

ARLIS/NA Decorative Arts SIG  
Thursday, March 10, 2016

2016 ARLIS Conference Seattle, WA

### Welcome & introductions

In attendance: Katie Crowe – University of Denver, [katherine.crowe@du.edu](mailto:katherine.crowe@du.edu)  
Beth Hysten (moderator) – Corning Museum of Glass – [hylenej@cmog.org](mailto:hylenej@cmog.org)  
Joyce Weaver – The Mint Museum – [joyce.weaver@mintmuseum.org](mailto:joyce.weaver@mintmuseum.org)  
Kathy Woodrell – Library of Congress – [kwoo@lc.gov](mailto:kwoo@lc.gov)

### SIG Leadership 2016-2017

Voted to continue existing leadership

### Prospects for collaboration

#### Digitization of Marks Books

The list of titles from Smithsonian was handed out and reviewed. Katie had her laptop so was able to bring up the resources as seen on [Internet Archive](#) and on Hathi Trust. Kathy noted that her library had a number of titles that could be added to this resource and raised the issue of how this resource would be presented. Currently, all titles are under the Smithsonian banner. Once other institutions add resources, this would need to change. Hathi Trust was suggested as a good platform for a more collaborative web resource for these digitized items. The question of a project form was brought up. Digital Public Library of America ( [dp.la](#) ) was also noted by Katie as a potential site for the marks resource in part due to the ability to add content and metadata, to create online exhibitions, and to create a specialized splash page. Platform seems very robust.

The citation question was discussed with general agreement that it should consist of basic author, title, year of publication, but should also include publisher, place of publication, edition, and if possible OCLC number.

The scope of the project was discussed including the types of print materials to be digitized. Born digital resources and resources from commercial interests were discussed. A caveat of some sort could identify the commercial resources. Sites like artnet, while not accessible without subscription, could be noted so that their existence is known. Also, auction catalogs already digitized and available from the Frick. Kathy suggested the online resource: [www.925-1000.com](http://www.925-1000.com) for international resources.

There was a good bit of discussion regarding additional marks books that could possibly be included and questions about that area of the project's scope. The current scope of this digitization project is pre-1923 books of hallmarks for ceramics, silver, gold, jewelry and holloware. What about furniture? The question was raised about including more recent resources if possible, and possibly expanding in stages. Perhaps even a bibliographic entry for a post-1923 resource as opposed to a complete scan.

A survey to the Dec Arts SIG in general was suggested via the ARLIS list in order to gauge interest in the project and to possibly get feedback regarding what would and would not be included, date range, and just to ask the question: what would you or your users like to have access to ?

Beth suggested using the Dec Arts SIG blog to promote the resource.

#### Resource List for Dec Arts on SIG web page

Beth suggested emailing Jessica with any links that we may wish to add to the page located at

<http://decarts.arlisna.org/resources> Email Jessica at [jshaykett@craftcouncil.org](mailto:jshaykett@craftcouncil.org)  
(JW note: [Mintwiki page for new installation at Mint: Portals to the Past: British Ceramics 1675-1825](#) )  
Discussion of session proposals for 2017 conference

Kathy noted her experience creating programming around decorative arts specific to the annual conference locale. It was generally agreed that this was a great idea for a session in 2017 in New Orleans. Some areas of interest noted were: Newcomb pottery, quilting, contemporary jeweler Thomas Mann, musical instruments. Diverse sources of dec arts should include Creole, Cajun. Food was noted as an avenue to explore. Book arts mentioned – Kate noted Alisa Banks from NOLA.. 2017 Theme is “Arts du Monde” so right in line. Kathy agreed to begin pulling together. Beth asked that her email be sent to all members for suggestions. [kwoo@loc.gov](mailto:kwoo@loc.gov)

Potential partners for this programing noted: Textile/Fashion SIG, Book arts. Vamps & Tramps was suggested as a source for information on NOLA book artists. Other connections: Historic New Orleans Collection, Tulane. Beth asked that Kathy's email be sent to the entire SIG for suggestions.  
[kwoo@loc.gov](mailto:kwoo@loc.gov)

Other session proposal ideas that had been presented previously: Session (or Art Doc article) on Dec Arts archives with focus on specific designer or ephemera holdings; for example, private collections in NYC area who have dec arts related collections; dealing with primary source material on designers ; “blooks”-objects that look like books but are not.

Another previous idea was dec arts based on World's Fair. Joyce noted recent large touring exhibition: Inventing the Modern World: Decorative Arts at the World's Fairs, 1851-1939. Co-organized by Nelson-Atkins Museum or Art and Carnegie Museum of Art. (JW note: [link to the Mintwiki page for ITMW exhibition resources](#))

Kate asked about the process of selection of session topics for annual conference. Kathy noted a change in the selection procedure and that now it appeared to not have to go through so many channels. Beth noted that there was no veto of programming overall.

#### Call for content and featured libraries/librarians for SIG blog

Beth called for content for the SIG blog noting a wide range of content is possible. The purpose is to engage more interaction with members. Some ideas floated included student blog posts, job announcements, internship announcements, exhibitions, requests for papers. Submit material to Jessica and she will post.

#### Other projects/ideas

Web archiving: Smithsonian has done some preliminary archiving of art gallery websites. Steven at SI is looking at designer sites: how gather/store/make accessible these sites for designers & design firms. Reaching out to SIG for any experience/thoughts on archiving designer websites. Kate questioned frequency of refreshing, cost and time. Many questions about range. Joyce noted DesignInform's research guides which are collections of free sites on/of/about designers (<http://arts-search.com/links.htm> ). Is that an archive of these sites? Kathy offered that LOC has a huge web archiving initiative. Submissions of sites are made internally; a committee requests permission & captures; they try to capture 6 levels down in the site; but sometimes permission turned down.

#### Wrap up

Noted again for posts to be sent to Jessica for SIG blog – also online resources.

The group at the meeting to start working on session for 2017 – figure 4 panelists w/20 minutes each or 5 panelists with 15 min. each then 15 min Q & A

Beth adjourned.