapter might want to consider nominating Nancy Schuller for the distinguished service award. She will do some checking to see what kind of information that requires, and bring it back to the chapter next year.

The meeting was adjourned.

Budget

January 1, 2002-October 16, 2002

Balance beginning January 1, 2002	\$1,510.33
Income	
Membership dues	480.00
2002 Meeting Registration	570.00
Chapter Dinner	630.00
Lois Swan Jones Travel Award	875.00
Disaster Planning Workshop	140.00
Interest	5.27
Cash	5.28
TOTAL	4,215.88
Expenses	
Lois Swan Jones Travel Award	500.00
Domain registration	70.00
Internet Service Provider	172.40
Word of Mouth Catering/Charles Moore Dinner	541.25
Chapter Dinner	1,100.00
Stationery	116.55
Bank fees	59.00
TOTAL	2,559.20
BALANCE	\$1,655.68

Submitted by Beverly Carver
 Architecture and Fine Arts Library Manager
 University of Texas at Arlington

► CONFERENCE REPORTS

Tarlton Law Library and Hyder Art Collection

The Hyder Art Collection gives the feel of a fine private library housed in a large public space. As a visual resources curator, I was very interested in the decorative objects within the Hyder Collection. Several of the prints and paintings were equally impressive, but it was the furniture that captivated me. Several amazing old grand European pieces were mixed with rugs from exotic far-off lands.

I loved Mrs. Hyder's rationale for decorating the **Tarlton Law Library**. Each piece is purchased specifically for the area in which it will be placed; the objects are never rearranged. Further, all flat surfaces must also have something on them, which I thought was interesting. I was surprised to find that patrons are allowed to sit on the chairs and use the tables. You could see the giddiness and hesitation some of us had about touching and sitting on some of the pieces.

I wish there had been more information about the objects. The few narrative wall labels describing objects did not provide nearly enough information. Wanting more information on the Hyder Art Collection, I went to their website.

Unfortunately, the website for both the Tarlton Law Library and the Hyder Art Collection provide only minimal information related to the objects in the collection.

That said, it was a very surprising and enjoyable tour.

Submitted by Merriann Bidgood
Curator, Visual Resources Library
University of Houston

Tour of Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum LBJ: the man, the myth, the tour &

Our tour of the [Lyndon Baines Johnson Library and Museum](#) began with a walk through of one of the stack levels housing the Library's paper collection. Archivist Bob Tissing explained that the LBJ Library is one of ten presidential libraries run by the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). These are not traditional libraries, but rather repositories for preserving and making available the papers, records, and other historical materials of U.S. Presidents since Herbert Hoover.

The LBJ Library and Museum was built in 1971. President Johnson left office in 1969. It is the only Presidential Library that does not charge admission. The Library holds 45 million pages of documents, as well as photographs, and other audio-visual material. Staff is still working on processing the papers, which are housed in very attractive red archival boxes, and kept in a temperature and humidity-controlled environment. The LBJ Library keeps all correspondence files, unlike some of the newer presidential libraries.

Of the 50 employees at the Library, ten are archivists. The archivists at the Library have top-secret government clearance and are federal employees. Many have history backgrounds; three have an MLS, and one has a Ph.D.

Researchers visiting the Library are given an orientation covering the rules and regulations and an overview of the holdings. We were shown the reading room, as well as space on the top floor where receptions and other events are held. The red carpet was much admired.

We also saw the replica of the Oval Office, which duplicates the actual office at 7/8th scale. The office looks exactly as it did during Johnson's presidency including the desk he used beginning in his Senate days through the White House years. Johnson kept abreast of the news with a Teletype machine and three-screen television console to watch all three networks simultaneously.

After the tour, we were free to wander the Museum and gift shop.

Submitted by Mary Leonard
Associate Librarian Dallas Museum of Art

Tour of School of Architecture Audiovisual Resources Collection and Materials Lab

On Friday morning, a tour of UT Austin's School of Architecture Audiovisual Resources Collection was provided by its Director, Elizabeth Schaub. She explained that the main purpose of the collection is to support the research and teaching needs of the Architecture School's faculty and students. The collection includes more than 200,000 slides, as well as audiovisual equipment, audio and

videotapes, and a variety of online resources.



