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Greetings ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter Members,

What a wonderful time we had lately in Orange, Texas. Truly a surprising place filled with amazing art, glorious nature, and splendid architecture. We have to thank our host Jenniffer Hudson-Connors and the Staff of the Stark Foundation for all their dedicated work in making our Annual Meeting such a hospitable and successful event!

First off, the agenda was to meet and hear from the Fort Worth Planning Committee on how far plans have progressed as we gallop ever closer to the 43rd Annual Conference next March. I can report excellent news as we listened to our outstanding planning team outline an impressive array of innovative sessions and programs relating to our professional concerns. There also will be many chances to network in a truly grand hotel close to world famous museums in the Cultural District of Fort Worth.

See you all there!!

I now invite you to read about the array of activities experienced in Orange and thanks to all who have contributed to this issue of The Medium.

Cheers,

Edward Lukasek
2014 President
Art Library Society of North America
Texas-Mexico Chapter
Hello Texas-Mexico Chapter Members!

As we reach the end of 2014, looking back it was productive and busy for ARLIS/NA and its Executive Board! As usual, with every monthly Executive Board meeting we have a lot to discuss toward the advancement of ARLIS/NA. In August, the Executive Board met at the Avery Architectural and Fine Arts Library at Columbia University for our two day mid-year meeting. It was nice to meet in person to break from our regular conference call meetings.

One of the Society’s biggest developments was the launch of the Learning Portal. I encourage you to explore this new area of the ARLIS/NA website. It is available to anyone by registration. The portal provides access to ARLIS/NA’s virtual conference tracks, lunchtime chats, and webinars focusing on current issues most important to the art library community.

The Chapter Chairs have met virtually twice this year, in August and November. The first meeting we learned more about how the Development Committee can support chapters in fundraising efforts and in our second meeting we learned more about the Diversity Committee. It’s been a great opportunity to provide this new forum for Chairs and I look forward to the continuation of these meetings. In between meetings Chapter Leaders can stay connected with the newly established shared for Chapter Leaders space in Basecamp where they can share and learn ideas to further benefit all 17 ARLIS/NA chapters and their members.

I look forward to seeing chapter members and my fellow Board members during the 2015 annual conference in Fort Worth, Texas where I will attend my last Executive Board meeting before passing the torch the next Chapters Liaison.

If you have questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact me.

Wishing you all the best,

Sarah Sherman  
ARLIS/NA Executive Board, Chapters Liaison  
ssherman@getty.edu
ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter 2014 Annual Business Meeting Minutes

ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter
October 19, 2014
Old Orange Café, Orange, Texas

Executive Committee of the ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter:
Edward Lukasek, President
Sha Towers, Vice-President/President-Elect
Rebecca Barham, Secretary
Laura Schwartz, Treasurer

I. Call to Order (President Edward Lukasek)

The Art Libraries Society of North America’s Texas-Mexico Chapter Annual Business Meeting was held at the Old Orange Café in Orange, Texas on Sunday, October 19, 2014. The meeting was called to order by President Lukasek.

Lukasek greeted the membership and stated that the Chapter Meeting in Orange had been an incredible experience with many members visiting for the first time. He thanked host Jennifer Hudson-Connors of the Stark Museum of Art for making arrangements for the Chapter Meeting and making the event possible.

II. Introductions (President Lukasek)

President Lukasek asked those present to introduce themselves. In attendance were: Craig Bunch (McNay Art Museum), Beverly Carver (UT Arlington), Jennifer Hudson-Connors (Stark Museum of Art), Jon Evans (MFAH), Alison Larson (UNT), Sarah Long (MFAH), Edward Lukasek (MFAH), Beverly Mitchell (SMU), Sunyoung Park (MFAH), Joel Pelanne (MFAH), Shari Salisbury (UTSA), Chia-Chun Shih (Kimbell), Sha Towers (Baylor), Eric Wolf (Menil Collection), Susan Frost (San Antonio), Rebecca Barham (UNT).

III. Secretary’s Report and Approval of 2013 Business Meeting Minutes (Secretary Barham)

Minutes from the 2013 meeting had previously been submitted by email to Chapter members for corrections and comments. President Lukasek moved to have the 2013 Business Meeting Minutes approved by the members.

