



# THE IRREGULAR

FEBRUARY 2014

THE NEWSLETTER OF  
THE CENTRAL PLAINS CHAPTER OF  
THE ART LIBRARIES SOCIETY OF NORTH AMERICA

## Report from the Chair

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Greetings Central Plains colleagues;

I hope by now the words *snow shovel* and *wind chill* are distant memories. Can you see Spring yet from your location?

Thank you for electing me Chair of Central Plains this year. It's great to be following such good leadership as Phil Jones last year and all of my other predecessors. I'm really pleased to have the assistance of Jenny Akins again, Tom Young, Mikael Kriz, Suzy Frechette and the dedication of others such as recent meeting hosts Katherine Peterson and Kay-Logan Peters. There are many others who contribute to meetings and chapter activities in various ways. Thank you for that. Thank you for coming. Thank you for renewing your memberships. Thank you for your continual support of ARLIS/NA and the Central Plains Chapter.

If you don't know me, let me fill you in. I majored in art at the University of Northern Iowa where I spent hours in the art gallery listening to my Walkman. I earned an MA in Art History at the University of Kansas and after teaching Art History as an adjunct professor for about ten years in the Kansas City metro I redirected my career by enrolling in library school at Emporia State University. Finishing in 2010, I was hired that year for the dual position of Cataloger and Reference Librarian at the Spencer Art Reference Library where I've been ever since. I also work on bibliographies and art object research guides. I love to show off the library so come to visit if you can.

What would I like from this year? In my time so far in the Central Plains chapter I have really come to appreciate the depth of knowledge that the members have for one another and the libraries and collections we safeguard. I'd like to spend part of this year including new persons in the chapter.

Remember there are no bylaw restrictions on who can join, meetings are open (all attendees must pay the meeting fee) and each of our institutions have interesting and hardworking colleagues who could enjoy the benefits of membership and could contribute to our conversations and activities. So let's talk to them, invite them, and tell them about ARLIS/NA and Central Plains.

I look forward to seeing some of you in Washington DC in May and then again in Kansas City June 12-14.

Best wishes,  
*Tracey*

## Fall 2013 Chapter Meeting

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The Chapter held its Fall meeting in northwest Arkansas on November 7—9 , 2013. This meeting was organized and hosted by our members Philip J. Jones at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville and Catherine Petersen at the Crystal Bridges Museum in Bentonville, towns that are about 20 miles apart.



On Thursday the 7<sup>th</sup>, early arrivals met in Fayetteville to tour Vol Walker Hall and its new addition, the Steven Anderson Design Center. The new complex houses all three academic components of the School of Architecture: Architecture, Interior Design, and Landscape Architecture. The traditional get-reacquainted dinner was held at a Thai restaurant near campus.

Friday's activities started at the main library at the University. During the Business Meeting, the new chapter Flickr account (<http://www.flickr.com/groups/arliscp/>) was unveiled, and among other things, by-laws and 2014 meeting locations were discussed. The Spring meeting will be held in Kansas City, and in the Fall we will gather in St. Louis.

Mikael Kriz of St. Louis University gave the first presentation, on the career of Walter T. Bailey, an early African-American architect from Illinois, with special emphasis on his Pythian Bath House and Hotel in Hot Springs, Arkansas. After lunch and a tour of the Fine Arts Library, Phil Jones, Catherine Petersen, and Lois Crane spoke about their experiences with collaborations between museum, public, and academic libraries.

The group then made the trip to Bentonville to see the magnificent Crystal Bridges Museum of Art. Catherine Petersen led the group on a quick tour, which included the library, after which there was free time to admire the building complex and the art collection before dinner in the museum's spectacular restaurant.

Some members met for breakfast on Saturday and more sight-seeing before scattering back to our homes.



All agreed this was another highly successful meeting.

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

## **2014 Chapter Officers and appointments**

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

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

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Hello Central Plain Chapter Members!

As the current Executive Board Chapters Liaison, I look forward to working with your Chapter during my two-year term, which ends at the 2015 annual conference.

At the 2013 annual conference in Pasadena, the Executive Board had a series of meetings in addition to gathering for two days in Washington, DC at the end of September for the mid-year Board Meeting. I wanted to share few highlights with you:

### ***Conferences***

**Pasadena Conference:** It was a record-breaking success! We welcomed just over 710 registrants during a week of perfect weather -- warm with sunshine. The fundraising efforts totaled \$71,250.

