

ARLIS/NA Decorative Arts SIG

2014 ARLIS Conference

Washington D.C.

Friday, May 2, 2014

Selection of a chair

Emily Guthrie, Winterthur Museum & Country Estate, Winterthur, Delaware, and Jessica Shaykett, American Craft Council, Minneapolis, MN, will serve as co-coordinators for the group

Prospects for collaboration on digitization of marks books

Note: Ceramics marks book was one of the top hits on the Smithsonian website's Internet Archive

The BIG questions:

1. How should the marks resources exist?
Options:
 - As a LibGuide on the ARLIS website
 - As part of HathiTrust Digital Library
 - As a special collection within the Internet Archive
 - Getty Portal
2. What is the Smithsonian planning to do with their collection of marks materials?
3. How do we create a bibliography without overlap?
4. Is there any possibility of creating a database of images to match marks to?
5. Should we email to listserv about marks books to gauge interest?

Who could help:

- Kathleen Salomon with the FAB Initiative at the Getty
- Chris Mees from designinform

Notes on marks books from 2013:

- 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
- Stage 1
 - Formulate a charge
 - By the end of summer (Labor Day) get a summary started
- 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
- 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 doc
- 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?
- Stage 3:
 - Books with hallmarks at the back
 - European sources (ARLIS/UK)
 - Possibly we could submit the information to the Getty Research Portal

OTHER TOPICS OF INTEREST

FROM 2014 AND 2013:

1. Who is doing what now? How do we communicate within our group?
 - Informal wiki
 - Web presence
 - Blog
2. World's Fairs – possible session in Seattle 2016?
 - The literature is so extensive. Where are the strong collections?
 - Consider creating a LibGuide to track strong collections focusing on seminal fairs to share information (RISS has a repository of fine arts LibGuides)
 - Chris offered to host our information on his website
 - Can we call on the listserv to contribute details about their projects?

FROM 2013:

Designers - Primary source materials

- Who collects primary source material on designers (industrial, graphic, interior, etc.)- create a guide?
- Plan a session on the idiosyncrasies of dealing with this kind of material?

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?