

# ARTifacts

## The Newsletter of The Art Libraries Society of North America, Southeast Chapter January 2011

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### Remembering Jim Findlay

by his friends and colleagues;  
compiled and submitted by Kathleen List,  
Ringling College of Art and Design



James Findlay, our dear colleague, 67, passed away on October 5, 2010, in Miami, Florida. He was born August 13, 1943, in Reese, Michigan, to Arlye and Gladys Vollmer Findlay. He attended Wayne State University, where he received a BA in art history and an MLS in library science. He went on to UCLA, receiving a master's degree in Latin American studies. In the midst of his academic pursuits, he served in the Dominican Republic in the Peace Corps from 1966 to 1969.

An exceptional art librarian and consummate professional, Jim was known nationally for his work in the research, publication, and exhibition of the New Deal. As Director of the Bienes Museum of the Modern Book, he developed the collection, facilitated educational programming, and curated thirty-nine exhibitions. He also published five bibliographies and many award-winning catalogues and instituted the well-regarded Florida Artists' Book Prize.

Prior to his tenure at the Bienes, he was the librarian at the Wolfsonian-FIU (Florida International University) and the Rhode Island School of Design and was

the Latin American bibliographer at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Jim was a member and active participant of ARLIS/NA since 1977.

Jim is survived by his partner of twenty-four years, Rafael Rodriguez; his best friend of forty-four years, Janice Jorgensen; and his sister and brothers, Joanne Trombley, Richard Findlay, and Gary Findlay of Michigan. Donations can be sent to Broward Public Library Foundation, Bienes Museum, in honor of Jim Findlay, 100 S. Andrews Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301.

— *Susan Moon, UC Santa Barbara, and Janice Jorgensen*

James Findlay, an exceptional art librarian, mentor, and aficionado of the Works Progress Administration's (WPA) Federal Writers' Project, passed away at the age of 67. Since 1995, Jim had been serving as director of the Bienes Museum of the Modern Book, a rare books and special collections library housed in the main branch of the Broward County Library. During his tenure there, Jim organized numerous and beautifully curated exhibitions drawn from the Bienes Museum's own collections (which he largely built) and those of local public institutions and private collectors. He and his staff also produced approximately thirty printed publications to accompany those displays, many of them winning the prestigious Art Libraries Society of North America's Worldwide Books Award and ARLIS/SE's LoPresti Art Publication Award. He also put together one of the country's finest collections of New Deal books and WPA Museum Extension Project items.

My own association with Jim, however, dates back to his earlier work as the first chief librarian at the Wolfsonian Foundation between 1989 and 1995. During this time, Jim played an instrumental role in helping to organize and grow the library, even as the private collection was being transformed into a public institution. Before that, Jim had served in library directorial positions at the Fashion Institute of Technology, New York City, and the Rhode Island School of Design, Providence, in the 1980s, and had even served a stint as a Peace Corps Volunteer Librarian in the Dominican Republic in the 1960s. Jim had taken both his BA in art history and MS in library science from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan, and had pursued another master's degree in Latin American Studies at UCLA. Jim was not one to encourage or tolerate a lot of sentimental gush. I will remember Jim most as a fine boss and mentor, a passionate tennis player, someone one could always spot bicycling around Miami Beach, and as an avid collector and exhibitor of New Deal books and ephemera. It is in remembrance of Jim's interests and collecting mission that I've included in my blog (<http://wolfsonianfiulibrary.wordpress.com/2010/10/11/james-findlay-1943-2010-in-memorium/>) some images from the Wolfsonian library's holdings that touch upon his greatest loves: books, librarianship, and the New Deal.

— *Frank Luca, The Wolfsonian-Florida International University*

Jim was a valued colleague and friend and long-time member of ARLIS/SE. His contributions to ARLIS/NA and ARLIS/SE and the world of books and ideas are many, as his friends have noted. Jim was a prolific editor and publisher of books about books, which won recognition in the Mary Ellen LoPresti Awards and Worldwide Books Awards for Publication. He authored articles for *Art Documentation* and *The Journal of Decorative and Propaganda Arts* and was a frequent speaker in his areas of expertise.