**Future Conferences:** The Washington DC Conference planning team is hard at work. It will be a fantastic conference from May 1-6, 2014. For more information visit the conference [website](#). For the first time at a conference, a small number of sessions will be video recorded and available to members after the conference. Looking forward, we will begin to incorporate regular conference programming for international attendees and issues, following the success of welcoming Latin American and European librarians to the Pasadena conference. We come back to the West to meet in Ft. Worth, Texas in 2015. We will meet in Seattle, WA in 2016 for the 3<sup>rd</sup> joint conference with the Visual Resources Association (VRA). The Executive Board is working with prospective host chapters to select a 2017 location.

Virtual Conference: I look forward to seeing many of you in-person at the future conferences. However between DC and Fort Worth in Fall 2014, we will have the opportunity to meet online. A Virtual Conference is in development under the leadership of Executive Board Education Liaison, Sarah Falls. An implementation team is being formed.

### ***Fundraising***

Chapters have generously sponsored the annual conference. The donations have been greatly appreciated. I hope all Chapters will consider contributing a minimum of \$200 to the D.C. conference. Get creative with fundraising throughout the year to support the annual conference and your chapter. The Development Committee members are available to support and help with chapter fundraising efforts. Please be in touch with them or me for any assistance.

### ***ARLIS/NA Website (AWS)***

The website content has migrated to the new platform. The unveiling of the new website and new ARLIS/NA logo will be coming soon.

### ***Association Manager***

Robert Kopchinski was hired as the ARLIS/NA Association Manager in April 2013. He has over 24 years of association management experience. Robert's contact information is on the [ARLIS/NA Website](#). His email is [r.kopchinski@arlisna.org](mailto:r.kopchinski@arlisna.org).

The Executive Board will continue to have our monthly meetings. As usual, with every meeting we will have a lot to discuss toward the advancement of ARLIS/NA. I will keep you posted!

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

Wishing you all the best for a great start to 2014!

*Sarah Sherman*

ARLIS/NA Executive Board, Chapters Liaison  
Reference Librarian  
Getty Research Institute  
[ssherman@getty.edu](mailto:ssherman@getty.edu)

## **2013 ARLIS/NA Conference Report**

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Last year, then Chair-Elect Tracey Boswell received the chapter's Conference Travel Award. Awardees are required to submit a report to the chapter as part of the grant.

Connecting with other professionals who share the same interests and concerns is often the best outcome of attending a conference like ARLIS/NA, 2013. I was able to do that and much more thanks to the travel award from the Central Plains Chapter.

Held in Pasadena, California with access to Los Angeles; the location was prime for visiting art museums, libraries, and architectural sites. I took the trip to the Getty Center and Research Institute; which was my first visit to another major museum and research facility. The staff was very welcoming: giving us a tour of the research library and special collections and even a book of the special collections to take away! Later in the weekend I spent a few hours at The Huntington Library, Art Collections and Botanical Gardens. This was an amazing combination of world class art, exquisite special book collections on exhibit, and rich gardens.

I hold a dual position in Cataloging and Reference. With the implementation of the new cataloging standards of RDA I was eager to learn anything I could about its implementation and use. I was pleased to learn that while there is still much anxiety over the changes it is going well in general. I attended cataloging section and discussion group meetings, a presentation about post-implementation RDA, and the day-long workshop on authorities cataloging in RDA.

This was just my second ARLIS/NA annual conference and I eagerly attended many sessions on digitization, training docents, building library audiences and Lily Pregill's (New York Resources Arts Consortium) presentation on information visualization (info vis). Some guest speakers were especially interesting: Chon Noriega and his work curating exhibitions and writing about Chicano and Latin-American art and Piotr Adamczyk, Google Cultural Institute who discussed the creation of Google Art Project.

Formal and informal exchanges at professional gatherings always put my own work and library procedures in perspective. Conferences can be a stressful whirlwind but the California sunshine and museum and library visits made this one worthwhile.

*Tracey*

## **MEMBER NEWS**

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**Phil Jones**, University of Arkansas, reports that Aiden Guzman, who had worked in the Fine Arts Library as a student, accepted the position of evening supervisor of the Fine Arts Library and began work in December, after Terry Wynn accepted a promotion in Mullins Library.

**Catherine Petersen** announces the William Reese Company Teacher Fellowship at the Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art Library.

What distinguishes the William Reese Company Teacher Fellowship is its relationship with the Crystal Bridges Library coupled with the guiding principal of advancing high school teacher education.

The Reese Teacher Fellowship is open to high school educators. Applicants may be affiliated with a public, private, or charter school. Fellows will be selected on the basis of their project narrative and the potential to enrich high school curriculum based on an interdisciplinary connection between American art primary and secondary print resources and a subject topic. Curriculum subject areas may be language arts, history, social studies, or sciences focused, and contribute to the understanding of a topic as it intersects with American art. Creative research projects that seek to enhance traditional teaching methods and engagement are particularly encouraged.

