

**NEWSLETTER  
OF  
THE ASSOCIATION OF ARCHITECTURE SCHOOL LIBRARIANS**

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JANUARY, 1993  
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**PLANS UNDERWAY FOR ANNUAL MEETING**

Vice-president/president-elect Vinson McKenzie reports that the AASL annual meeting, held in conjunction with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA), will be held in Charleston, South Carolina March 13 through March 16, 1993.

McKenzie is considering presentations by an antiquarian book dealer who will be exhibiting his wares at the book fair, by Charleston blacksmith Philip Simmons who hopes to join us on a tour of his wrought iron works, and by slide librarian Phyllis Pivorun who will discuss her slide automation project using the NOTIS library system and an update on the art and architecture thesaurus online project.

Two panel discussions are also being organized. To celebrate the 15th anniversary of the founding of AASL, McKenzie is asking several long-time members to discuss the original goals and aspirations and newer members to look at the future. The second panel will discuss operating the one librarian library.

More details will be available soon after the first of the new year. Mckenzie urges us to be prompt in returning our registration forms so that names could be listed in the ACSA publication.

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**AASL 1992-93 OFFICERS**

**PRESIDENT -- Michael Leininger -- Massachusetts Institute of Technology**

After earning a BA in painting from the Massachusetts College of Art, studying scenic design at Boston University and architecture at the Boston Architecture Center, and working as a jeweler for 15 years, Leininger decided to change careers and enrolled at Simmons College in the MLS program. His first library position was in the Aga Khan program at Massachusetts Institute of Technology; he later

moved to his present job as the MIT architecture librarian. Leininger continues to paint and has traveled extensively, including trips to Russia, Japan, China, and Tibet. He will visit India and Nepal this January.

VICE PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT ELECT -- Vinson McKenzie --  
Auburn University

Jobs with HUD, the National Park Service, and Army Intelligence led McKenzie to positions at Tuskegee University as assistant reference librarian and then the architecture librarian. In 1989 he moved to Auburn University to head up the architecture library there. Much of his spare time is devoted to the development of his traveling exhibit, "Afro-American Architects and Builders: A Historic Overview." He is also working on a book entitled, ENCYCLOPEDIA OF AFRO-AMERICAN ARCHITECTS AND BUILDERS. McKenzie is a native of Pompano, Florida and graduated from Albany State College in Albany, Georgia which is the alma mater of his parents. His library degree was awarded by the University of Atlanta in 1984.

SECRETARY -- Shannon Paul -- University of Arizona

An art history degree from the University of Chicago and an MLS from the University of Illinois preceded Paul's job as the assistant art librarian at the St. Louis Public Library. After a stint as the head of the fine arts department there, she moved to the University of Arizona College of Architecture library in 1990. The library will soon become a part of the university library system, but until then it remains one of the few college-supported architecture libraries in the U.S. Paul is currently working on a directory of fine arts journals which will provide publishing information useful to perspective authors in the fields of art, architecture, and photography.

TREASURER -- Ilene Frank -- University of South Florida

Working as a clerk in the Music Library at the University of Michigan whetted Frank's interest in librarianship. She completed an undergraduate degree in painting there and stayed to earn an MLS. In 1974 the University of South Florida offered her a position as the fine arts reference/collection development librarian. She added architecture to her duties in 1986 and earned a MFA in painting at the same time. Her two "gorgeous" daughters, ages 8 and 11, are her main hobbies although she continues to paint whenever possible.

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**FROM THE PRESIDENT**  
Michael Leininger  
LET'S NET

While AASL is approaching its own listserve, we are not yet there. Some of our members do not have access to national networks which is reason enough to keep our important communications on paper and via the telephone. However, as planner of last year's meeting, often I felt at the mercy of time zones and postal delays. Had I had e-mail addresses for many of you, I certainly would have used them. So, if those of you who are reachable via Bitnet, Internet, or whatever net will send me your addresses, I will compile an e-mail directory. You needn't be a dues-paying member of AASL. If you have occasion to communicate with colleagues around the country, you're welcome to be on the list.

My address is mjl@athena.mit.edu.

#### A MODEST PROPOSAL

After our meeting with the Young and Emerging Schools folks last March I began to think about what follow-up we might initiate. After hearing the panel discussion about starting up a new library, it became clear to me that expertise was not a problem. Funding and administrative support are big problems but are out of our hands. So I began to think small. I came up with an idea which could be implemented at the individual library level.

I'd like to suggest that we keep some of these libraries in mind when we are given books we don't need. Many of the books we receive from alumni and retiring faculty are duplicates. While many of them are now pricey on the o.p. market (Hegemann's Civic Art comes to mind), the greater number are the less glamorous, "meat and potatoes" books which every collection should have. These too are often out of print and sell for \$50 to \$75, and they're sometimes not worth it. If we're willing to sell these to our students for \$2-5, why not make them available to our colleagues? They will be able to enrich their collections at a modest cost. I suggest that we each try to develop a rapport with a nearby institution which could profit from the age and depth of our collections. When you have something you think might be useful to a young and emerging school library, give a call or drop a line.

