SEATTLE WRAP-UP: What Happened

The Visual Materials Section (VMS) met at the Westin Hotel in Seattle on Friday, August 31, at 8:00 a.m., with 54 members in attendance.

Douglas Haller (University of Pennsylvania Museum Archives), VMS Chair, opened the meeting and called for a report of the 1989 meeting minutes. Moved, seconded, and passed. A motion was made to approve the agenda. Richard Peace-Moses (Arizona State University) asked that the discussion of terms of office be moved directly to discussion of the bylaws. Moved, seconded, and passed.

Modified agenda adopted.

Greg Hunter (Long Island University), outgoing President of the Academy of Certified Archivists (ACA), reported on the inclusion of questions on visual materials in the current certification exam. He advised the section to keep in touch with the ACA, and to suggest questions for the pool.

Interested individuals should contact Marygene Daniels (National Gallery of Art) about the spring item-writing session. Twelve to fifteen questions are brought by each individual to be critiqued by the exam-writing committee.

Haller further reported that, if there were a separate exam for visual materials, once that exam is set up, the annual testing service contract would be approximately $15,000.

To set up the ACA exam initially, SAA spent $58,000. Hunter suggested that, if the section wanted to have a VM exam, it find a foundation to underwrite the cost of the exam process. Gary Sarensky (Educational Testing Service) asked if there were VM questions currently on the exam. Hunter replied there are some in the data bank, but because the exam is composed of randomly chosen questions there was no guarantee that the exam would have any VM-related questions. There might be some one year and none another. The section can request to have a representative from the section on the exam committee.

Two regional archival groups expressed interest in hosting the exam committee’s meeting. Jeffrey Marshall of Society of New England Archivists and Richard Peace-Moses of the Southwest Archivists may be able to attend the meeting and represent VM as item writers. However, ACA may not meet in these areas.

Haller reported that SAA Council’s Committee on Sections and Roundtables proposed to review the status of all sections with less than 200 members. Some sections might be reduced to roundtable status. Prior to the annual meeting, Haller mounted a letter-writing campaign to object. The protest seems to have worked. According to Robert Sink, Council’s liaison to the section, the issue was dropped.

He further stated that their concerns did not apply to the VM section and reported that Council is impressed with Views, adding that it was probably the best section newsletter. Council was not out to “torpedo” an active section. Sink admitted that the committee got sidetracked by the numbers aspect. The SAA membership form will be changed to promote sections and roundtables. The renewal form will permit members to list sectional preferences. There is still a possibility that SAA will charge extra for additional section and/or roundtable memberships beyond those currently allowed.

Haller contacted Donn Neal, SAA Executive Director, regarding SAA republishing the MARC VM manual. He asked Lucy Keister to report on this during the MARC VM Users Roundtable report.

The SAA’s archives are currently held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UWM). Some VM-related records go back to 1951. All are records of SAA administrators, not of section chairs and officers. Haller proposed that the section chair turn over his/her records to the new chair and send the previous chair’s records to the archives at UWM.

VM Section office hours were scheduled for 2:30-4:30 Friday. Way to recruit and possibly finish business.

AS REQUESTED
At one of the sessions at SAA in Seattle, George Dowdall spoke on using photographs and documents. Dr. Dowdall has published a version of his talk in the following article. A number of you indicated interest in receiving the citation.


Joan Schwartz (National Archives of Canada) stated that the section dinner would be at the Poor Italian Cafe Sunday evening.

The SAA Newsletter is now including an image on cover. Section members are encouraged to send b/w photographs to SAA for use.

Haller submitted a new section description for inclusion in the meeting program and asked for critiques from the membership. The statement as corrected by addressees is to read "The Visual Materials Section consists of Archivists who administer (collect, arrange, preserve, describe, make accessible, exhibit, and interpret) still photographs, moving images, and graphic materials.”

Peace-Moses reported that the membership survey was inconclusive, but that 35 (approximately 25%) members did reply. He will pass surveys on to the section program committee to work on program suggestions. There is a possibility of a mid-year conference. Council seems supportive of the idea. Two-thirds of the respondents indicated that they might attend if it was inexpensive, in a good location, and offering a quality program.