The Reese Teacher Fellowship will be a residential appointment and the recipient is expected to spend one month at Crystal Bridges Museum of American Art in Bentonville, Arkansas, where the residency will be based. The Reese Teacher Fellow will be awarded the total fellowship of \$4,000.

The application will be completed on-line and submitted to the Crystal Bridges Library by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014. For more information see: <http://crystalbridges.org/library/reese-teacher-fellowship/>



**Marilyn Russell** advises that she is still retired from the art library world but is planning on attending the ARLIS/NA annual conference in D.C. in May. She is still teaching half-part in the Humanities department at Haskell Indian Nations University. She still has her second home in Santa Fe and gets there about once a month, during Semester Breaks, and during the summer. She traveled to Scotland, northern Wales, the Isle of Iona, and Ireland this past summer and is hoping to travel for a month in Europe this coming summer.

And she is painting again, recently finishing a series of cross icons. One is a painting of a Celtic cross image from the Isle of Iona; she donated this painting to the Episcopal House of Prayer in Collegeville, Minnesota in memory of her Mother, who was an Episcopalian all her life.

Her biggest family news is that her oldest granddaughter, Megan, is getting married this coming June, and she will be attending.



**Notes From The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art Library, Kansas City.** Contributed by **Marilyn Carbonell**, Head, Library Services. The theme for the past season in library services is collaboration with other Museum departments for programming, exhibitions, collection building,

and long-term educational objectives. Library Services at the Nelson-Atkins Museum includes the Spencer Art Reference Library, the Museum's Archives, and the Visual Resources Library. Selected examples of library teams working successfully during fall 2013 and the beginning months of 2014 are described below.

### **Monuments Men exhibit from the Archives (5 February - 9 March 2014)**

A lobby display of primary materials from the Archives highlighted the contributions of six men who served as "Monuments Men" during World War II, including the first two directors of the Nelson-Atkins: Paul Gardner and Laurence Sickman, and James Reeds, Museum Docent and Library volunteer. This exhibit was put up in remarkable time to coincide with the world release of the George Clooney feature film, "Monuments Men," which opened on 7 February 2014. The Nelson's efforts included the lobby display, speaker's opportunities at special movie showings, and a reading list, generating excitement in the community. MacKenzie Mallon, curatorial project researcher, European Paintings and Sculptures, developed the idea that was embraced by the entire museum staff with contributions from departments including marketing, design, curatorial, interpretative planning and library services. Julián Zugazagoitia, Museum CEO, and MacKenzie Mallon were interviewed for the media. Library staff assisting with the Monuments Men exhibit included Marilyn Carbonell, Holly Wright, archivist, Noriko Ebersole for digitization, Tracey Boswell and Roberta Wagener for the resource guide, which is posted free on the library's web page.

[http://www.nelson-atkins.org/images/PDF/Education/Library/2014\\_MonumentsMenLibraryGuide.pdf](http://www.nelson-atkins.org/images/PDF/Education/Library/2014_MonumentsMenLibraryGuide.pdf)

The link to the Nelson's web page on the Monuments Men features their photos.

[http://www.nelson-atkins.org/art/monuments-men.cfm?utm\\_source=web&utm\\_medium=button&utm\\_content=monunementsmen&utm\\_campaign=hp](http://www.nelson-atkins.org/art/monuments-men.cfm?utm_source=web&utm_medium=button&utm_content=monunementsmen&utm_campaign=hp)

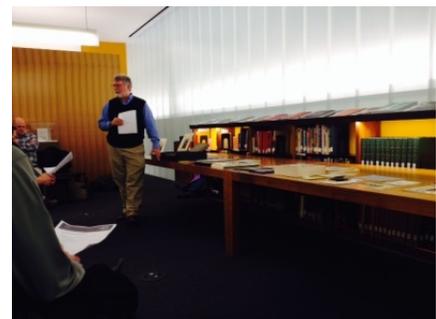


### **The Art of the Photo Book**

Keith F. Davis, senior curator for Photography, spoke in the library's reading room for a ticketed program on 6 February 2014, highlighting special items from the library's collections in American photography, and supplemented library holdings with choice examples from his personal collection. For the attentive audience, who braved the Kansas City cold and snows, Keith covered 19<sup>th</sup>-century printed examples through 20<sup>th</sup> century developments which

demonstrated the evolution of printing techniques that enhanced the work of photographers.

Examples also included artist books and printing proofs from one of Keith's award winning books. With his guidance, the library recently acquired a gift collection of 2800 photography books from Alex Nowak, and purchased a large collection from noted photographer and professor, Carl Chiarenza. These recent acquisitions have enhanced the library's holdings as a research center for the history of American photography. This was successful team project between the Photography Department and Library Services. Amelia Nelson worked with Keith on the selections and prepared the program listing, Scott Easterday



quickly cataloged the featured new acquisitions. The project was coordinated with Natalie Boten, photography curatorial assistant.