Shelving in the UT SOA Materials Lab

Afterward, the group was treated to a tour of the SOA's Materials Lab. Tara Carlisle, the Lab's new director, explained that she was in the process of sorting, organizing, and cataloging samples of various building materials currently used in the trade in order to provide easier access for the SOA's faculty and students. Previously, there was no systematic method for cataloging of these samples, and she is hoping to bring a new order to them using LC classification standards and cataloging methods. She is

also working toward developing a website for the Lab.

Submitted by Steve Gasset
Assistant Librarian
Kimbell Art Museum

Emergency Preparedness Response & Recovery Workshop

On Friday afternoon, Shelby Sanett, Imaging and Preservation Services Manager, [Amigos Library Services, Inc.](#), presented information about emergency preparedness response and recovery in libraries and archives. In attendance were members from ARLIS/Texas-Mexico and the [Texas Chapter of the Music Library Association](#), who were attending their respective annual chapter meetings, as well as staff from the General Libraries, and students in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science at The University of Texas at Austin.

During the course of the workshop, Ms. Sanett focused not only on introducing participants to elements of emergency preparedness within the context of libraries and archives, but also made participants aware of the sources for additional information and assistance vis-à-vis disaster preparedness. It was clear from Ms. Sanett's experience, as well as feedback from participants, that disasters are inevitable and that everyone will at some point in their careers need to deal with them. Therefore, planning for, limiting and recovering from events that cause destruction to people and things must be something that we address before they occur keeping in mind procedures for both emergency response and emergency recovery.

Preparedness translates to encompass the caring for and protection of collections, staff and patrons. Keeping this definition of preparedness in mind, Sanett covered the mechanics of how one goes about creating a sound response and recovery when disaster strikes. She emphasized that when a disaster occurs, the safety of staff and patrons comes first and that the items in peril are a second priority.

When creating a disaster plan, one must first establish the authoritative channels that should be in place when the event occurs. A planning team should be established and include backup team members who will be as involved in the process as primary team members. This planning team assesses risks, develops a plan, implements the plan and builds in practice time for staff so that when the inevitable event finally does occur the staff can react automatically. The planning team should assess the building where the collection is located looking at the

emergency history that will include documentation of past problems. This type of documentation helps staff correct problems by making a case to administrators that these problems could have negative consequences to the collections in their care. In this way, the space is protected from future occurrences once problems have been corrected.

Sanett discussed the conditions one would face after disasters such as a fire or flood. In some cases complete salvage is difficult, though restoration of materials is often possible. To this end, once the disaster has occurred, staff must assess the amount and kinds of material that have been affected and the type of damage incurred in order to respond appropriately and within the guidelines set forth in the disaster plan.

Response often requires that the environment be stabilized so that additional cumulative damage is avoided after the initial catalyst has been controlled. After the environment is stabilized staff can begin cleaning the area and salvage procedures can be implemented. The type and amount of supplies and equipment on hand for cleanup and salvage should be established as part of the original assessment by the disaster planning team members. Sanett suggested that cooperation among institutions would benefit all parties involved since the affected institution would need additional trained staff during the clean up and salvage stages. In addition, institutions could share the costs of supply procurement. Sanett provided a list of supplies for both clean up and salvage efforts, as well as a list of suppliers who can provide the necessary materials.

Sanett's presentation made participants acutely aware of the importance of having a well thought out disaster plan that can be implemented by a fully prepared staff when a disaster strikes.

Submitted by Elizabeth Schaub
Director, Audio Visual Resources Collection
University of Texas at Austin

Tour of Flatbed Press & Gallery

On a rainy Saturday morning, Gerry Manson and Mark Smith graciously provided a tour and demonstration of **Flatbed Press and Gallery**. Founded in 1989, Smith boasts that Flatbed Press is considered the premiere press on the "third coast" and that Austin is clearly the printmaking center of Texas. There are two reasons for the name of the press. Of course, the print press is a flat bed but Smith also likes to refer to a second explanation. As a Rauschenberg scholar, Smith alludes to Leo Steinberg's essay "Reflections on the State of Criticism" first published in *Artforum* and republished in *Other Criteria* whereby Steinberg discusses the "flatbed picture plane" when looking at the work of Rauschenberg, Dubuffet and others. (Leo Steinberg, *Other Criteria* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1972), 82-91 and "Reflections on the State of Criticism," *Artforum* 10 (March 1972): 37-49.) Hence, a practical and art historical naming converge.

