

THE MEDIUM

NEWSLETTER OF THE TEXAS CHAPTER

October, 1975

Vol. 1, No. 4

This issue of THE MEDIUM is going to start right off the bat with some good news and some bad news. Which is which may depend on your own personal viewpoint. The good news is that your newly elected Vice-Chairman/Chairman-Elect and editor, Lo Parr, finally found another job. The bad news is that it is not in Texas. I, too, am going to have to resign my office and membership will have to elect another Vice-Chairman/Chairman-Elect. So this'll be my first and last MEDIUM to edit.

My new job promises to be a difficult, fulfilling and challenging one, and although I'll miss everyone down here, I'm sure we'll bump into each other fairly often. The state to which I'm going has a large number of ARLIS/NA members, but no organized chapter--fertile ground for an "outside agitator." The first order of business, however, will be to try to make some sense out of a totally new professional environment.

Good luck with your "special election." I hope you enjoy this MEDIUM--especially those of you who could not attend the meeting in Austin. If you have any complaints or suggestions about the publication, I guess you'll have to send them to the two remaining officers until someone is elected to take my place.
L.P.

MEMBERSHIP TIPS

If you know of anyone who or any institution which might be interested in becoming a member of ARLIS/NA and our Texas Chapter, please send information on them to our new Secretary/Treasurer, Linda Nelson, and we will send information on ARLIS to them.

This is the last mailing non-ARLIS members will receive. If you wish to continue the benefits of ARLIS/NA and ARLIS/TEXAS membership, you must join both organizations. Write to Linda Nelson for membership blanks and further information.

PUBLICATION DEADLINES

We are going to try to publish THE MEDIUM on a somewhat regular basis. The next issue will come out prior to the national meeting in Chicago and will contain information about it as well as about the March 6th meeting in Houston and the trip to Europe. If you have any news or any articles you would like to contribute, please send them to the Vice-Chairman/Chairman-Elect, ?????????????????? no later than January 1, 1976.

Arlis/ Texas
Fall Meeting
September 20, 1975

The fall meeting of Arlis/ Texas was held on September 20, 1975 in Austin. The members gathered informally for coffee in the Willoughby-Blake Room at the Harry Ransom Center on the University of Texas campus. The morning activities included tours of the theatre arts, photography, and rare books collections of the Harry Ransom Center. Crossing the campus in pouring rain, the group visited the Undergraduate Library where we were shown the Iconography Collection and the Leeds Gallery. *

The business meeting was held in Room 103 of the Art Building at 1:30. President Shelby Miller called the meeting to order. She extended appreciation to Carole Cable for arranging the morning tours. Copies of the minutes of the Spring meeting and the present Treasurer's report were given to those present for reading and approval. The Secretary then read the resignation letter of Jim Galloway, Vice-Chairman. Since Jim was the editor of the Medium there was the question of whether the chapter would continue this newsletter. Opinions were expressed for and against keeping the Medium. It was moved and seconded that the editorship of the Medium be placed in the hands of the new Vice-Chairman.

The next point for discussion was where to have the Spring meeting. After several suggestions, it was moved and seconded that the Spring meeting will be held in Houston on March 6th.

The report by the nominating committee (Ilse Rothrock and Lois Jones) was given by Ilse Rothrock. This committee met on April 5th in Denton and agreed on the following slate of officers:

Vice-Chairman, Chairman-Elect: Lo Parr
Secretary-Treasurer: Linda Nelson

With the resignation of Jim Galloway, present Vice-Chairman, Chairman-Elect, a decision had to be made as to who would complete his term. It was recommended that Shelby Miller, present Chairman, continue in her office another year, and that Lo Parr, nominated to be Chairman-Elect become Chairman a year earlier than would normally be the case. Shelby Miller then asked for nominations from the floor for these offices. As no nominations were made, it was moved and seconded that the recommendations of the committee be accepted. The vote was unanimous. Shelby said that this situation had made it apparent that a constitutional amendment was necessary in case such a resignation should occur again in the future. After studying the Constitution, she would write an amendment and present it to the membership.

The next order of business was the area projects. Ilse Rothrock reported that the Kimbell Museum holdings had been stamped on the "Chamberlin Checklist", a numerical list of entries in the Guide to art reference books by Mary Chamberlin. The list has been stamped by the Fort Worth Art Center and will be sent to North Texas State University. Joyce Hess said that the University of Texas copy of Chamberlin had been checked. Other areas have decided to wait until the new edition of Chamberlin comes out.

