

NEWSLETTER SUMMER 1997

Annual Meeting Summary

The elegant Hotel Adolphus in Dallas, Texas was the site of the 19th annual AASL meeting, held jointly with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture, March 15 through 18, 1997. Unlike last year's blizzard in Boston, the Texas weather was terrific.

March 15th Sessions

ACSA WELCOME

Linda Sanders, ACSA president, reviewed the year's activities and the goals that were accomplished. Lawrence Speck, chair of the annual meeting, explained the purpose of and the planning process for the meeting.

DALLAS ARCHITECTURE INTRODUCED

David Dillon, the architecture critic for the *Dallas Morning News*, introduced the audience to Dallas via slides and commentary. Dillon described Dallas as more southern and midwestern than western; not a blue-collar town but one that is made up of bankers and traders of cattle, oil, and cotton. He pointed out that there is no geographic reason for Dallas to exist in the middle of the Texas prairie. The high-rise buildings constructed in the 1980's are set against the vast sky. Dallas is an opportunistic city that has no idea of downtown or of center; it is made up of a half dozen equal centers, all connected by

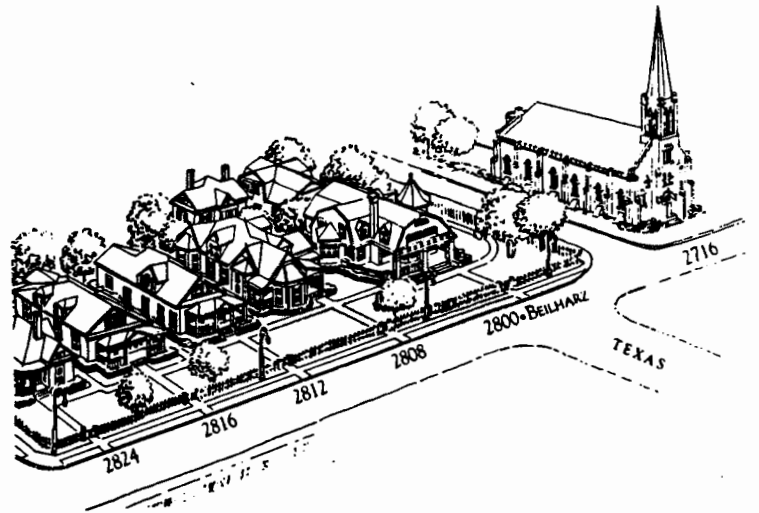
freeways. Planning efforts are now underway to bring all the disparate parts together. Each must be successful for Dallas to be successful because the parts are interrelated, each affects the other. Dillon illustrated his verbal description with slides of the major buildings, pointing out that in his opinion the Hyatt Regency hotel is the best symbol of Dallas.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Antoine Predock used a series of slides to explain from whence his design inspiration came. In the early days, some ideas came from his experiences making adobe bricks. More recently he has been inspired by science fiction and movies. He employed excellent slides and a delightful wit to show how the story of Atlantis, the chandelier in the Phantom of the Opera, and pieces of broken glass have been used in his designs. Previously he made clay models of each of his designs, but now the models are digitized.

AASL WELCOME

Ann Scott (Kansas State) AASL program chair and president-elect, welcomed members to the meeting and reviewed the schedule of activities. She arranged for a mini bus to shuttle the members to several interesting locations in Dallas.



CONFERENCE REGISTRANTS

Anita Anderson, Illinois Institute of Technology
Paula Bender, Texas A&M University
Kathryn S. Brackney, Georgia Institute of Technology
Anita Carrico, University of Maryland
Frances Chen, Princeton University
Astrid Colon, University of Puerto Rico
Judy Connorton, City College of New York
Margaret Culbertson, University of Houston
Kathleen and Conrad Demsky, Andrews University
Beth J. Dodd, University of Texas at Austin
Cherie Geiser, Kansas State University
Janine Jacqueline Henri, University of Texas at Austin
Ann Lally, University of Arizona
Jane McMaster, Ohio State University
Wayne Meyer, Ball State University
Joon Mornes, University of Minnesota
Helen Powell, Technical University of Nova Scotia
Donna Richardson, Technical University of Nova Scotia
Ann Scott, Kansas State University
Jeneice and Charley Smith, Florida A & M University
Mitch Stepanovich, University of Texas at Arlington
Patricia Weisenburger, Kansas State University
Tora Williamsen, Oklahoma State University