Wolf moved that minutes be approved. Carver seconded the motion, which passed unanimously. President Lukasek asked if there was a discussion.
Discussion: Evans offered a spelling correction to member Lynn Wexler’s name on page 3. Secretary Barham made the correction.

President Lukasek called for a vote by voice for the approval of the minutes. The minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.

IV. Treasurer’s Report (Secretary Barham for Treasurer Schwartz)

Treasurer Schwartz reported that the ARLIS Texas-Mexico Chapter currently has 36 members (2014 membership). In 2013 the Chapter had 34 members. Attendance at the 2014 Annual Chapter Meeting totaled 19. Prior to chapter meeting registration and membership renewal, there was a balance of $3,504.02. After the collection of Chapter meeting registration fees, member renewals, and award contributions there is currently a balance of $5067.84 in the account. As of the writing of this report, payments are still outstanding to the restaurant Suga’s and the Old Orange Café. The Chapter has twenty members for 2015. As always, a number of chapter members have not yet renewed, so this number will go up. Before Treasurer Schwartz’s term ends, she will work with President Lukasek to contact members about renewing their 2014 membership.

The Chapter raised $610 in donations for the Lois Swan Jones Travel Award in 2014. So far fundraising for 2015 is down, and to date the Chapter has $260. Schwartz suggested that if members have not yet contributed the fund, to please consider doing so as the award amount that is usually given by the Chapter is $500. This award amount needs to be determined. Treasurer Schwartz recommended that the standard award amount total $500, especially since travel will be minimal with the conference in Fort Worth.

In addition, last year the Chapter decided to begin a student award for the Chapter conference. Eric Wolf graciously funded the award single-handedly this year.

Treasurer Schwartz thanked the Chapter members for giving her the opportunity to serve as treasurer for the last three years. Schwartz stated that “It has been an invaluable experience and an honor. In the past three years, the Chapter treasury grew, and has more than doubled from $2,158.04 to $5,067.84.” Schwartz graciously looks forward to handing the financial component of the organization to her successor.

President Lukasek asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

V. Editor’s Report for The Medium (Vice President/President-Elect Sha Towers)

Vice President/President-Elect Towers thanked all the Chapter members who had agreed to write reports on topics related to the Chapter meeting in Orange for The Medium. He stated that other good topics for contributions to The Medium would be those related to member and institution updates of the organization. He will contact those who agreed to write the reports to remind them. He would like to receive the reports in the next two weeks.

VI. Lois Swan Jones Travel Award Committee Report (Sunyoung Park for Committee Chair Lynn Wexler).
Park speaking for Wexler, thanked the other members of the committee: Sam Duncan, Joel Pelanne and Beth Dodd. She also thanked Treasurer Schwartz for distributing the award check.

The Committee received three submissions. Annie Sollinger was the recipient of the Lois Swan Jones Travel Award this year. Past recipient Alison Larson fulfilled the requirements of the award by writing about her experience attending the ARLIS/NA conference in Washington and working as a volunteer. Park indicated that she hoped Alison would consider serving on the committee in the future.

President Lukasek recessed the meeting for breakfast at 9:00 a.m. President Lukasek then called the meeting back to order at 9:30 a.m. and requested that items VII and VIII on the agenda change order. The order was changed by Secretary Barham as requested.

VII. New Student Travel Award (Joel Pelanne for Lynn Wexler)

No one applied for the New Student Travel Award this year. Lynn wanted to thank committee members Sam Duncan and Beth Dodd. In addition, she thanked Allison Larson for advertising the award through additional venues. Lynn would like to simplify the award process and define the award itself. She would also like to consider letting the award fall under the responsibility of the Lois Swan Jones Travel Award Committee as additional task, instead of creating a separate committee. And, if this is possible, how can it be done?

Wolf stated that the original intent of the award was to bring a Texas student to the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference, since it will take place in Fort Worth this year. Wolf noted that he knew that the student would have to be a member of ARLIS/NA, but that he thought the ARLIS/NA membership fee could be waived, so the award of $50 could be more beneficial for the student to attend the conference.

President Lukasek noted that it was confusing whether or not the Chapter would give the award to attend the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference or the Chapter meeting? His understanding was that the award was to bring a student to the Chapter meeting.