Jim served as moderator of the Art and Design School Library Division in the 1980s, Local Arrangements chair for the 1996 ARLIS/NA annual conference in Miami Beach, and cohosted the 2001 ARLIS/SE annual meeting in Ft. Lauderdale/Boca Raton. Even as one of his fascinating book exhibits was opening, he had the next one in mind.

Jim was impressive because he was so grounded and thoroughly knowledgeable and yet so passionate about and engaged with artists' books and their creators, the New Deal and WPA, opera and more. We admired him for his intelligence and enjoyed him for his grand spirit. We will miss him.

—*Kathleen List, ARLIS/SE, Ringling College of Art and Design*

Jim and I worked as student assistants in the Art Library at UCLA. It was my first job, and Jim was a man of the world, with Peace Corps experience. He could type more than one hundred words per minute—amazing. He always did his job to the utmost, a true professional.

We shared many experiences, mischievous adventures, and a common love of Latin America. He was one of the most photogenic people I knew, often sharing these photos of himself in great locations. My husband and I truly cherished his friendship.

—*Yvonne Boyer, ARLIS/SE, Vanderbilt University*

He was truly an innovative and creative art librarian, always promoting and developing his love of books.

—*Artis Wick, ARLIS/SE, John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art*

I met him through the ARLIS/SE Chapter Conferences and will miss seeing him there. He was a very learned scholar and always ready to advise when I needed a question answered. At our last fall conference we had a long discussion on

cameras and photography. I wonder if he ever purchased a new Nikon. He has left a void that cannot be filled.

—*Liz Gentry, ARLIS/SE, Booth Western Art Museum*

I remember Jim's always friendly and welcoming presence at ARLIS/SE meetings, his excellent presentations, and his many contributions to ARTifacts and ARLIS/SE.

—*Cary Wilkins, ARLIS/SE, Morris Museum of Art*

## **ARLIS/SE Meeting in Cartersville, Georgia**

by Liz Gentry, Booth Western Art Museum

I want to thank everyone who attended the 2010 fall meeting of ARLIS/SE in Cartersville. It was my pleasure to introduce you to the Booth Western Art Museum, Bartow History Museum, Tellus-Northwest Georgia's Science Museum, Rose Lawn, and to my city of Cartersville.

To those of you who could not attend, I invite you to come to the Booth and visit our Ansel Adams: A Legacy exhibition, showing until February 20, 2011. You will see a collection of 130 black-and-white photographs that were personally developed by Adams during the 1960s.



Seth Hopkins, director of the Booth Western Art Museum, and Liz Gentry, the Booth's librarian, welcoming ARLIS/SE members to the 2010 annual meeting.



ARLIS/SE members and tour guides on the front steps of Rose Lawn, home of nineteenth-century evangelist Sam Jones.





Mike Bunn, curator of history, and Kristen Miller-Zohn, curator of collections and exhibitions, of the Columbus Museum at their presentation on contemporary ambrotypist Ellen Susan.



ARLIS/SE members at the Tellus Science Museum, Cartersville, Georgia.

## ARLIS/SE Announces 26th Annual LoPresti Award Winners

by Heather Koopmans, Savannah College of Art and Design

Katie Riel and I had a great time judging the latest entries for the LoPresti awards (books published in 2009), which we presented at the November chapter conference in Cartersville, Georgia. As usual, there were four possible categories for consideration: Books, Exhibition Catalogs, Artists Books, and Serials. We received around twenty submissions in all, but of course we could only choose a few. The winners will be housed at Duke University with past LoPresti selections.



Heather Koopmans with the LoPresti winner in the books category.

**Books category winner:** *Great Masters of Cuban Art, 1800–1958: Ramos Collection* (Grandes Maestros del Arte Cubano, 1800–1958: Colección Ramos), by Zeida Comesañas Sardiñas, published by the University Press of Florida.

Books category honorable mention: *Josephine Crawford: An Artist's Vision*, by Louise C. Hoffman, published by the Historic New Orleans Collection.

**Exhibition catalogs category winner:** *Aldwyth: work v. / work n.: Collage and Assemblage, 1991–2009*, by Mark Sloan, published by Halsey Institute of Contemporary Art, College of Charleston.