The second area project discussed was the compiling of bibliographies of catalogues raisonné. Ilse Rothrock proposed that this project be done on a national basis and that it would be the basis of a grant. Judy Hoffberg suggested that the chapter wait until next year to apply for this grant, but that the Texas chapter initiate a pilot project. After group discussion, Shelby proposed that a committee be formed. Bill Haddaway volunteered to head this committee and Ilse agreed to help him.

A third project suggested by Ilse was a bibliography of catalogues of permanent collections, including out-of-print items. It was recommended that this be a national project and that it have one individual as co-ordinator. It could be initiated by sending a questionnaire to all the museums involved.

The last area project was the formation of a group of persons interested in slide libraries. Rebekah Connally asked that everyone who wanted to participate in such a group please come to room 103 after the tours of the art libraries.

Judy Hoffberg announced that Arlis/ NA Conference will be in Chicago on January 28 through February 1. Details of this meeting were given and will be printed in the "Newsletter". She said that she would present a proposal to Arlis membership that future meetings be held with groups other than the College Art Association, such as the Society of Architectural Historians.

The second conference discussed was the International Conference in London and Paris, March 29- April 16. Tours will be taken to such places as Oxford, Stratford, Wales, Bath, and Stonehenge. Members will receive a brochure describing the details.

The business meeting was then adjourned. Members gathered informally in the Slide Library where Nancy Shuller discussed her collection and policies and in the Art Library where Fred Seibolt showed us the facilities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rebekah Connally
Rebekah Connally
Secretary-Treasurer.

*A more detailed description of the morning's activities begins on p. 5.

°The minutes of the Spring meeting and the Treasurer's report are reprinted below for those of you who could not attend.

Arlis/ Texas
Treasurer's Report
Fall Meeting 1975

Bank: Northwest National Bank of Dallas
Savings Account # 12 5953 0
Arlis/ Texas

Balance: 119.91 Sept. 16, 1975

Activity since last meeting:

Date	Deposits	Withdrawals	Purpose
4/11/75		\$113.45	Expenses for Spring Meeting
8/5/75	\$25.00		Allotment from Arlis/NA
9/16/75	\$54.00		Registration fees for Fall Meeting

Arlis/Texas
Spring Meeting

1975

The fourth semi-annual meeting of the Arlis/Texas Chapter was held on April 5, 1975 at the North Texas State University main library. This meeting was a workshop entitled "Computers for the Humanist".

After being served coffee and doughnuts in an informal gathering, the group convened for a business meeting. President Shelby Miller called the meeting to order. She waived the reading of the minutes and the treasurer's report as this material is printed in the Medium. The current standing of the Treasury is as follows:

Bank: Northwest National, Dallas, Texas
Account# 12 5953 0
Account Name: Arlis/ Texas

Vice-President Jim Galloway gave a summary of the expenses he incurred in setting up the current workshop. With a \$5-7 fee, the income came to \$110.00 while the expenses totalled \$113.45. President Shelby Miller then asked for reports by heads of committees. Ilse Rothrock, chairman of the North Texas Metroplex Union List

committee, reported that the supplement to this list was complete and ready for mailing. Shelby Miller said that the Houston list had already been mailed. Jim Galloway said that a new edition of the Medium would be published shortly after the present meeting. He proposed that in the future, the person who publishes the Medium should have access to the chapter bank account. Shelby Miller pointed out that before we could make such a change in officers' duties, we would have to study the constitution and propose an amendment to it for the next meeting. Jim Galloway asked for contributions to the Medium from all chapter members.

Bill Haddaway announced that there had been two informal meetings of North Texas Metroplex members. In November, a meeting was held at which the group decided to try to assess areas of duplication among the libraries represented. They agreed to begin checking Chamberlain and to start compiling bibliographies of catalogue raisonnés, with an emphasis on specific periods. For example, Ilse Rothrock will be working on the eighteenth century and Bill Haddaway on the nineteenth. The list is to indicate all the major catalogue raisonnés that exist with the holdings checked, and to include painters, sculptors and graphic artists, but exclude architects. To qualify as a catalogue raisonné, the work must catalogue all of an artist's oeuvre or a properly delimited part of it, and include at least the title, dimensions, and present location of each, with the date, illustration and provenance also being important considerations.

A second meeting of the North Texas region members was held at the Bridwell (theology) library at S.M.U. This library has built a special collection of the book as an art form and contains many exciting examples from the fifteenth through twentieth centuries.

