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MARCH 2013  
**THE IRREGULAR**

**THE NEWSLETTER OF  
ARLIS/CENTRAL PLAINS**

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**Fall 2012 Chapter Meeting**

The Chapter held its Fall 2012 meeting in Lawrence, Kansas on September 27th and 28th. Librarians from the University of Kansas (KU) and Haskell Nations University organized and hosted this informative, enjoyable, and well-attended meeting. For a more complete description, and the minutes of the Business Meeting, see the Chapter's blog at <http://arlisnacp.wordpress.com/>

Speaking of the blog, chapter members are encouraged to use it to post news and notes between issues of *The Irregular*. Just send information to Mikael Kriz or Suzy Frechette.

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**Mark your calendars – Future 2013 meetings scheduled**

At the upcoming ARLIS/NA annual conference in Pasadena, the chapter is scheduled to meet on Saturday, April 27, at 8:00 am.

Spring Meeting: June 6 –8 in Omaha, Nebraska

Fall Meeting: November 7 – 9 in Fayetteville and Bentonville, Arkansas

When they are set, details on the Omaha and Arkansas meetings will be publicized on the chapter's list-serv and on the blog. To subscribe to the list-serv, contact the chapter's Secretary/Treasurer, Jennifer Akins ([jakins@wustl.edu](mailto:jakins@wustl.edu)).

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**2013 Chapter Officers**

- Chapter Chair: Phillip J. Jones, University of Arkansas
- Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect: Tracey Boswell, Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art
- Secretary/Treasurer: Jennifer Akins, Washington University in St. Louis
- Past-Chair: Ellen Urton, Kansas State University
- Web Editor: Mikael Kriz, St. Louis University
- Newsletter Editor: Suzy Frechette, St. Louis Public Library

## **Travel award**

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This year's Conference Travel Grant has been awarded to Tracey Boswell, our Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect. This grant is funded by chapter dues to help defray the cost of travel to the ARLIS/NA annual conference by a chapter officer. After the conference, Tracey will submit a brief report about her activities; it will appear here in the next issue. Congratulations, Tracey!

## **Message from the ARLIS/NA Chapters Liaison**

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Hello Central Plains Chapter!

I thought I'd share some of my notes from recent Executive Board conference calls, especially items that relate to chapters.

a) Much of the discussion has revolved around finalizing details for the upcoming conference in Pasadena. I would encourage all of you to take a look at the conference website and blog for up-to-date information about registration, hotel reservations, the program, tours, workshops, special events, and exhibits. As part of the Pasadena team, I'm really proud of how everything is all coming together, and I think anyone who attends will have a great conference.

Your chapter has a meeting time slot of 8 am - 9 am on Saturday, April 27. Yes, that's pretty early, but I find chapter meetings to be a good opportunity for networking, as well as getting some chapter business accomplished. Hopefully you'll also find fun ways to socialize outside of the chapter meeting, perhaps at one of the exhibits' coffee breaks or the convocation reception!

b) The Board has been looking ahead to future conferences. Planning is well underway for Washington DC in 2014; we're ironing out a location in Texas (Fort Worth or Austin) for 2015; and we're considering proposals for 2016. Jon Evans continues to work with folks at VRA to see if we might have another joint conference, possibly in 2016.

c) At the annual conference, several people will be rotating off the Executive Board, myself included. Sarah Sherman will be your new Chapter Liaison. You may know her as one of the program co-chairs for Pasadena, and a past chair of the Southern California chapter. She's been a lot of fun to work with, and I know she'll be a wonderful chapters liaison.

That's all for now! Feel free to contact me at [lbliss@rohan.sdsu.edu](mailto:lbliss@rohan.sdsu.edu) if you have any questions. Looking forward to seeing many of you in Pasadena!

Laurel Bliss  
ARLIS/NA Chapters Liaison  
Fine Arts Librarian  
San Diego State University

## MEMBER NEWS

### ARKANSAS

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**Phil Jones** reports that the Fine Arts Library at the University of Arkansas has acquired a new evening staff member, library specialist Terry Wynn. Terry began work in September. Phil has also laid the groundwork for the fall meeting in Fayetteville and Bentonville, Nov. 7–9 of this year.