For the past four years, Flatbed Press and Gallery has occupied the current space owned by Hospice of Austin who reside next door. Flatbed Press and Gallery sublets the 18,000 square foot complex to several other arts organizations including the Department of Art and Art History at The University of Texas at Austin, the Jung Society of Austin, and others. The press is not subsidized by a university or any other large foundation or non-profit. It is an independently owned and operated press, therefore, dependent on profits to stay afloat. Flatbed

seeks out artists and galleries to work with on projects. Currently, the press is working with artist Andrea Rosenberg, whose Dallas-based gallery is sponsoring her work at Flatbed.

The group had the pleasure of watching Pat Masterson, Master Printer, run a Trenton Doyle Hancock etching through the baby press (as opposed to the mommy and daddy press, which were not in use during our visit). Masterson explained that each printmaker has their own method or technique for creating a print, pushing ink into the bite, and wiping the plate. The Hancock print is one of a series that will be in a nine-print folio or artist book. After the print is run through the press, the Master Printer determines whether the print meets the aesthetic criteria the artist has set for the series.

Manson also introduced the group to the lithography press and both stone and aluminum plate lithography techniques.

Other artists that have worked with the press include James Surls, Bob Levers, Fidencio Duran, Terry Allen, Melissa Miller, and John Alexander. Watching a print being produced and learning about the practical aspects of running a fine art press and gallery was a very interesting experience for one and all.

Submitted by Laura Schwartz
Art Librarian
University of Texas at Austin

Tour of Women & Their Work

The final event of the conference was a tour of a most unusual gallery, **Women & Their Work**. This non-profit cooperative has been open for twenty-four years and is committed to providing stipends for the artists (\$283,957 last year alone) and to reflecting the cultural and ethnic diversity of the region. Over the years, 1,659 women artists (and an occasional man) have presented visual art, music, dance, theater, readings, and films. Its education programs reach over 5,000 Austin Independent School District students each year. Women & Their Work was the first organization in Texas to receive a visual arts grant from the National Endowment for the Arts. Further, it has been featured in *Art in America*, *Artforum* and on National Public Radio.

Kate Catterall and Lois Weinthal, current exhibiting artists, were present to discuss their work. Catterall had moving pictures of her trips through the American West taken from the back of her modified Airstream, an icon parked in front of the gallery. She commented that her landscapes set out to be different from traditional ones like Bierstadt's, asking, "Is it the journey or the arrival that is interesting?"

Weinthal, a former employee of the New York Housing Authority, dealt with questions of why housing looks the way it does, particularly when it has no identity or community differentiating it. She demonstrated her problem with sculptures of houses and clothing. A paper coat had cryptic directions from paper dress patterns on it.

The gallery is open every day but Sunday and has a gift store, where artists' works are for sale.

Submitted by Gwen Dixie
Art Librarian

Dallas Public Library

► **Lois Swan Jones Professional Development Award**

This year's travel award amount reaches a new high, \$875, to support attendance at the 2003 ARLIS/NA conference in Baltimore. The Lois Swan Jones Award honors Professor Jones, emerita at the University of North Texas, by underwriting participation of Texas-Mexico chapter members at the national meeting. While first-time conference attendees are especially encouraged, the Houston-based award committee urges everyone with interest and need to apply. The chief request is that applicants not have full institutional funding. Previous winners are eligible. A description of the award, procedures for applying, and a list of previous recipients resides on the [chapter Web site](#). The deadline for applications to arrive in Houston is Monday, December 16, and the winner will be announced before the end of December. Any questions or concerns should go to the committee members: Meriann Bidgood, Marty Stein, or John Hagood. The award money should go especially far this year, given the ample discount airline service between Texas and BWI airports, and the chance to economize on downtown hotel rooms. Preliminary conference program and registration information has been posted at the [ARLIS/NA Web site](#). ARLIS/Texas-Mexico sends strong representation in every sense to national conferences. Please join us, as the beneficiary of your colleagues' Texas-sized generosity.