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**A BIT OF HISTORY: AASL Presidents to date**

1979-80 Maryellen LoPresti (Pro Tem) -- North Carolina State University  
1980-81 Mary Dunnigan -- University of Virginia  
1981-82 Eloise McDonald -- University of Arkansas  
1982-83 Jane McMaster -- Ohio State University  
1983-84 Katherine Weir -- Arizona State University  
1984-85 Tom Henderson -- Mississippi State University  
1985-86 Dohery Dorszynski -- University Wisconsin, Milwaukee  
1986-87 Lila Stillson -- University of Texas  
1987-88 Kathy Johnson -- University of Nebraska, Lincoln  
1988-89 Jocelyn Spratley -- Hampton University  
1989-90 Anita Anderson -- Illinois Institute of Technology  
1990-91 Pat Weisenburger -- Kansas State University  
1991-92 Berna Neal -- Arizona State University  
1992-93 Michael Leininger -- Massachusetts Institute of Technology

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**DISNEYWORLD REVISITED**

**EDITOR'S NOTE**

Two articles summarizing sessions at last year's meeting did not appear in the August newsletter. Apologies are extended to the authors. PW

**JOINT MEETING WITH THE YOUNG AND EMERGING SCHOOLS COMMITTEE**  
Michael Leininger

About one month before the Orlando meeting, Terry Heinlein, Wentworth Institute of Technology and Chair of ACSA's Young and Emerging Schools Committee requested a joint meeting with AASL. This had been a goal I'd set for myself last year, but after repeated attempts to acquire a mailing list, I'd given up.

The amended Library Guidelines in the NAAB Conditions and Procedures for Accreditation, produced by Elizabeth Byrne and her committee, alarmed the administrators who were working towards or about to undergo the accreditation process.

I suggested that at the annual meeting the "Starting from Scratch" panel plus myself and Berna Neal, field questions from the ACSA Committee. After several preliminary meetings with Heinlein, it became apparent to me that his group of Deans wanted to learn how they could do our jobs. As a result, much of this meeting became a matter of explaining the guidelines and our reasons for revising them, quelling fears, and assuring the Deans that we know what we're doing.

Although we'd agreed from the start that the meeting would not become a gripe session, eventually our members got around to issues of communication, cooperation, and support. The Deans were surprised to hear the ways in which library programs were all too often compromised by negative relationships among administration, faculty and library personnel.

While only three Deans attended the entire meeting, several sat in on portions of it. Notes were taken by Dean Deirdre Hardy, Savannah College of Art and Design. Should they be distributed, I will make them available to interested members.

One member of our group wrote recently: "...since the ACSA/AASL conference my Dean has been treating me like a "real" person...I've been invited to the last two faculty meetings - wonders never cease!" It is hoped that this effort will continue to yield positive results.

CULTURAL INVISIBILITY:  
THE AFRICAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE IN ARCHITECTURAL EDUCATION  
VINSON MCKENZIE

Bradford Grant, Assistant Professor of Architecture at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California discussed architectural education as it relates to the African-American. He recounted instances where the African-American architect is rendered invisible. As an example he told about standing before his architecture class when an unfamiliar faculty member came in, looked around and said, "Oh your instructor has not arrived yet."

Grant focused on African-American culture and aesthetic tradition in vernacular architecture, spotlighting building layouts. He also discussed contemporary African-American architects, such as Donald Stull of Boston, and J. Max Bond, Jr. of New York City.

Following Grant's lecture, questions from the AASL members centered on those things that can be done to generate cultural diversity in the architecture schools.

To conclude the session McKenzie introduced Anita Anderson, Illinois Institute of Technology, Gertis Fenuku, Howard University, and Frances Chen, Princeton University, who examined the topic, "Questions about Minority Architects: A Dilemma for the Librarian." The panelists gave their insights in dealing with the problem of cultural diversity and limited resources. Including the works of African-American architects in the slide collection as well as in the print collection offers hope for improved access to library materials related to the African-American architect.

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**FROM THE EDITOR**  
Pat Weisenburger

The Kansas City STAR recently ran an enticing article about Charleston. I pass the information along without benefit of the STAR'S permission.

Charleston's many bed-and-breakfast inns are housed in historic homes or buildings which offer spacious rooms and gourmet food. Wonderful restaurants abound in the historic district. A Charleston Tea Party Walking Tour for \$10 per person sounds especially appealing. For a visitor's guide or other information, write The Charleston Trident Convention and Visitors Bureau, P.O. Box 975, Charleston, S.C. 29402.

I continue to work on a list of periodicals vital to architecture libraries. To date three librarians have contributed to that list. Additional opinions are still welcome. Please let me hear from you.

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