**Catherine Petersen** sends this report from Bentonville: Crystal Bridges Museum and Library had a highly successful first full year (January 2012 – January 1, 2013) welcoming over 565,000 Museum guests and 17,000 Library visitors. Librarians Catherine Petersen and Jason Dean presented 12 very well attended library specific programs and 3 Museum/gallery talks. The librarians also curated 4 rare book library display case exhibits highlighting books and ephemera related to our first year gallery exhibitions.

Crystal Bridges Library is excited to share the Museum's first online digital exhibition, "Fruit-Full" Arkansas: Apples. Created in partnership with University of Arkansas Libraries, the selections for this exhibit of sixty-nine browsable or searchable items include images of apples from fifteen Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art Library books of color plates published between 1851 and 1922 and an array of materials from the University Libraries Special Collections manuscripts and book collections including folklore class reports, folk customs, poetry, and souvenir booklets of Bentonville and Northwest Arkansas. Using OCLC's CONTENTdm digital content management system, the permanent exhibit resides as part of University Libraries Special Collections Digital Collections but can be accessed from the Museum Library website at [http://scipio.uark.edu/cdm4/index\\_Apples.php?CISOROOT=/Apples](http://scipio.uark.edu/cdm4/index_Apples.php?CISOROOT=/Apples) **Heather Hays**, full time reference librarian at the Bentonville Public Library, is on board as our new part time weekend and evening librarian.

Please visit us at Crystal Bridges soon; we especially enjoy welcoming our ARLIS friends!

### KANSAS

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**Susan Craig** advises that the Murphy Art & Architecture Library at KU has "almost" recovered from the disastrous flood that occurred August 1, 2012. The restored library facility reopened September 17 with new carpet, tile, ceilings, and walls. It took several months to get all the books that had been sent for treatment or stored offsite during the rebuilding back into the library and even longer to get the material reshelved. Just recently, carpenters installed the office cupboards and mini-kitchen so staff can once again find office supplies and make a cup of coffee. She and her staff send thanks to everyone for their notes of encouragement and support, and for filling the ILL requests that were generated while their collection was unavailable.

Susan will miss the Pasadena conference due to a three-week collection development/reference trip to France in April. She'll be visiting Paris, Dijon, Lyon, Avignon, Aix, Nice, and various museums along the French Riviera. Any personal recommendations for sights, shops, or restaurants would be welcome.

**Marilyn Russell** announces that she has officially retired as Library Director at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence. The university gave her a grand retirement party on December 18, 2012. Over 125 folks attended including many ARLIS/CP members and other librarians. She remains, however, as an adjunct professor in the Humanities department, teaching two sections of Native Arts and Culture. She plans to continue teaching for a while yet, and looks forward to seeing chapter members at the ARLIS/NA annual conference in Pasadena.

On the personal side, Mari has a second home in Santa Fe, NM now. It is basically an art studio with living quarters; she visits at least once a month and will spend part of the summer there. She also will be travelling to the Isle of Iona and Glasgow, Scotland; to Dublin, Ireland; and to Hawarden, Wales this summer. She is attending a Pilgrimage Retreat in Iona, going to art museums and historic sites in Glasgow and Dublin, and taking two courses at the Gladstone Library in Hawarden, Wales.

## **MISSOURI**

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Joplin is rebuilding bigger and better after the May 22, 2011 tornado that destroyed 8,000 businesses and residences. Part of the redevelopment in the tornado zone will be a new Joplin Public Library. Since the Post Memorial Art Reference Library is located in a separate wing of the library, it will be moving, too. Director **Leslie Simpson** is in the process of visiting area art libraries looking for ideas for the new facility. She recently toured the Spencer Art Reference Library, the Richardson Memorial Library, the Art Department at the St. Louis Public Library, and the Kemper Art Museum Art and Architecture Library. She will be visiting other libraries, so be expecting her to contact you! She would love to hear from anyone who has advice about how to design a new art library. Contact her at [lsimpson@postlibrary.org](mailto:lsimpson@postlibrary.org).

**Marianne Cavanaugh** sends this account of a busy time: The Richardson Library at the Saint Louis Art Museum has had a year to remember. The library joined the MOBIUS consortium and went live in September. The library is loaning books to students and faculty throughout the state of Missouri, plus some public library members. Over 350 items circulated in just five months. The museum staff has taken advantage of the resources in history, politics, and theology; subject areas that the Richardson Library's collection does not support. Plus, staff members enjoy having the books delivered to the Museum by courier. It is heartening to see Museum books being used instead of sitting on the shelf. As Ranganathan said, "For every book, its reader."