Laurie Baty (National Historical Publications and Records Commission) reported that the section can petition Council for more pages for the newsletter. This past year the section received permission for two eight-page issues and one ten-page issue. She will continue to look into subscriptions for non-section members. Currently she is mailing to over 100 non-members, about one-half of whom belong to SAA, but who belong to other sections. She designed letterhead for correspondence to non-SAA individuals, specifically to receive review copies of books from publishers. The membership approved the use of letterhead with the addition of the Views logo. Bruce Johnson (Indiana Historical Society) was appointed assistant editor. The section extended its thanks to Baty for her creativity and work. (You’re welcome—in enjoy doing this—just send us information.)

MARC VM Users Roundtable liaison, Lucy Keister (National Library of Medicine)
wrote a column for the newsletter about MARC VM. Has 48 people signed up for the cataloging workshop. Maureen O'Brien Will reported that the American Library Association might publish the MARC VM Compendium.

Tawny Ryan Nelb (Architectural Records Consulting) on behalf of Mark Coir, Architectural Records liaison, reported the formation of this new roundtable. She invited everyone with related records to attend the roundtable meeting. Seventy people signed the petition for the roundtable.

Major discussion ensued concerning the order of change in section leadership. Pearce-Moses suggested that a Chair-elect replace the position of Vice-chair. It was moved, seconded, and passed that the Chair and Chair-elect be elected to one year terms with the Chair-elect automatically succeeding. A Chair-elect will be elected every year.

The discussion then turned to voting eligibility. Three options were presented: 1) only those at the annual meeting could vote, 2) only attendees at the meeting with an absentee ballot option published in Views, 3) only the ballot in the newsletter. The second option was selected by the section.

Diane Vogt-O'Connor (Smithsonian Institution Archives), Chair of the Three-Year Plan Committee, reported that the section hopes to have more informal gatherings, tours, and a mid-year meeting in the next two years. The plan is for another committee to plan advanced workshops and to develop a VM bibliography. There is also interest in developing a special issue of The American Archivist and in planning new material for a manual in Guide series. Haller pointed out that the Three-Year Plan must be revised every year. Feedback on the plan should go to Pearce-Moses as the new Chair of the Three-Year Plan Committee.

Joan Schwartz, Chair of the Bylaws Committee led the discussion. Pearce-Moses reported that he received a few "thoughtful comments." Haller felt that a steering committee was problematic for the size of the section and business it conducts and suggested that it be eliminated from the bylaws. Passed. The Chair will have executive decision-making capabilities during the year to be confirmed at meeting.

Passed.

Viskochi questioned how money is allotted in SAA, specifically how the section could receive additional money. He suggested that a small charge ($1-$3) be added to membership dues and earmarked for the sections. Pearce-Moses stated that sections needed to go to SAA to raise money, that a section cannot raise money on its own. Dues cannot be in the bylaws because such an action is prohibited by SAA guidelines.

Haller suggested that the Tellers and Nominating Committees be dropped and that one Elections Committee be established. Passed. Haller also suggested dropping the Study/Discussion Groups because of the formation of section subgroups. Passed.

Haller and Pearce-Moses discussed the terms of existing officers. The section approved a two-year term for Haller with Pearce-Moses taking over as Chair at the 1991 meeting.

Association of Moving Image Archivists
(old Film and Television Archives Advisory Committee)
Gregory Lukow
National Center for Film & Video Preservation
The American Film Institute
2021 N. Western Ave.
Los Angeles, CA 90027
(213) 856-7637; FAX 467-4578

MARC VM Users Roundtable
Barbara Orbach
Prints and Photographs Division
Library of Congress
Washington, DC 20540
(202) 707-9051; FAX 707-5844

Baty moved for acceptance of revisions to the bylaws. Seconded and passed. Pearce-Moses will provide clean copy for Views.

Baty, Chair of the Newsletter Committee, led the discussion of the proposed Views editorial policy (see last newsletter). Haller's proposed revisions were read to the section and further refined by Viskochi, Pearce-Moses, and Connie Schultz (University of South Carolina) during discussion. Policy as amended by Haller proposal passed. [See article following these minutes.]

Baty indicated that future plans included an expanded layout as money permits. She also asked if members would pay a little more for a better newsletter. The discussion was inconclusive.

Haller initiated discussion on subgroups—for still photography, moving images, graphic materials. Initially, the Chair would appoint coordinators, then they would be elected by each group. Not passed.