### **Docent Training in the Education Division**

Tracey Boswell was included in a training team to prepare the museum docents for a new technique to be incorporated into school tours in 2013. She worked with 150 docents on the new tour, "Tomb Treasures." She started her museum career as a docent and spent years teaching art history before library school so this assignment was ideal. The museum tours for school age students were re-written by education staff, docents, and teachers to incorporate the technique Visual Thinking Strategy. These changes better align the tour outcomes with those of the schools. VTS, developed by Philipp Yenawine and Abigail Housen, is a conversation facilitation method which asks viewers to tell what they see in a neutral environment. Students are asked to back up their observations with visual evidence. They learn to look carefully and listen to others. The tours went into effect in fall 2013 and have been very popular. The Library is part of the Education Division at the Nelson-Atkins. Here's the reference for VTS: <http://www.vtshome.org/>.

### **Chinese New Year: Year of the Horse**



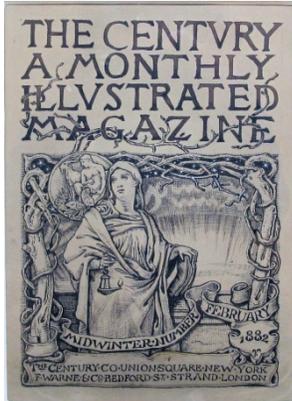
The Library participated in the Chinese New Year celebration. This family celebration is a city tradition, and the entire Museum is activated. The Year of the Horse festivities were staged on 31 January 2014 – the actual start of the Chinese New Year. This is the second year that the reference library offered a storytelling session for everyone to enjoy, along with a book mark designed by Amelia Nelson that listed

books of interest. Mats for children are brought in so they could sit on the floor close to the storyteller (Tracey Boswell). To round out the library offering, we experimented with two additional activities for adults: poetry reading and a display of facsimile Chinese scrolls. The poems were selected by Amelia Nelson and read by David Weinglass (volunteer). Roberta Wagener and Lihui Xiong prepared information to share on the scrolls. Marilyn Carbonell, wearing a borrowed Empress headdress, introduced the speakers.



**Skye Lacerte**, Modern Graphic History Curator at Washington University in St. Louis, announces the acquisition of the Walt Reed Illustration Archive. Reed established the New York gallery, Illustration House, in 1974 and has been the nation's premier advocate for illustration art. In addition to hosting exhibitions, Reed and his son, Roger, staged twice-yearly auctions and helped pioneer what has become a thriving market for original works of illustration.

The new acquisition includes important examples by dozens of major illustrators, with a particular emphasis on the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Highlights include a drawing, circa



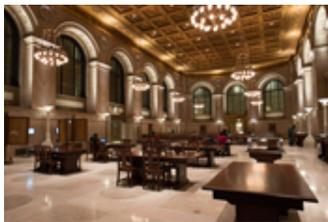
1880, by Benjamin Day (1810-1889), inventor of the ubiquitous “Ben Day” printing dot, and an 1882 cover illustration for *The Century* magazine by symbolist painter Elihu Vedder (1836-1923).

These materials, which will be housed in the Modern Graphic History Library (MGHL), include about:

- 8,000 periodicals;
- 1,200 illustrated books;
- 250,000 magazine tear sheets; and
- 140 pieces of original art, ranging from sketches and drawings to production art and finished canvases, by 45 artists.

In addition, the collection will include materials relating to Reed’s own scholarship, as well as correspondence and other documents.

**Suzy Frechette** reports that the St. Louis Public Library’s 2.5-year renovation of Central Library has been honored with numerous awards since its completion in December, 2012. Several are local, the most prestigious being the designation as a 2013 Most Enhanced Building by the Landmarks Association of St. Louis.



On the national level, the American Institute of Architects and the American Library Association named Central Library a recipient of their 2013 Library Building Awards during the 2013 ALA Annual Conference. The AIA also presented the library with its 2014 Institute Honor Award for Architecture. Plus, the National Trust for Historic Preservation granted the library its Preservation Honor Award during that annual conference. We are anxious to show off the

building to you when we meet in St. Louis in the Fall.

Suzy also maintains a Fine Arts department blog for SLPL. It can be found at <http://slplar.blogspot.com/> if you are interested.



**Tom Young**, Philbrook Museum of Art in Tulsa, reports that he has been reorganizing the storage area, something that always creates an enormous mess. Fortunately, he has a new young volunteer who can actually do some of the physical labor required that his aging volunteer group are not be able to do, such as bend down to file in the bottom file cabinet drawers. Many of us can sympathize with them, Tom!