Lois Jones asked the group for feedback for the National Standards Committee of Arlis. In connection with standards, Lo Parr announced that the TLA (Texas Library Association) had adopted the Principle of Certification. It outlines qualifications for librarians. As chairman of the membership committee, Lo asked for names of institutions and architectural firms which had libraries and librarians. She also announced that the Fort Worth Art Center and the Kimbell Art Museum are sponsoring a Film Series at the Kimbell and passed out a pamphlet with the films listed.

Shelby Miller announced that the position of fine arts librarian will soon be open at the University of Houston. She then closed the meeting by saying that the Fall Chapter Meeting will be held in the early part of September in Austin. Members will receive a list of officer nominees in the mail before this meeting.

After a short break, the group assembled to hear the first speaker, Jim Galloway who gave a talk on "Computers for the Humanist".

Following Jim Galloway's talk, the members recessed for lunch at Kerr Hall.

At 1:30 the group reconvened for a talk by Dr. Dewey Carroll, Dean and Professor, School of Library and Information Science on "Computers in the Present".


Dean Carroll gave us a definition of models and systems as a necessary background for understanding computers and their applications. He also surveyed what computers can and cannot do for us and explained that we must be prepared for change and obsolescence.

At 2:00 Dr. Denis A. Conrady, Assistant Professor of Computer Sciences gave a lecture on "Computers in the Future". He gave us a brief history of computers using visuals and cartoons. He spoke of the following uses of computers: Bookkeeping, banking, Data banks, text processing, airline reservations, management, credit cards, automatic control, instruction, medical diagnosis, game playing.

At 2:30, Dr. John Corbin, Assistant Professor of the School of Library and Information Science, spoke on "Computer Networks". He explained the services that computers can provide for libraries: inventory, accounting, cataloguing, searching and collecting specific subjects, and abstracting. He then explained that a computer network such as the OCLC (Ohio College Library Center) can serve any library no matter how far away if that library has a terminal. From this terminal the librarian has access to large data banks and bibliographic citations. The cost ranges from \$25 to \$90 an hour plus the long distance telephone charges. The terminal itself may be a mini-computer capable of editing and storing information or of circulating books.

At 3:00 the meeting was adjourned and those who wanted to visited the North Texas University Computer Center.

Respectfully Submitted by


Rebekah Connally,

Secretary- Treasurer

April 11, 1975

Organizational Meeting
Slide Librarians
Arlis/ Texas

Arlis members who were interested in planing a special meeting to discuss problems of slide librarians gathered in the conference room of the University of Texas Art Building after the Arlis/ Texas meeting.

Several issues were discussed. Those present did not favor the establishment of a slide exchange among area slide librarians.

There was a general interest in cataloging problems. The decision was made that a meeting will be held at Pat Toomey's house on Friday, March 5 prior to the Arlis/ Texas Spring meeting in Houston. This meeting will be a workshop for cataloging slides in primitive areas, African and Pre-Columbian in particular. Members are asked to bring their cataloging guides for these areas so that we can all study them and discuss them with the hope of improving our own systems. It would be helpful if each member would bring a list of advantages and disadvantages of their system.

A list of Texas slide librarians will be sent to members.

AUSTIN MEETING 9-20-75

Mid-fall weather greeted those who attended this meeting on one of the last days of summer. Temperatures were cool, and everyone got a bit damp, but it was well worth the bother.

Even old Texas-Exes like your editor are awed everytime they are presented face to face with the enormous wealth of THE University. Gifts to its collections, combined with astute purchases, backed by a few oil wells, have made the luxury of some of the period rooms as impressive as the depth and quality of the research collections themselves. When asked to compare his quite impressive collection to that of UT Austin, Decherd Turner, Librarian of the Bridwell Library at SMU, sums it up quite succinctly by saying, "My dear, they simply have everything."

We didn't see everything on Saturday, but we saw enough to be convinced of the truth of his statement. The morning was spent at the Harry Ransom Center, also known as the Humanities Research Center, and on the fourth floor of the Academic Center.

Theatre Arts Collection

After coffee elegantly served in the Willoughby-Blake Room, the Theatre Arts Collection was the first stop. Ed Neal acted as tour guide and impressed everyone with the size and variety of the collection. Major types of materials included, in addition to at least 10,000 books, are over 200,000 playbills, 50,000 engravings and photographs, 20,000 pieces of sheet music, posters, costume and scene designs, circus materials, and three dimensional objects. Further information about this collection and the Hoblitzelle Foundation's support of it can be found in Ted Perry's PERFORMING ARTS RESOURCES, Vol. 1, 1974, published by the Theatre Library Association, 1975.