Wolf added that the initial idea was that the award would help to promote interest in the Chapter since this is a big year for our Chapter since we are hosting the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Fort Worth, Texas.

Pelanne stated that Wexler suggested that if the Chapter wants to continue the Student Travel Award, that it be increased to an amount around $200, which is comparable to some other Chapter’s awards for a student to attend a Chapter Meeting.

President Lukasek stated that he would like to consider from this moment forward that the award be offered for a student to attend the Chapter Meeting.

VIII. Call for new Lois Swan Jones Travel Award Committee Volunteers (President Lukasek)
President Lukasek noted that current committee members Joel Pelanne, Beth Dodd and Sunyoung Park can continue to serve another term. He asked the committee to contact Sam Duncan to ask him if he would also like to continue to serve on the committee.

President Lukasek noted that the Lois Swan Jones Travel Award Committee needs to talk among themselves and decide if they want to take on the Student Travel Award as a subcommittee and get back in touch with him to let him know of their decision.

Evans suggested a possible consideration to rename the Lois Swan Jones Travel Award Committee the Travel Awards Committee if the committee becomes responsible for awarding both travel awards. President Lukasek requested that the committee also discuss if it desires a name change and to report this information back to him.

IX. ARLIS/NA Executive Board Report (Executive Board Member Eric Wolf)

The Executive Board is examining the bylaws to make sure they are in line with the organization’s actual practices. The revisions that are being discussed don’t involve this chapter and most changes are linguistic or clarifying in nature. The changes will require ratification by the entire membership. A month from now a survey monkey ballot will be sent to the entire membership to vote on the revisions.

A policy manual revision is underway to make sure policies are up-to-date. A vote of membership is not necessary for the policy manual revision, just adoption by the Board.

The board has just approved the slate of candidates for the Executive Board and they will be shared with the membership soon for approval.

The 2011-2015 strategic plan is almost over. The Executive Board is in the process of creating a new strategic plan. Everyone will be happy to hear that the new plan will be more flexible and nimble. The new plan will not have a strategic plan and action plans, but instead will include strategic directions and an action score card that are less binding and static and can evolve over the five-year period. The new strategic plan will still be reflective of the direction that ARLIS/NA wants to go, but will not be a binding document. It will be more nimble and flexible to fit our needs.

The technology matrix from TEI our management company will be shared with members soon. There will be a list of tools of that will be available to us from TEI. A tool that will help with branding issues so the organization can distribute the new ARLIS/NA logos will be on the list. All of these branding and technology packages from TEI will be disseminated to us soon. If the Chapter desires, TEI could even host out website. Some of the smaller chapters have done this.

The Executive Board is spending a lot of time working on the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Fort Worth.

The Executive Board is also working on the joint conference between ARLIS/NA and Visual Resources Association (VRA), that will take place in 2016 in Seattle. The Board is streamlining and organizing, and
working with the financing between the two organizations. They are also comparing hotels at this time. The Executive Board will announce all of this very soon.

President Lukasek asked if there were any questions?

Evans asked if there will be a marketplace? Wolf replied: “Yes, Gregg Most is on a committee working with the vendors and is leading that team.”

X. ARLIS/NA Annual Conference 2015 Co-Chairs Report on Conference Planning (Beverly Mitchell, Beverly Carver)

Mitchell: The 2015 ARLIS/NA Annual Conference website has been created and is online. It is located on the ARLIS/NA website under “Events” and then “Conferences”. Mitchell thanked Joel Pelanne who worked with Robert Kopinski on the website.

Mitchell thanked Program Co-Chair Catherine Essinger for her work with programs, and stated that the programs are in place.

Almost all contracts are in place for the special events. The Welcome Party reception will take place at the Fort Worth Water Gardens Events Plaza. It will be outdoors and is located across from the Omni Hotel. If the weather is bad, there is a back-up plan to meet in a conference suite. The Society Circle will be held at the Café Modern at Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth and will include a cocktail party with gallery access. There will also be an international guest cocktail party.

Carver: The convocation will be held at the Omni Hotel in the ballroom, and the closing reception will be held at the Kimbell Art Museum. The Kimbell Art Museum was very generous to waive their fee.

