

Decorative Arts SIG - Meeting Friday 4/26/2013

Linda Seckelson called the meeting to order and explained that the incoming ARLIS/NA President asked Linda to explore reestablishing the Decorative Arts SIG.

We reviewed the ideas Stephen Van Dyk (Linda disseminated via ARLIS listserv prior to the meeting).

Date: Tue, 16 Apr 2013 14:57:07 +0000
From: "Seckelson, Linda" <Linda.Seckelson@METMUSEUM.ORG>
Subject: FW: Decorative Arts ar ARLIS

Dear Colleagues:

Dec arts are alive and well, and used to be at ARLIS There was a "Dec Arts Round Table" (known as DART) which morphed into the Dec Arts Special Interest Group (SIG). This SIG has been inactive for several years, and we have a chance to revive it if we want to.

Interested ARLIS attendees are encouraged to attend a meeting on Friday April 26, 2013 4:45pm - 5:45pm in Ballroom A at the Convention Center to chart our future (if we have one). I've been tapped to facilitate this gathering, which I hope will involve lively discussion and identify a few projects or programs to work on.

Here are some discussion points. Stephen Van Dyk at the Cooper Hewitt Museum Library (Smithsonian) was helpful in making some of these suggestions. He is with us in spirit and will be at next year's conference in Washington.

If any of these issues excite you, please join us and think about taking an active role!

Dec Arts-focused programs for the DC conference (2013)

** what are some ideas exploration*

Digitization:

** who is digitizing what?*

** what standard repository is housing digitized items? Internet Archive, etc.*

** need for a site-finding aid for identifying where digitized versions of partial sets are digitized by different institutions?*

** need to digitize more ceramic/metal/furniture/ other manufacturer makers' mark resources (the one digitized by the Cooper Hewitt is the most visited online resource from the Smithsonian Institution Libraries)*

Trade Catalogs

** essential tools for Dec Arts - how are they used?*

** special things to know about acquiring, cataloging, housing, access*

** develop an ARLIS session on this subject?*

Designers - Primary source materials

- * *who collects primary source material on designers (industrial, graphic, interior, etc.)- create a guide?*
- * *plan a session on the idiosyncracies of dealing with this kind of material?*

World's Fairs and Dec Arts

- * *always a challenging topic to research*
- * *develop a session?*
- * *who has definitive collections?*

Blog on new Dec Arts publications, resources (see the CHM website for the object-of-the-day feature (<http://www.cooperhewitt.org/object-of-the-day>) or ?

Finding stuff

- * *need an international directory of decorative arts resources (another way of dealing with "who collects...")*
- * *do we need reference guides/pathfinders (etc.) on other topics?*

MORE??? Your ideas, please!

Best, Linda

Linda Seckelson

Plan a Session for Washington DC

- Trade catalogs have not been covered recently at ARLIS. It takes special information to catalog, house, and make them available. The Smithsonian has a great collection; so does Winterthur Decided to ask Stephen if he wants to organize a session on trade catalogs for DC
- Others are considering an Artist Books "open house" in DC (Hirshorn, SAM, National Portrait Gallery, LC

Compile our own "Guide to Marks"

- Identify critical books
- Create a bibliography
- We can use the list to influence in-house digitization projects
- Collate and list websites that provide free access guides to makers marks
- We agreed to start compiling our own "Guide to Marks" including resources that are available online

- o Stage 1
 - Formulate a charge
 - By the end of summer (Labor Day) get a summary started
- o Stage 2
 - Survey collections and make a list of reference books
 - Decide which ones are important or worthy of becoming part of a bibliography of important “marks” books
 - Create subject categories OR have a tab for each collection (who has what)
 - Create citations
- o Questions:
 - What do we want in a citation? Basic author, title, year of publication; not a full bibliographic description (just enough to search)
 - Are we duplicating Arntzen & Rainwater*? Digital Library for American Culture? <http://decorativearts.library.wisc.edu/>
 - Add online resources in Stage 1? Do we add those with commercial interests?
 - Where do we collect the information?
 - Excel document
 - Google docs
 - What are the boundaries?
 - Not material culture
 - Not agricultural implements
 - Is it marks up to today?
 - Concentrate on what is published
 - What is online already? How reliable is it?
- o Stage 3:
 - Books with hallmarks at the back
 - European sources (ARLIS/UK)
 - Possibly we could submit the information to the Getty Research Portal
- Who is doing what now? How do we communicate within our group
 - o Informal wiki
 - o Web presence
 - o Inventory “silo” projects and communicate
 - For example, create a digitization registry or database so other libraries know what has been digitized: a) don’t duplicate; b) what unique materials are available to be shared?