Schwartz discussed Program Committee concerns for the 1991 meeting and encouraged individual section members to submit proposals. She suggested that proposals attract a wide audience, not just one section, and that only the space on the form be used.

Because of time constraints at the meeting, Haller will make committee appointments by November 1. The meeting adjourned at 10:15 am.

Other business, Schwartz indicated that section t-shirts were available for $10.

BYLAWS APPROVED

Following congenial yet lively discussion, attendees at the Visual Materials Section meeting approved the bylaws as distributed in the last newsletter with some changes. The new bylaws follow.

Bylaws, Visual Materials Section, Society of American Archivists

Article 1. Name.
The name of this section shall be the Visual Materials Section of the Society of American Archivists (SAA), hereinafter referred to as the Section.

Article 2. Objectives.
To promote greater communication among visual materials archivists and to represent and continues next column.
promote these archivists and their collections to the rest of the Society of American Archivists through annual meetings and publications, including a newsletter reporting on the Section's activities and other matters related to visual materials collections.

Article 3. Membership.

Membership is open to any member of the Society of American Archivists who elects to join as his or her option for SAA sectional membership.

Article 4. Officers.

A. The Section shall be guided by a Chair and a Chair-elect.

B. Terms of office.

1. The Chair and Chair-elect shall serve a term of one year each.
2. The Chair may not be elected to serve as Chair-elect in the year immediately following his/her term of office.
3. The Chair and Chair-elect shall assume office at the close of the annual Section meeting in which they are elected, and shall serve until their successors have been elected.

C. Nomination and Election.

1. Nomination.
   a. The Elections Committee shall call for nominations for Chair-elect in the second newsletter of each year.
   b. Additional nominations may be made at the floor at the annual Section meeting.
   c. Only individuals who have consented to nomination may be listed on the slate of candidates.

2. Election.
   a. The Elections Committee shall prepare a ballot for publication in the newsletter immediately preceding the annual Section meeting and for distribution at the meeting. The ballot shall include provision for candidates to be nominated from the floor.
   b. The Elections Committee shall collect, validate, and count all ballots and report the results of any election at the annual Section meeting and in the newsletter following the election.
   c. Ballots may be submitted by mail or at the annual Section meeting.

3. Vacancies in Office.

   a. Chair. In the case of vacancy in the office of Chair, the Chair-elect shall assume the office and duties of Chair.
   b. Chair-elect. In the case of vacancy in the office of Chair-elect, the office shall remain vacant until the next annual Section meeting, at which time a new Chair and Chair-elect shall be elected. The Chair shall assume the duties of Chair-elect in the interim, although the Chair may ask a member of the Section to assist in fulfilling the duties of Chair-elect.

D. Duties of the Officers.

1. Chair. The Chair shall preside over Section meetings, and with the advice and assistance of the Chair-elect and Committee Chairs, shall direct the Section's activities. The Chair appoints Committee Chairs and Liaisons; submits the final Three-Year Plan and summary to SAA Council after receiving a draft from the Three-Year Plan Committee chaired by the Chair-elect; submits the Section's Goals and Objectives Statement to SAA; submits budget requests to SAA Council; and turns over the records of his/her administration to the Chair-elect and non-current records to SAA Archivist.
2. Chair-elect. In the absence of the Chair, the Chair-elect assumes the duties of Chair. The Chair-elect will chair the Three-Year Plan Committee and submit a draft plan to the Chair for approval and submission to SAA Council. The Chair-elect shall advise and assist the Chair in conducting the Section's business.

Article 5. Business.

A. Meeting times.

The Section shall meet once a year at the time of the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists. The time of and agenda for this meeting shall be announced in the newsletter immediately preceding the meeting.

B. Other meetings.

Additional Section meetings may be scheduled during the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists. Such meetings shall be announced in the newsletter preceding the annual meeting or before the end of the annual Section meeting.

C. Voting.

All decisions of the Section shall be determined by a plurality of members voting.

Article 6. Committees.