Of particular interest to ARLIS members is the Norman Bel Geddes Design Collection including costume and scene design renderings and models. G.K. Hall has recently published Frederick J. Hunter's catalog of this collection. Another important group of materials for art research is the Albert Davis Collection of posters, programs, photographs, etc. covering the years 1874-1942 and comprising the first materials on the history of motion pictures in the U.S.

Theatre historians have long been aware of the importance of ephemeral materials like these, which are the heart of this collection. Programs, clippings, production photographs, etc. are indispensable to the research of theatrical production. The editor can't resist the temptation at this point to put in a plug for libraries to collect similar art materials (exhibition announcements, clippings, small catalogs, etc.) The only reason UT has this invaluable research material is that some individual somewhere took an interest in collecting all that strange stuff, and then either sold or gave it to the University. We should not depend on the generosity of collectors or administrators in the future. It is much wiser to collect these fugitive items now--while they're still available at little or no cost.

Photography Collection

The Photography Collection was second on the agenda, and the tour was conducted by Roy Flukinger.

This collection, considered to be one of the most important photography collections in the world, contains photographic equipment as well as books, albums, prints, negatives, etc. It was begun in 1964 with the purchase of Helmut Gernsheim's personal collection which consists primarily of pre-WWI European materials dating back to the earliest experiments in the field. The Gernsheims are noted for their exhaustive histories of photography, and this is the collection they built as they researched.

There are several other collections which supplement the Gernsheim with slides, films, photographs, projectors, cameras, etc. totalling over 150,000 photographs, 6000 books and journals and 1600 pieces of equipment. The "crown jewel" of the collection is the world's first photograph in its airtight frame. For the many visitors who come through, the staff has prepared a photographic history drawer which includes examples of photographic media from the early days to the present.

Rare Book Library

Last stop in the HRC itself was the Rare Book Library. Sally Leach had pulled some interesting items for us including illuminated manuscripts, books of hours, Lautrec sketches, a hand painted (probably by his wife) William Blake publication, etc. Materials here concentrate on literature, especially on that of the twentieth century. Original manuscripts, letters and other documents and memorabilia of such giants as George Bernard Shaw, D.H. Lawrence and Dylan Thomas abound. It is this collection to which Mr. Turner specifically refers when he says that UT has "everything." It is another significant source for the art researcher although the materials are not all art materials per se.

Academic Center

At this point we ran out of time, and visits to the Michener Galleries were postponed until later on an individual basis. We huddled under shared umbrellas en route across campus in the rain to the AC's fourth floor to meet Kathleen Gee and learn about the Iconography Collection and the Leeds Gallery. An intriguing exhibit of contemporary German book and graphic art greeted us, and Gertrude Stein's glasses and cap were a nice surprise. A final plum was Erle Stanley Gardner's study, set up exactly as it was when he wrote in it, complete to the precise arrangement of the books on the shelves.

A recurring lament, familiar to most of us, was heard throughout the morning's tours. None of the collections visited has staffing adequate to make them completely available to researchers. Much information is carried around in the heads of the current staff and will be lost if they leave. Our program coordinator, Carol Cable, is in charge of a General Libraries backlog project which may help the situation somewhat, but hundreds of items are being received by these special collections on a regular basis. The organization of those materials will be hopelessly behind until the

proper people are convinced of the need for additional staff to process them.

Business Meeting

The afternoon's activities have been thoroughly covered in the minutes beginning on p. 2.

Dinner Party

The day was ended in a most delightful manner by the dinner party at Joyce Hess's house. A magnificent view of the hills west of Austin and a Texas sunset combined with good food, drink and conversation to wrap up an altogether successful meeting. A common comment was that it was nice to see a librarian who lived in such a beautiful place. It was even nicer for her to share that beauty with the rest of us for a time, and the biggest thank you possible should go to Joyce for doing so.

Further thanks are in order to Carol Cable, for the excellent program arrangements of the morning and to Nancy Schuller who helped out on all fronts, as well as to Jane Coombs who was our hostess for the morning coffee.

NEW JOBS FOR MEMBERS

Margaret Culbertson, formerly with the Galveston Public Library, has accepted the position of Art and Architecture librarian for the University of Houston.

Lo Parr, formerly librarian at the Fort Worth Art Museum, has accepted the position of Librarian for the College of Design, Architecture and Art at the University of Cincinnati.

Art Library
PO Box 1892
Houston, Texas 77001

Linda Nelson
1001 Bissonnet
Houston, Texas 77005