Tours are all squared away. There are lots of downtown short walking tours, such as the Fort Worth Architectural Walk. There is a tour to several artists’ studios, a Cowboys Stadium tour, Botanical Garden tour and Botanical Research Institute of Texas (BRIT) tour, and a Bass Hall tour. In addition, there are two Dallas tours, one to the Dallas Art Museum, and a Dallas Architecture tour.

Mitchell: Hillary Veeder from Texas Tech is the Volunteer Coordinator. She has been organizing the committee and will be sending out calls for volunteers soon. Mitchell urged members that if they have not already volunteered to help with the conference, please consider doing so.

The Publicity Committee Chair is Eric Wolf.

The Program Committee Chair is Craig Bunch.

The Exhibits Coordinator is Alison Larson.

Mitchell said she appreciated all the hard work everyone is doing and that she is very excited about the conference speakers.
President Lukasek asked if there were any questions.

Evans asked how many program submissions were received?

Seventy-six proposals, 7 workshops, 14 poster submissions have been received.

Carver: At this conference, poster sessions, the technology forum and the silent auction will all be near the exhibition hall.

XI. ARLIS/NA 2011-2015 Action Plan Goals Implementation Committee (President Lukasek)

The 2011-2015 Action Plan is nearing its end. President Lukasek indicated that he could not report on the Action Plan until he receives the report from the committee. When he receives the report, he will share it with the Chapter membership.

Activity particularly in area of mentoring has been a focus of the Texas-Mexico Chapter. One mentoring idea was to reach out at career opportunity events. To this end, President Lukasek will speak at the event All School Day at the University of North Texas in November. Alison Larson also served as discussion leader at the ARLISNAP at the Washington Conference last year. There were over 100 students at that meeting. She is acting as a mentee this year. She is still very connected with the group. She asked that if members have any suggestions to send them her and she will pass it to the members of ARLISNAP. ARLISNAP is now officially a special interest group (SIG). Wolf was also invited to talk about mentoring during an upcoming session at the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference in Fort Worth.

President Lukasek stated that the Action Plan Goals Implementation Committee is sending out an application form on mentoring which he will share with the membership when he receives it. Lukasek told the membership that if they know someone that they would like to learn from, it does not matter how old or young they are, they can always reach out to a mentor.

XII. Nominations and Elections for Vice President/President-Elect and Treasurer (Beverly Mitchell for Past Presidents Martha Gonzalez Palacios and Tara Spies)

Mitchell indicated that there were two vacant offer positions. Allison Larson from the University of North Texas was nominated for Treasurer and Jon Evans was nominated for Vice-President/President Elect.

President Lukasek called for a vote by hand for the nominated officials. The nominations were approved unanimously by the membership.

The term for Secretary Barham is over at the end of this year. The Nominations Committee will meet later to nominate a new candidate for the position of secretary. The vote will be sent electronically to all members before the end of this year.

XIII. Chapter Welcome Party Donation (President Lukasek for Treasurer Schwartz)
Treasurer Schwartz stated that the chapter contributed $150.00 last year to the Welcome Party for the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference. The Texas-Mexico Chapter’s finances are good and since the Chapter is hosting the ARLIS/NA Annual Conference, she suggested that the Chapter should contribute more. She has also been privy to other Chapter contributions as Budget Coordinator for the Fort Worth conference and noted that our Chapter’s contribution is relatively low. Treasurer Schwartz suggested that the Chapter contribute $500.00 this year.

Evans made the motion to put forth $500 for next year’s Chapter Welcome Party for the 2015 Conference. Larson seconded the motion.

Evans stated that some other chapters have given $1000 for their party so we could even consider raising the amount beyond $500.

President Lukasek called for a vote-by-hand to raise the contribution for the Chapter Welcome Party donation to $500. The vote passed unanimously.

XIV. Planning for the 2015 Annual Meeting (Vice President/President-Elect Towers)

Vice President/President-Elect Towers presented a proposal for two possible meeting locations for the 2015 Annual Chapter Meeting. The first option was to meet in Waco, TX. The second option was a recommendation to explore a possible joint meeting with the Mountain West Chapter and meet in Santa Fe, NM. Towers stated that contact has not yet been made with the Mountain West Chapter, but that he wanted to get the membership’s feedback on this proposal first.