The Library benefited from funds available at the end of the year again in 2012. We purchased significant catalogues raisonnés, an important multivolume set on Islamic art, and a complete facsimile of the nineteenth century Salon catalogs. In 2012, the library subscribed to a new e-reference title: the online edition of Bénézit, accessed through Oxford Art Online.

While the Library re-opened to the public with regular hours in November of 2011, (10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday), the number of visitors has increased only slightly. Virtual visits continue to increase, as we respond by email to most requests for information. Throughout 2012, the Museum's Archives have been most affected by the construction of the new building. Several storage areas remain either inaccessible or requiring security escort. Plans are underway

to renovate the Museum's auditorium and lobby within the next two months. Access to the Library has been assured during this time, however messy it may become.

We are beginning the fourth year for the Members Book Club. This has been a very successful (and fun) collaboration with the Museum Membership department. We hope to continue the program and even grow it, when the Museum's auditorium becomes available in the Fall of 2013.

The Museum has announced that the grand opening of the new wing, designed by award winning architect, David Chipperfield, will be the weekend of June 28 – June 30, 2013. Now, there is a frenzy of art installation, both in the new building and in main, Cass Gilbert building. It is very exciting to see works of art which have been in storage for years return to the galleries. All the galleries have been repainted and reconsidered. A new gallery devoted to St. Louis artists opened recently. We would like to host a Central Plains meeting here to tour the new galleries. The Assistant Director for Education and Public Programs resigned to take a new position in New York, which leaves the Library reporting to the Deputy Director for External Affairs for the foreseeable future.

**M. J. Poehler**, Kansas City Art Institute, regrets that she will not be able to attend the annual conference this year, but announces that **Lora Farrell** is the new cataloging and digital services librarian at KCAI's Jannes Library. Lora joined KCAI in July, 2012. She holds an MLS from Emporia State and a BA from the University of Kansas. Lora's library experience includes stints with Kansas City, Kansas Public Libraries and the University of Kansas Libraries. She brings enthusiasm and a fantastic skill set to Jannes Library, as well as an affinity for working with KCAI students and faculty. Lora will be attending the annual conference of the MOBIUS Library Consortium in June.

From the Spencer Art Reference Library | Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, **Marilyn Carbonell** announces that the library has received the Karen Gould Collection, a donated collection of rare medieval and renaissance materials. This collection was assembled by scholars Karen Keel Gould and Linda Ehrsam Voigts. The collection consists of 31 leaves from medieval manuscripts and early printed books, dating from the early 12th century to the mid-16th century. The collection is intended as a tool for teaching the medieval world in a larger sense, and the history of the book as a more specific focus. The collection will be highlighted in two sessions at the upcoming Mid-America Medieval Association Conference, 20-21 April 2013 at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. The collection is documented in *The Karen Gould Collection/ Spencer Art Reference Library/ The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art*, 2013, a four-color 24-page illustrated overview booklet, written by Thomas Sullivan, OSB, and printed in the Printery at Conception Abbey, Missouri. A collection-level bibliographic record in OCLC and the local library catalog form access pathways to the collection.

This collection raises the research profile of the library through participation in the Digital Scriptorium, the online image database of medieval and renaissance manuscripts with the holdings from 45 research institutions. Images and full descriptions of all 31 leaves will be online in the Digital Scriptorium after June 2013; ten images are online now. One recent outcome from the exposure in the online Digital Scriptorium: a 15th century parchment leaf

from England (KGC 29) in this collection and three leaves at the University of California, Davis were found to be from the same manuscript and can now be “digitally” reunited for scholarly examination in the Digital Scriptorium ( <http://bancroft.berkeley.edu/digitalscriptorium/>). This project represents a successful partnership and collaboration with donors, scholars, libraries, and the scholarly community. If any libraries in the region would like a free copy of the booklet describing the collection, please contact Marilyn Carbonell, Head, Library Services, [mcarbonell@nelson-atkins.org](mailto:mcarbonell@nelson-atkins.org).