MARCH 16TH SESSIONS

REFERENCE WORK ON THE NET

A panel discussion focused on various concerns when using the Internet to answer reference questions. Polly Trump, an information science student at Texas

Woman's College, summarized her practicum at the Amon Carter Museum in Fort Worth where she developed the electronic means to send questions to art libraries. Ann Lally (Arizona) explained the need for each library to develop a policy determining how much reference

work would be done for off-campus users. She noted the necessity to distinguish between factual queries and in-depth research questions. Cherie Geiser, head of Interlibrary Services at Kansas State University, discussed the role of commercial suppliers of information as well as the copyright problems inherent in resources found on the Internet. A lively discussion followed the presentations.

TEXAS STYLE ARCHITECTURE

The second session was an overview of Texas architecture from the 18th century to the present by University of Texas professor Jay Henry. He explained that many of the early buildings were log cabins built by the numerous German settlers, and there was little interest in the Spanish Mission style. As prosperity increased, stone became the favored building material. Following the Civil War, the railroad brought to Texas architectural designs popular in the eastern United States. Brick was often used and gingerbread detail adorned most structures. At the turn of the century, there was a short-lived interest in Mission Revival architecture, but by the 1920's, a style had developed that was unique to Texas: metal roofs, large windows, porches, arcades and courtyards, and the use of intense color and running water. Stone and brick were favorite building materials. Henry concluded his history with slides of Trinity College and the San Antonio Central Library which are excellent examples of the Texas style. A grateful audience took Professor Henry to lunch following his presentation.

HISTORIC PRESERVATION ADAPTED

In the afternoon the group toured the Wilson Historic District, a two-block area of inner-city Dallas where restored Victorian homes have been adapted to new uses. While retaining the exterior character, the interiors have been renovated to provide office space for non-profit agencies such as the Senior Citizens of Greater Dallas, the Housing Crisis Center, and the Center for Community Cooperation.

PARTY TIME

Most of the librarians attended a rollicking and noisy evening at Medieval Times, dining and witnessing a Middle Ages tournament complete with good and bad knights, fair maidens, serving wenches, serfs, and realistic jousts on horseback and vigorous sword fights. The red crown worn by each AASL member indicated the group's preference for the Red Knight. Who would have thought librarians could make so much noise, urging their favorite knight on his trusty steed to vanquish all challengers. But then who would have thought librarians would enjoy eating large portions of chicken and pork without the benefit of knives and forks. The experience produced considerable bonding.

MARCH 16TH SESSIONS

PICTURE POSTCARDS AS RESEARCH TOOLS

Greg Smith, Texas Historical Commission, enlightened the group to the research value of picture postcards. They are now 100 years old and have been produced in color since 1910. Because many of the structures pictured were built without architectural drawings, the postcards are often the only records available. Smith noted that many of the cards carry the publisher's name and date of publication and that the postmark can also serve as a point of identification. Popular subjects over the years have been buildings, streetscapes, interiors of shops, maps, celebrations such as World's Fairs, and scenes along historic highways. Smith also warned that not all picture postcards are accurate reproductions of the subjects. Frequently the artist took the opportunity to improve the appeal of the scene by adding non-existent details.

DALLAS ARBORETUM and BOTANIC GARDENS TOUR

Despite the bus driver's exclamation that he didn't know how to get to the Arboretum, he delivered the group to the right place. There a knowledgeable docent led the way through gardens filled with tulips, pansies, daffodils, and other spring flowers. The tour ended at the historic DeGrolyer mansion where another docent explained how the DeGrolyer family had given their farm to the city for a botanical preserve. After being shown through the house and its garden, the next item on the

agenda was lunch the Camp House, now the Arboretum headquarters. This adjoining farm, owned by the Camp family, was purchased later to increase the size of the Arboretum. Time remained for a stroll through this part of the grounds before the return trip to the Adolphus.