- World's Fairs
 - o The literature is so extensive. Where are the strong collections?
 - o Consider creating a LibGuide to track strong collections focusing on seminal fairs to share information
 - (RISS has a repository of fine arts LibGuides)
 - o Chris offered to host our information on his website
 - o Can we call on the listserv to contribute details about their projects?
 - o Decided to leave the World's Fairs project for another time

- Consider digitizing classic reference books such as American Art Annual 1898-mid 1920s; British Art Annual 1880s

- Consider establishing a guide to open access art and design journals

Do we want to exist as the Decorative Arts SIG? YES

Does anyone want to moderate for next year? The moderator would check in monthly with the group and set an agenda for our project.

We agreed to set one project we care about, set goals, and work through the year: Guide to Marks

Attending:

Joan Benedetti, Santa Fe, NM USA, benedettij@comcast.net

Rebecca Friedman, Princeton University, Princeton, NJ USA, rfriedma@princeton.edu

Karyn Hinkle, Bard Graduate Center, New York, NY USA, hinkle@bgc.bard.edu

Valerie Hoyt (?), Christies ?

Beth Hysten, Corning Museum of Glass, Corning, NY USA, hylenej@cmog.org

Chris Mees, Design Research Publications, Burwash, East Sussex, United Kingdom, info@designinform.co.uk

Mark – also from Design Research Publications

Kristen Regina, Hillwood Estate, Museum & Gardens, Washington, DC USA, kregina@hillwoodmuseum.org

Linda Seckelson, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, NY USA,
linda.seckelson@metmuseum.org

Jessica Shaykett, American Craft Council, Minneapolis, MN USA, jshaykett@craftcouncil.org

Heather Topcik, Bard Graduate Center, New York, NY USA, topcik@bgc.bard.edu

Kathy Woodrell, The Library of Congress, Alexandria, VA USA, kwoo@loc.gov

Teresa (freelance at Getty & Fine Arts Museum of SF) ?

Beth Hylan 5/2013

*Notes added by Beth:

Arntzen, Etta. Guide to the literature of art history. Etta Arntzen, Robert Rainwater. Chicago: American Library Association, 1980. xviii, 616 p.

Art books, 1950-1979: including an international directory of museum permanent collection catalogs. New York and London: Bowker, 1979. li, 1500 p.

Chamberlin, Guide to Art Reference Books. [not in Rakow Library]

Ehresmann, Donald L. Applied and decorative arts: a bibliographic guide. 2nd ed. Englewood, Colo.: Libraries Unlimited, 1993. xxxvii, 629 p. [also 1977 ed.]

Ehresmann, D. Fine Arts: A Bibliographic Guide (1975; 2nd ed., 1979) [Not in Rakow Library]

Lucas, Edna Louise. The Harvard list of books on art. Cambridge, Harvard University Press, 1952. vi, 163 p. Index of artists and authors: p. 141-163.

Lucas, Edna Louise. Art books; a basic bibliography on the fine arts [by] E. Louise Lucas. Greenwich, Conn.: New York Graphic Society [1968] 245 p.

"Based on the bibliographies previously prepared [by the author] under the title: The Harvard list of books on art."

Jones, Lois Swan. Art information: research methods and resources. Lois Swan Jones; foreword by Caroline H. Backlund. 3rd ed. Dubuque, Iowa: Kendall/Hunt Pub. Co., 1990. xxiv, 373 p.
Rev. ed. of: Art research methods and resources.

Muehsam, Gerd. Guide to basic information sources in the visual arts. Santa Barbara, Calif.: J. Norton Publishers/ABC-Clio, 1978. 266 p.

Sacca, Elizabeth J. (Elizabeth Joan). Visual arts reference and research guide, for artists, educators, curators, historians, and therapists. Montréal, Québec: Perspecto Press, 1983. 245 p.

Sokol, David M. American decorative arts and Old World influences: a guide to information sources. Detroit: Gale Research Co., c1980. xii, 294 p.

Stable JSTOR URL: <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3050313>

Trade catalogs – selected resources:

Corning Museum of Glass. Guide to trade catalogs from the Corning Museum of Glass. New York: Clearwater, 1987. xi, 500 p.

Published in connection with issuance of "Trade catalogs from The Corning Museum of Glass" on (approx. 2500) microfiche by Clearwater Publishing Co.

Fredgant, Don. American Trade Catalogs. Paducah, KY: Collector Books, 1984. 287 p.

Includes cross-references, glossary and bibliography. Bibliography: p. 287.

McKinstry, E. Richard. Trade catalogues at Winterthur: a guide to the literature of merchandising, 1750 to 1980. New York: Garland Pub., 1984. xv, 438 p.

Romaine, Lawrence B. A guide to American trade catalogs, 1744-1900. New York, R.R. Bowker, 1960. xxiii, 422 p.

Thompson, Eleanor McD. Trade catalogues at the Winterthur Museum, part II: guide compiled by Eleanor McD. Thompson. Bethesda, MD: University Publications of America, c1991. v, 159 p.

At head of title: A guide to the microfiche edition of trade catalogues at the Winterthur Museum. [Part I: McKinstry]