Bunch asked what offerings the destination of Waco, TX has to offer the Chapter for the annual Chapter Meeting?

Towers replied that there were a couple of logistical benefits. One is the centrality of the location for the membership of the Chapter, and there are two members at Baylor University. Some interesting collections at Baylor University include: the Harding Black (Ceramics) Collection and Archive, the Armstrong-Browning Library (with the world’s largest collection of materials related to Robert and Elizabeth Barrett Browning and the world’s largest secular stained glass collection), and the Baylor Book Arts Collection (artists’ books and fine press books).

Towers also noted that if the 2015 Chapter Meeting did take place in Waco, he would bring in other key persons to speak, such as the specialist on the Harding Black Ceramic Collection, and the Allbritton Institute.

Wolf offered a consideration to the membership concerning the diverse physical geography of the Mountain West Chapter is even more diverse than our Chapter. The Mountain West Chapter’s Meeting was held via a virtual conference this year which might be an indication that they may have experienced some difficulty getting all members together in the region. Wolf offered an additional contact in the area, Eumie Imm-Stroukoff, Director of the Research Center at the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum. He stated that as she is very seasoned and has served as Secretary in the past and could be very helpful with planning.
Salisbury noted that there are not a lot of flights to Santa Fe and offered concerns about member’s ability to attend.

President Lukasek suggested that the membership continue the discussion at a later time.

Evans suggested the membership take a non-binding vote before Vice President/President-Elect Towers devotes more time to pursuing information about a possible Chapter Meeting in Santa Fe.

A non-binding vote by hand was taken. The vote was very close, with approximately two more members in support of Santa Fe compared to Waco.

President Lukasek indicated that he will create a doodle poll that will be sent to all of the Chapter membership to choose the location for the ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico 2015 Chapter Meeting.

XV. New Business (President Lukasek)

Wolf made a motion to formally thank Jennifer Hudson-Connors for “…all of her amazing planning and the time she spent making this a great conference in Orange.”

President Lukasek seconded the motion and presented a gift of appreciation to Hudson-Connors.

Shih thanked the Local Arrangements Co-Chairs Mitchell and Carver for all of their hard work on the 2015 Conference. Shih, who is a Librarian at the Kimbell Art Museum, stated that she was excited that the Closing Reception will be held at the Kimbell. Shih stated that a lot of moving was still underway at the Kimbell Library. In addition, a new exhibition opens on March 1st, so all attendees will be able to view it. Shih said the Kimbell Museum Library has small staff of 3, but that they are making every effort to assure that attendees will get to see the new library.

Evans stated that he wanted to recognize the service of the Executive Board members. Evans noted the importance of maintaining our Chapter’s archives. According to Chapter Archives Procedures, officers are responsible for passing documents onto their successor, this is especially important for the positions of President and Vice President/President-Elect. Evans made a call for these documents to be shared with him so that he can archive them for the Chapter.

XVI. Adjournment (President Lukasek)

President Lukasek made a motion to adjourn.

The motion was seconded and the meeting adjourned.
Get Creative!

Meeting attendees gathered at the Stark Museum of Art’s educational center to create artwork inspired by one of the works in the museum’s permanent collection, *Gerald’s Tree II* by Georgia O’Keeffe. The group was led by Jennifer Restauri, Educator for Studio and Family Programs at the Stark Museum, and Annie Martin, the Stark’s Education Intern. The watercolors varied widely in both composition and style, as evidenced below.

Alison Larson’s Tree:

![Alison Larson’s Tree](image1)

Joel Pelanne’s Tree:

![Joel Pelanne’s Tree](image2)
Edward Lukasek’s Tree:

Sha Towers’ Tree:

Jon Evans’ Tree:
The arboreal portrait by Georgia O’Keeffe was inspired by Gerald Heard, an Irish writer and mystic, who visited Ghost Ranch in 1937. O’Keeffe wrote that she discovered his footprints around the base of the tree, along with an inscription, and, therefore, “…always thought of it as Gerald’s Tree.” The shadow of the tree suggests a dancing figure and is possibly Gerald Heard himself. A companion piece, Gerald’s Tree I, was completed the same year and is in the collection of the Georgia O’Keeffe Museum.