Arboretum History

In the early 1930's, Everett Lee DeGolyer, an active community leader, initiated the search for a site for Dallas' first arboretum. Fifty years later, his plans for a botanical preserve became a reality on land he once owned.

In 1974, The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society adopted bylaws, elected officers, and incorporated as a nonprofit organization. In 1977, the City of Dallas Park Board recommended the grounds of the DeGolyer Estate, which the City had purchased from SMU in 1976, as the location of the garden. Within three years the Society had raised more than one million dollars and had purchased the adjacent, 22-acre Camp Estate. In 1982, the City of Dallas and the Society created an arboretum and botanical garden on the combined 66 acres of the DeGolyer and Camp properties.

Today, the mission of The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Garden is to build and maintain a public botanic garden promoting the art, enjoyment, and knowledge of horticulture, while providing research opportunities. The organization is committed to excellence, sound management and fiscal responsibility.

The Dallas Arboretum and Botanical Society, Inc. is a private nonprofit institution made possible through the generosity of many corporate and individual donors and the City of Dallas.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of 19th Annual AASL Business Meeting, March 17, 1997, 3:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Wayne Meyer who with opening remarks expressed appreciation to Ann Scott, Vice president/President Elect, for the fine programming of this year's conference. Members responded by applauding Ann.

1. Minutes of the previous Business Meeting, March 11, 1996.

The minutes were summarized, and corrections were made by substituting two sentences as follows:

Wayne Meyer also mentioned AAL's inquiry regarding joint every-other-year conferences. AASL members continue to feel that their academic interests are best served by their ongoing relationship with ACSA and value the ease and independence of planning and running conferences on their own.

2. Treasurer's Report

A printed report was distributed. Kathy Brackney corrected an error. There is a balance of \$4,183.74. An electronic banking account will replace the current account. The report was approved.

3. Nominating Committee Report

Anita Anderson, chairperson, announced the new officers:

Kathy Demsky, Vice president/President Elect

Joon Mornes, Secretary

Kathy Brackney, Treasurer

The executive decision to extend Kathy's term by one year was accepted.

4. Old Business

a. AASL brochure and web site

Wayne announced that AASL will be listed in the *Encyclopedia of Associations*.

Currently, Michael Leininger's web site includes the AASL membership directory, the core list of journals, and others. Wayne recommended that we work on more information such as annual meeting announcements, mission of the organization, discussions and publication reviews of electronic multi-media such as CD-ROMS, video tapes, etc. Anita Anderson indicated that she has some of this information on her Web site at IIT. Ann Lally's conference information website was a success this year and will continue to expand for future conferences. Beth Dodd and Judy Connorton expressed interest in future contributions to the AASL Web site.

b. Affiliation of ARLIS/NA with AASL

Voting will be done at the ARLIS/NA annual conference this year.

5. New Business

a. The Meyer Proposal on subsidizing conference planning activities of the AASL VP/President Elect.

The proposal was discussed with two different options:

The VP/President Elect be given a \$300 subsidy by reporting \$300 of expenses in one or more of the following categories: transportation, lodging, registration for attending either 1) a non-AASL conference of her/his choice in related field or 2) the AASL conference or its preparatory travel. In the case of the former, a brief conference report must be presented to the members. After a lengthy discussion and various amendment voting, the proposal was passed. This will go into effect this coming year.

b. Salary survey of architecture libraries from Berna Neal

The survey will be sent out soon to the AASL members. Members cooperation in responding was encouraged.

c. Miscellaneous items

Jeneice Smith recommended that the President, Vice President, and officers of AASL be given a letter of acknowledgment of their positions. Members agreed this will be done upon request.

Meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

Joon Mornes

Secretary, AASL

AASL TREASURER'S REPORT
3/6/96 - 3/14/97

Checking Account Balance on hand as of 3/6/96:	\$3397.94
Less Expenses:	
1996 Conference Expenses:	
3/15/96 reimbursement for group dinner (K. Brackney)	40.18
3/26/96 reimbursement for N. Sellman's registration fee (Hampton U.)	30.00
3/27/96 speaker honoraria (Bairnsfather, Poole)	100.00
4/8/96 " " (Avery Lib., Boston Pub. Lib. Fdtn., Piatti)	250.00
4/8/96 tour fee (Boston Preservation Alliance)	144.00
4/8/96 reimbursement for supplies, phone calls (W. Meyer)	145.64
4/19/96 refreshments, business meeting (MIT Libraries)	78.00
8/15/96 Reimbursement for directory expenses (M. Leininger)	234.73
8/22/96, Reimbursement for newsletter expenses (P. Weisenburger)	299.88
1/30/97	
1997 Conference Expenses:	
11/5/96 deposit for tour and catered lunch (Dallas Arboretum)	100.00
12/18/96 deposit for group dinner (Medieval Times)	180.00
1/21/97 prepayment for shuttle service	480.00
2/5/97 reimbursement for postage, conference mailing (A. Scott)	44.60
2/26/97 balance due, group dinner (Medieval Times)	633.38
3/5/97 balance due, tour and lunch (Dallas Arboretum)	320.00
3/1/96-2/28/97 Bank service charges on checking account	116.48
Total Expenses	3196.89
Plus Deposits (Dues, conference registration fees, etc.)	
3/19/96	282.00
4/18/96	8.19
5/7/96	34.00
9/30/96	8.00
3/14/96	1508.00
Total Deposits	1920.19
Ending Balance	2121.24
Certificate of Deposit (12/31/96)	2062.50
Total Assets	\$4183.74

MARCH 18TH SESSIONS

DIGITAL IMAGING PROJECT EXPLAINED

After a short walk to the Dallas Museum of Art, the group was met by Darin Marshall who led the way to the library and the visual resource center in the new wing of the Museum. The library contains more than 30,000 volumes, 80 current periodicals, and on-line research tools. Next door is the Visual Resource Center which houses almost 400,000 slides, photographs, and transparencies. It is one of the few facilities of its kind that is easily accessible by the public. The entire slide collection has been automated for ease of use. Sixteen PC's are available for in-house users to view numerous images and even print a color image of a favorite masterpiece owned by the Museum. Distance users may direct dial into the Museum collection through a PC and modem or via the Internet. Patrons can check out materials, purchase slides and photographs, and view slides, videos, or photo CDs. A special computer is available for patrons who wish to use the Museum's educational software and interactive CDs.

Marshall said that copyright restrictions greatly affect what can be added to the data base. Some of the staff take their own photos which don't require copyright compliance. The slides are digitized in the Museum's photo lab, and then the image is entered into the database. Skilled technicians are necessary to perform the

process and these positions are difficult to fill.

The visit concluded with complimentary passes to the Museum and the special exhibits.

ACSA TOURS

In addition to several self-guided walking tours, two bus tours were arranged by ACSA and were available to AASL members. One was to Fort Worth for visits to the Kimbell Museum, the Amon Carter Museum, and the Fort Worth historic district. The other provided inside visits to several Dallas residences by noted architects, including Richard Meier, Antoine Predock, and Stephen Holl.

WHAT DID YOU LIKE BEST ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING?

Kathy Demesky (Andrews) I felt it was very well organized and enjoyable. As always the presentations were tremendously helpful for me. I always appreciate hand-outs.

Pat Weisenburger (Kansas State) I really enjoyed the convenience of the shuttle bus. Life is so much easier when I don't have to struggle with unfamiliar public transportation.

FROM OUR MEMBERS

Jeanne Brown (UNLV) I will be moving into an Architecture Studies branch library

this summer which will open for business this fall. It has about 14,000 SF of useable space, so we have lots of growth room.