Marilyn also reports that Library Research Guides on a variety of topics are regularly added to their webpage ( [www.nelson-atkins.org/education/LibraryGuide.cfm](http://www.nelson-atkins.org/education/LibraryGuide.cfm) ). Some guides support current Museum exhibitions and serve as a general introduction for the study of a topic, such as Contemporary Chinese Art or American Silver. Others are compiled based on requests from individual library users or groups, such as the Kansas City Print Society. The Library Guides are credited. Most of them are compiled by Roberta Wagener, Public Services Library Assistant, who also puts together the library displays.

The Library has contributed resources for in-gallery access to information using mounted iPads, such as The Civil War Sword, an interactive display; and for the April 2013 exhibition on the Cahn Silver Collection.

Check out and “friend” the Spencer Art Reference Library Facebook page, active since August 2012, for news about the library and its services. Library staff members are all encouraged to submit entries on interesting aspects – newly-cataloged books, new acquisitions, etc. Amelia Nelson, Public Services Librarian, is responsible for setting up this service.

On December 9, 2012, the Central Library of the St. Louis Public Library reopened after a two-year closure for a \$70 million restoration and modernization. Crowds were shoulder-to-shoulder that first day, with many old friend patrons welcoming the staff, glad to have “their” library back. The Central collection and staff had moved back into the building in September and October. Public services staff spent many weeks shifting, organizing non-book collections, waiting for furniture, and doing many other tasks during that time. The library is now open four nights a week, and the first floor is open on Sunday afternoons (the Fine Arts room is on the second floor). The Fine Arts department now only carries materials on the visual arts – performing arts are elsewhere. Added to the mix, however, are many craft and decorative arts books that had not previously been part of the room. These include needlework and other textile arts, jewelry-making, paper crafts, fashion, home decorating, and much more. Most pertinent to Central Plains colleagues, perhaps, is the fact that the local artist, architect, and building materials are no longer in the department. They now are part of the new St. Louis Room, a department on the third floor where all things St. Louis are to be found.

This link includes seven photos of the library; the Fine Arts room is the sixth one:

<http://news.stlpublicradio.org/post/st-louis-central-library-restoration-complete-reopens-public>  
Literally thousands of pictures have been taken of the building in the past few months; many can be seen on Google Images, should you wish to see more.

The department has the same staff, **Suzy Frechette** and **Tim Willman**, who invite everyone to drop in when they are in the area.

## NEBRASKA

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**Kay Logan-Peters**, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, has been working on plans for the Omaha meeting, to be held June 6 - 8. The chapter will be meeting at the University of Nebraska-Omaha's Kaneko Library in the Old Market, and using the Embassy Suites there as base camp. Food and activities are lined up, and she is working on scheduling speakers and presenters.

## OKLAHOMA

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**Tom Young**, Philbrook Art Museum, organized the exhibition, *Rural America: American Prints of the 1930s – 1950s*, and is currently working on the upcoming exhibition, *Bookworks III: Exploring the Book as Art*. The *Rural America* exhibition brings together a broad vision of rural America from Jefferson's ideal of America as a nation of farmers who work their own land to the impact of ecological disasters and impact of mechanization of the first half of the 20th century on rural America. It includes works by Grant Wood, Thomas Hart Benton, and John Costigan, and is drawn from the museum's permanent collection. [January 27 – April 21, 2013]

*Bookworks III* presents a broad spectrum of books as collaborations between artist, craftsman and author. Works range from the traditional book format to examples in which the book format is manipulated by the artist independent of text or content. It is drawn from the collection of Ann and Ed Witterholt. [April 28-July 21, 2013]

Tom also announces that the Philbrook will be opening a new facility in the Brady District of downtown Tulsa. It will be called Philbrook Downtown, and will provide exhibition space for modern/contemporary art. In addition it will house the Eugene Brady Adkins Study Center, which will include gallery space and permanent collection storage space for all of the museum's Native American art collection and the Eugene B. Adkins art collection. Another aspect of the Adkins Study Center will be a library/archives, which will house all the monographs, reference materials, vertical files, periodicals, audio-visual materials, and special collections related to Native American art and culture that is currently housed in the H. A. & Mary K. Chapman Library at the Philbrook Museum of Art. Materials will begin moving into this new space in late April, and it will open to the public on June 14, 2013. Public hours have not yet been determined, and staffing is still uncertain; Tom is planning on dividing his time between the two libraries until he hears otherwise.