The workshop was a delightful moment in a packed and informative program. Many thanks to Alison Larson, Edward Lukasek, Joel Pelanne, and Sha Towers for sharing their artistic output. <If you would like your tree included in this gallery, please send a photo!> 

Submitted by Catherine Essinger
Shangri La Gardens

We arrived at Shangri La Botanical Gardens and Nature Center for lunch, but there had been a water main break and they were turning people away. It looked like we were going to need an alternate plan, but thanks to Jenniffer Hudson-Connors they allowed us to go in, and I’m glad they did, or we would have missed out on a wonderful experience.

The Botanical Gardens and Nature Center is a LEED-NC Platinum building and the design blended well with the natural surroundings. After enjoying a box lunch in the cafe, we had some free time to wander around the gardens. It was time for the annual Scarecrow Festival, and there were dozens of handcrafted scarecrows scattered around the garden. We were invited to vote for our favorite entries. Many flowers were in bloom and the colorful gardens were lovely. In addition to the greenhouses, water fountains, and the children’s garden with its beehive, the bird blind was one of my favorite places. It was relaxing to sit and observe the birds in their natural habitat as they came and went and occasionally dipped into the water. It was hard to leave Shangri La.

Submitted by Beverly Carver
Stark House Visit

Saturday afternoon, October 18, 2014, was a perfect afternoon to visit the historic W. H. Stark House in Orange, Texas. It was warm but pleasant, and fall foliage adorned the grounds including an impressive fenceline display of Passionflower vines. The house itself provided a no less colorful and diverse mixture of Queen Anne style architecture, Art deco, and Art nouveau decorative art and furnishings. So extensive is the object collection, we learned, that much of it is stored off-site! Once one of many homes in a shaded residential neighborhood, the Stark House is now the only remaining structure from the time period in the area.

ARLIS/NA-TXMX conference attendees were divided into small tour groups to facilitate navigation of three stories and 14,000 square feet of steep staircases and relatively narrow hallways. Completed in 1894, the house was occupied by the family until 1936, and then uninhabited until an extensive renovation 1971-1980. In 1981, it opened to the public. To maintain its current splendor, the exterior of the house is repainted every 5-6 years, while the interiors and grounds require constant vigilance. Favorite features (to this writer) of the home include the 12’ ceilings, keyhole windows above and below the front entrance staircase, the abundance of yellow pine detail and trim work, and the opulence of the dining room. The layout of the third floor is somewhat perplexing – why an entertainment room among a washroom, nurse's quarters, and closets/storage rooms? Whatever the reason, the house is a marvel in its history, complexity, and conglomeration of period furnishings. The tour also included the upper level of the carriage house, where many pieces of the crystal collection are currently on display.

Also impressive were our tour guides. As paid employees of the Stark Foundation, their enthusiasm is contagious. We could sense their passion for the house and its history in simple things like making references such as “our” instead of “their”, and animated exchanges with tour participants. They spoke of long deceased Lutcher and Stark family members as if they were acquaintances, if not friends. This intimate, personal narrative is rare and refreshing and the sort of experience that left us with anticipation for a return visit, as I am sure ARLIS-TXMX members are prone to do after the 2014 annual meeting.

Submitted by Alison Larson
Stark Museum of Art

Opened by the H.J. Lutcher Stark Foundation on November 29, 1978, the Stark Museum of Art houses both one of the country’s premiere collections of American Western art and a rather impressive research library! Jenniffer Hudson Connors began our visit with an excellent presentation that served as an overview of her tenure at the Stark Museum. The narrative she shared of working her way towards becoming a central point and touchstone for numerous and varied departments at the Museum was, and I feel I can speak confidently for all of us who were there, extremely inspiring.

After Jenniffer’s presentation, our group headed out past the cabinets containing Dorothy Doughty’s series of porcelain birds (a complete collection, including unpainted versions, naturally) for a tour of the research library. The Stark library houses an impressive amount of file material and a permanent book collection focused primarily on the Taos Society of Artists and the Western Art represented in the museum’s art collection. The library space was compact but efficiently laid out, with an office area that also housed catalog file material leading the way to the permanent stacks (the shelves of which, some of us marveled, still had room for growth).