Kathy Demsky (Andrews) In August my school of architecture is sending me to Northern Italy to set up a study abroad program for our 4th year students. I have traveled to that area several times and have friends there. This is a great opportunity for me and will be very challenging. I am hoping to set this program up so the students can go for the next spring quarter. It looks like we will put it into our curriculum for every other year. Then another faculty member and I will go over with the students. I know it will be a lot of work, but I am really excited about it. I am studying Italian.

Michael Leininger (MIT) I have finished writing the subject index to the *Project Reference File* except for the missing issues I haven't been able to see. The Urban Land Institute people are interested in linking it to their abstracts. That's a nice example of academia and industry working together.

We have a visiting scholar at MIT from Seoul who asked me about our Association. His school would like to establish a separate architecture library, and I gave him copies of the papers presented in Orlando on "starting up" as well as copies of our agendas for the past ten years. South Korea has 55 architecture schools and no association for the librarians. They are interested in us and what we do. I also gave him a copy of our Core List of Periodicals. This comes a

year after a similar request from Japan. Perhaps we are becoming a model organization for scores of librarians in Asia.

Kay Logan-Peters (Nebraska) I attended the Visual Resource Management workshop sponsored each summer by UT. We are in the process of reorganizing our slide collection and I decided it was time to get some fresh ideas. My research on campus buildings and architecture continues.

Wayne Meyer (Ball State) I attended my first ARLIS/NA conference which was held in San Antonio. A personal report might be of interest.

Certainly there were many relevant and enjoyable parts of the conference besides the Architecture Section meeting, though that was indeed interesting. Informative for me were several sessions dealing with visual resources--the approved categorical term for slides, etc. Uses of the Web for improved access to local (including archival) resources, for library instruction, etc. was another topic explored.

The architecture itself (Texas variety) was the subject of one of the good sessions, especially the talk by Ted Flato of Lake/Flato Architects. And the setting provided opportunities for excellent architectural tours, from the San Antonio Public Library by Ricardo Legorreta, completed in 1995, to the five 18th-century Spanish colonial missions. I especially enjoyed my firsthand experience of that widely hailed example of waterfront-based

downtown revitalization, the Riverwalk. I had a good time!

Berna Neal (Arizona State) Of the 100 accredited architecture schools listed in *Guide to Architecture Schools*, 5th edition, branch heads and reference librarians from 39 institutions or 35% responded to the Architecture School Information Resources Staffing Salary Survey that I conducted last spring. The highest salary reported was \$90,000 and the lowest was \$21,100.

Salary ranges comprising 34 salaries:

\$90,000	1
\$61- 65, 000	1
\$56 - 60,000	2
\$51 - 55,000	0
\$46 - 50,000	3
\$41 - 45,000	8
\$36 - 40,000	10
\$31 - 35,000	6
\$26 - 30,000	2
\$21 - 25,000	1

The average salary was \$41,568, and the median salary was \$39, 650. Twelve slide curators reported salaries that averaged \$30,481. Four reference librarians averaged \$33,700 (top, \$41,411; bottom, \$28,00). Public institutions versus private salaries are not yet analyzed but the differences do not seem significant. The same is true for the analysis by years of experience. Almost all reported that a second master's degree would help in getting hired but makes no difference in salary. Further analysis of the data will aim to correlate salaries with years of experience, size of institution, public or

private funding, faculty status, and size of collection.

Ed.'s note: An impressive piece of work! Well done, Berna.

Pat Weisenburger (Kansas State) The Central Plains chapter of ARLIS held their spring meeting at Kansas State. Tours of the new art museum and the nearly completed main library were on the agenda.

The computerized exhibit, *Visionaries in Exile: A Cultural Journey from Austria to America*, is housed at Weigel Library of Architecture, Planning, and Design until August 22. Ann Scott prepared a bibliography of the architects included in the exhibit. It is available on the Internet at <http://www.lib.ksu.edu/arch/exiles.htm>

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