Annual Report (2004): ARLIS/NA Western New York Chapter

Submitted by: Frances Scott, Architecture/Arts Librarian, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Chapter President from April-December 2004

Chapter Officers for 2005:

President--Martha Walker (Fine Arts Librarian, Cornell University)

Vice-President/President-Elect--Dorothy Tao (Associate Librarian, Architecture & Planning Library, University of Buffalo)

Secretary--Barbara Opar (Architecture Librarian, Syracuse University)

Treasurer--Elizabeth Gulacsy (Art Librarian & Archivist, NY State College of Ceramics at Alfred University)

Chapter Meetings and Activities:

April 19, 2004: Hotel Roosevelt, New York City, New York
Art Libraries Society of North America 32nd Annual Conference

The Western New York chapter met twice in 2004. The first meeting was held Monday April 19, 2004 at the Roosevelt Hotel in New York City, the site of the annual national conference. Eleven members attended. Minutes of the fall 2003 meeting and the current treasurer’s report were approved. The membership discussed the chapter’s professional development award, the WNY listserv/website management, upcoming meetings, and a new nominations committee to identify a Vice-President/President Elect and Secretary to serve in 2005. There was also a report on a change in officers for 2004. Eric Schwab (Cornell University) officially stepped down as president at this meeting because he had accepted a new position at the Ontario College of Art and Design in Toronto. Fran Scott (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), the current Vice-President/President-Elect assumed the duties of President and Martha Walker (Cornell University) volunteered to serve as Vice-President/President-Elect for the remainder of 2004. Our Northeast Regional Representative, Carol Graney joined the meeting and discussed the guidelines for special funding from ARLIS/NA.

Following the spring meeting the outgoing president, Eric Schwab, proposed by email that two chapters, Ontario and Western New York, plan a joint meeting for the spring of 2005. This met with approval from both memberships and plans were made for the joint conference. As a result of this positive collaboration, the Ontario chapter submitted a special funding application to ARLIS/NA and was awarded a $500 grant. The Ontario chapter formed a committee to plan the event and consulted with the Western New York chapter on further details. This exciting joint conference is now scheduled for Thursday May 12 through Saturday May 14th and both chapters have been working closely together on the program.

November 5, 2004

Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute, Utica, New York

The second chapter meeting was held at the Munson-Williams-Proctor Arts Institute in Utica New York on Friday November 5th. This was a joint meeting of the Western New York chapter and the Visual Resources Association’s Upstate New York chapter. Twelve WNY members and ten VRA members attended. Kathryn
Corcoran (Library Services Director) hosted the event which included a talk and tour of the Museum’s new interactive gallery by April Oswald, Museum Education Director, and a luncheon with ARLIS and VRA colleagues. In addition there were opportunities to visit the Arts Reference Library and the current exhibitions at the Museum. From the business meeting, the minutes of the spring 2004 meeting and the current treasurer’s report were approved. The members also approved a $50 donation to the ARLIS/NA 2005 conference in Houston, and this year’s professional development award of $300. There was an update on the chapter web site management and revision by Carole Ann Fabian, our incoming publications editor. New officers for 2005 were announced and approved, and finally the members discussed program plans for the joint meeting of the Ontario and Western New York chapters to be held in Toronto in May of 2005.

Additional Comments:

I think “collaboration” was the key word for this year’s activities. Strengthening the ties with our Visual Resources colleagues and planning programs with another ARLIS chapter helped make it a very rewarding year. This also increased our collective ability to network and to build stronger working relationships. I hope this continues in the future.

Membership Statistics:

ARLIS/WNY had 19 dues paying members in 2004. Statistics from recent years show that memberships hovered around 20-25 paid members.