Submitted by the Lois Swan Jones Award Committee:
John Hagood, Marty Stein, Merriann Bidgood

► **2003 VRA Annual Conference**

As you know, the [Visual Resources Association](#) will hold its 21st annual conference in Houston, April 7-12, 2003 at [The Warwick Hotel](#) in the Museum District. Those of you who attended the chapter annual meeting in October 2000 in Houston are acquainted with the wealth of arts attractions and resources just moments from the hotel.

While the [conference website](#) is the ultimate resource for detailed information, I would like to call attention to some program highlights. Approved sessions include five papers on image management from the library staff at the [Johnson Space Center](#); new developments in image research methods; keyword usage; online resource sharing; and a number of sessions addressing many issues in teaching with technology. Approved seminars include a primer on current copyright developments, an update on the Getty vocabularies, and another installment of best practices in cataloging non-Western images (Native North American art).

VRA strengthens its tradition of cutting-edge conference programming with presentations on the viability of open source software in the field of visual resources; metadata standards and protocol including XML and METS, among others; and how to integrate the VRA Core into museum systems. VRA marks a milestone in Houston with its first-ever program sponsored by the [Museum Computer Network](#): a seminar in what it takes to create a digital image collection. VRA expands its traditional software user group into two focused user groups: [Madison Digital Image Database](#) and [Luna Insight](#), the latter with a company representative on hand to answer questions. VRA-21 offers the most workshops ever, far too numerous to mention here, but designed to benefit

learners from across the spectrum of the profession.

Tours include a daytrip to Galveston with a historic preservationist; a tour of the Johnson Space Center Library (including the new and old Mission Control Rooms!); tours of the MFA decorative arts collections away from the main campus; and bus- and walking tours of Houston architecture with Steven Fox, author of the American Institute of Architects Guide to Houston Architecture.

Special events include a Welcome Party at a local museum; the Members' Reception; the New Members Breakfast; the Tansey Fundraising Dinner at Treebeard's Restaurant on Market Square; and a raffle of donated arts and crafts in the Exhibit Hall.

All of this exciting programming cannot occur without the aid of volunteers. In the new year, I will be soliciting my fellow members of ARLIS/Texas-Mexico and VRA Texas to consider volunteering for the conference, chiefly in the roles of registration desk attendant or tour shepherd. Assistance will also be needed in opening and closing activities, such as assembling conference packets. Because VRA is a self-managed organization run by volunteers, your aid to the conference - in whatever capacity - is that much more significant.

I look forward to working with you in welcoming our VRA colleagues to Houston.

Mark Pompelia
VRA Vice President for Conference Arrangements
Rice University

► EXHIBITIONS IN TEXAS AND MEXICO

Please note that you can now view the exhibition list from the home page of our website, courtesy of Sam Duncan and Phil Heagy.

► EDITOR'S NOTE

As this is my final issue of *The Medium*, it is hard to believe that the year has come and gone. It has truly been a work of pleasure, eased by the efforts of many members, including the column editors, conference reporters, and each of you who shared professional or personal news. Above and beyond the call were Laura Schwartz and Polly Trump, who proofed each issue without fail or complaint. And lastly, but certainly not least, my thanks go to Sam Duncan whose work as chapter webmaster should never be underestimated.

I am pleased to report that *The Medium* is now in good hands, as I pass the torch to Mary Leonard, our incoming Vice-President and new editor.

All the best.
Jon Evans
Assistant Librarian, Cataloging & Reference
Museum of Fine Arts, Houston

► SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Please keep the following dates in mind for upcoming issues.
Spring issue deadline: April 15, 2003

▶ Column Editors

Academic Libraries
Architecture Libraries
Exhibition Listing
Museum Libraries
Public Libraries
Visual Resources

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▶ Colophon

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