Next was a docent led exhibition and collections tour. First up for the group I followed was the temporary exhibition Women, Art, & Social Change: The Newcomb Potter Enterprise. The Newcomb Pottery company grew out of the pottery program at H. Sophie Newcomb Memorial College, a women’s college now associated with Tulane University. It produced work from 1895 to 1940, the entire span of which was presented in the exhibition. Besides pottery, the Newcomb community produced other objects related to textiles, metalwork, jewelry, and bookbinding.
The permanent collections at the Stark were also impressive. Particularly striking for myself were the works on view by Albert Bierstadt, Audubon’s Birds of America (on display with a digital copy that could be flipped through virtually), and Georgia O’Keeffe’s Gerald’s Tree II (the subject of the previous day’s art making event hosted by the Stark Museum’s education department). We ended with the American Indian Art gallery, which included clothing, body ornament, rugs, blankets and beadwork created by members of the Great Plains, Southwest, Eastern Woodlands and Northwest Coast tribes. The far wall included several Zuni and Hopi kachina dolls, which are always a personal favorite.

The stated goal of the H.J. Lutcher Stark Foundation was “to enrich the quality of life in Southeast Texas through education and the arts.” Both the Stark Museum and its research library seem to be doing their part to achieve that and more. It was a delight to visit, and we thank Jenniffer for her time in introducing our chapter to the Stark!

Submitted by Joel Pelanne
The ARLIS/NA Texas-Mexico Chapter Annual Meeting started off with a tour of the historic First Presbyterian Church located next door to the Stark Museum of Art. The edifice was planned and underwritten by Frances Ann Lutcher, wife of Henry Jacob Lutcher. Construction began in 1908 under the architect James Oliver Hogg of Kansas City, Missouri and was dedicated in 1912. Hogg utilized a traditional shallow Greek cross design embellished by Greek Revival temple ornamentation. The crossing of the axes is capped by an impressive copper dome sitting on a raised drum and crowned with a distinctive exotic finial. The church actually reminds me more of the Carnegie Library in my hometown of Port Huron, Michigan constructed in 1902 than a house of worship but that only adds to the uniqueness of the Lutcher Memorial Building.

Mrs. Lutcher took a very pro-active role in all aspects of the construction, so only the best building materials were used, from the exterior pink granite quarried in Llano, Texas to the interior white marble imported from Italy. No one knows the cost of the church. In fact, our congenial docent, Kyle Hood, revealed that Mrs. Lutcher kept the expenditure of funds secret even from her family. The bills were sent in code to the comptroller of the lumber company her husband owned.

The glory of the edifice is the exceptional Pre-Raphaelite style art glass created by the J&R Lamb Studios of New York. Of the splendid 48 designs found in the building, the three windows above the entrance were gold medal award winners purchased at the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair. They were held in storage until placed in their prominent positions years later.

See images 4-6: [http://www.firstpresorange.com/#1history](http://www.firstpresorange.com/#1history).

The elaborate windows throughout were made in layers of hand-painted glass that reflect different shades and glows when sunlight hits at different angles at different times of the day.

Our learned guide encouraged us all to lay down flat in the pews to better observe a truly remarkable creation – the only opalescent glass dome in the United States – comprised of sixteen angelic figures each bearing a Christian symbol. See images 8–9: [http://www.firstpresorange.com/#1history](http://www.firstpresorange.com/#1history)
My favorite quote of the tour: “The stained glass windows are not something which can simply be talked about, but must be seen.” Kyle Hood, docent of the church.

The stained glass windows did not open for air circulation, so Mrs. Lutcher solved the problem with air conditioning, something almost non-existent in 1908. Thus, the church became one of the first public air-conditioned buildings in the world. The energy needed to run such new technology meant that the church had to construct a two-story “power house” behind the sanctuary to generate enough electricity. A full-time engineer was hired to supervise the plant and cooling system.

In 2008, the church announced a plan to restore the windows and the building, but the devastation of Hurricane Ike that same year put everything on hold. Extensive structural damage is still being dealt with to this day.

For further reading:

Lutcher Memorial Building

http://texashistory.unt.edu/ark:/67531/metaph36689

http://www.kogt.com/Articles/First%20Pres%20Church.htm

Thanks to Eric Wolf and Jenniffer Hudson-Connors for the photos of the dome and our happy group.

Submitted by Edward Lukasek