Exhibition catalogs category honorable mention: *Gothic Art in the Gilded Age: Medieval and Renaissance Treasures in the Gavet-Vanderbilt-Ringling Collection*, edited by Virginia Brilliant, with essays by Brilliant and others, published by the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art.

Additional information about this year's winners will be posted at <http://arlis-se.org/lopresti.html>.



Kathryn Riel with the LoPresti winner in the exhibition catalogs category.

## Member News

From **E. Lee Eltzroth**, independent scholar, Peachtree City, Georgia:

I had a book review published for ARLIS a few issues ago: *Galleries of Friendship and Fame: A History of Nineteenth-Century American Photograph Albums*, by Elizabeth Siegel (Yale University Press, June 2010). It can be accessed here: <http://www.arlisna.org/pubs/reviews/2010/10/siegel.pdf>.

My dad, Richard T. Eltzroth, was made an SGA Fellow for 2010, at the annual meeting in Augusta in November; this was the first Fellow ever awarded posthumously by the Society of Georgia Archivists.

From **D. Courtenay McLeland**, librarian, University of North Florida, Jacksonville:

I reviewed the DVD *Crafted over Time*, a film by Patrick Rosenkranz, for ARLIS/NA. The review may be accessed here: <http://www.arlisna.org/pubs/reviews/2010/06/rosenkranz.pdf>.

I also participated in a well-received community art project called Imagination Squared: <http://www.imaginationsquared.com/>.

Over the course of the last year the University of North Florida's Thomas G. Carpenter Library has established its first departmental liaisons program. I am the liaison for both the Art & Design and Music departments. The library has also recently established an Art in the Library program with several significant donations of artwork from local artists and collectors.

From **Heather Koopmans**, reference librarian, Savannah College of Art and Design-Savannah:

Katie Riel and I will be at the annual conference in March to copresent our poster, "Surviving Research" Anywhere: Using Meeting/Webinar Software to Bring Library Instruction Online.

## New Member News

From **Jessica Evans Brady**, visual and performing arts librarian, Florida State University, Tallahassee:



I am happy to join ARLIS/SE in my new role as visual and performing arts librarian at Florida State University. I was previously a courseware support librarian at the University of Pennsylvania Libraries and before that, an information commons intern.

I earned a master's degree in library and information science at Drexel University in December 2009. Prior to discovering my love for libraries, I earned a bachelor's degree in art history from Buffalo State College (SUNY), followed by a master's degree in art history and a certificate in curatorial studies from Rutgers University. At Rutgers, I worked as a digital production manager in the Visual Resources Collection and have held positions as a researcher and an educator at several museums and historic sites.

*From **Rick Gillert**, assistant librarian, Shorter University, Rome, Georgia:*



I received my bachelor of arts degree in English from John Brown University in 1997 and my master of library and information science degree from Valdosta State in 2008. I have worked in libraries for more than twelve years, including public, special, and academic libraries. I am currently an assistant librarian at Shorter University, where I manage circulation, serials, and student workers. I am also the liaison to the Art Department, the Religion Department, and the Communications Department.

When I am not at work, I paint, train my dog, and play the banjo. I also have written and published poetry. In 2000, I was a featured poet at the High Museum's Friday Night Jazz program. I also occasionally blog on

<http://www.thinkingoflibraries.blogspot.com>. My artwork can be seen at <http://www.rickgillertart.com>.

**[Minutes from ARLIS/SE Business Meeting,  
Cartersville, Georgia, November 13, 2010](#)**

## Become a Member of ARLIS/Southeast!

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Are you a member of ARLIS/NA? \_\_\_yes \_\_\_no

Please send a check for \$15.00 to:

Allen Novak  
ARLIS/SE Treasurer  
Verman Kimbrough Memorial Library  
Ringling College of Art and Design  
2700 North Tamiami Trail  
Sarasota, FL 34234

### **ARTifacts**

**Next Submission Deadline:  
May 6, 2011**

Please send newsletter contributions to:

Cary Wilkins

Morris Museum of Art  
1 Tenth St. Ste. 320  
Augusta, GA 30901  
Phone: 706-828-3801  
Fax: 706-724-7612  
wcary@themorris.org

Please send address changes to the treasurer.

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