A. Elections Committee.

1. The Elections Committee shall consist of three members elected by the Chair. Members of the Committee shall serve for a term of one year and shall not be eligible for immediate reappointment. Members of the Committee may not nominate themselves or each other for office; they may be nominated from the floor at the annual Section meeting.
2. The Committee shall prepare a slate of candidates for election reflecting the diversity of the Section's membership, especially in terms of location, size, and type of employing institution. The Committee shall request of nominees consent to candidacy and a brief biographical and position statement for publication in the newsletter immediately preceding the annual Section meeting.

B. Newsletter Committee.

1. The Newsletter Editor is the Chair of the Committee as appointed by the Section Chair. The Editor shall appoint an Assistant Editor from among the Committee members. Prior to publication, the newsletter shall be prepared and reviewed by the Editor and Assistant Editor, and submitted to the Section Chair for approval.
2. The newsletter shall be published in compliance with the SAA Guidelines for Sections and Roundtables.

C. Other Committees.

The Chair may appoint or dissolve other committees as needed. Each committee shall have a written charter and a specified period of service. Committees shall report on their activities at annual Section meetings.

Article 7. Parliamentary Authority.

Robert's Rules of Order, latest edition, shall govern the proceedings of the Section, except as otherwise provided for in the bylaws of the Section, or in the constitution, bylaws, or special rules of the Society of American Archivists.

Article 8. Amendments to the Bylaws.

A. Notice and form.

1. Amendments to these bylaws may be proposed by any Section member.
2. Such amendments must be submitted in writing to the Section Chair, with a copy to the newsletter Editor.
3. The proposed amendments shall be published in the next two newsletters, with the opportunity for membership reaction and comment. Second printing. If the annual meeting is held before publication in the second newsletter, discussion at the annual Section meeting shall take the place of publication in the second newsletter.

B. Adoption of amendments.

1. After the appropriate notice has been given, amendments shall be voted on at the annual Section meeting.

APPROVED EDITORIAL POLICY

The section agreed to the following newsletter editorial policy:

Views is the triannual newsletter of the Visual Materials Section of the Society of American Archivists. It disseminates news of the section and seeks to reflect the thinking and interests of visual materials archivists concerning trends and issues in visual materials archival theory and practice. Visual materials include still photographs, moving images, art materials, and graphic materials. Topics for news items may include any aspect of administering these materials: collection, preservation and conservation, arrangement, description, access, exhibition, and interpretation. The newsletter is intended to document developments and events relating to visual materials practice in North America and elsewhere.

Section members and those who share the professional interests of the section are invited to submit items for consideration. Accounts of innovative methods as well as short essays addressing specific practices, programs, and concerns of visual materials collections and professionals, including those contrasting with North American counterparts, are preferred.

Letters to the Editor are welcome when they include pertinent and constructive comments or criticisms of materials recently published in Views or observations on other topics of interest to the profession. They should not exceed 500 words. They will be printed in the Letters to the Editor column with minimal editing. Book reviews will also be printed if received, with minimal editing primarily to conform to the newsletter's style manual.

Manuscript requirements

Materials should be submitted in grammatically correct, standard American, Canadian, or British English. Materials may be typed, letter- or word-processed, or printed on eight by ten inch sheets, on 70 lb. stock. Manuscripts should be double-spaced, with page numbers and word count. They should be submitted to the Editor in one of the following formats: manuscript, library, or Web-letter format. Manuscripts should be submitted to the Editor in electronic format, either as text files or as hard copy. Manuscripts should be submitted to the Editor in electronic format, either as text files or as hard copy.
FROM THE CHAIR
Douglas M. Haller, Univ. of Pa. Museum

Greetings and thank you for reelecting me to a second term as the Visual Materials Section Chair. The membership has instilled a year-term for the Chair from this point on, with the Vice-chair serving a one-year term as Chair-elect. It is difficult to accomplish a great deal as Chair in one year, and imperative that the Chair and Chair-elect work closely so that continuity and momentum is maintained. Richard Pearce-Moses and I are working together so that he will assume the duties of Chair as a seasoned officer. I urge Section members to consider running for Chair-elect at the annual Section meeting in Philadelphia. In accordance with our new bylaws, I have appointed longtime Section member Gary Saretzky as Chair of the new Elections Committee. For the first time Section members who cannot attend the annual meeting will have the option of voting by absentee ballot as published in Views. If you are interested in running for office, or in serving on the Elections Committee, please contact Gary.

Loren C. Pignoli has been appointed Chair of the Advanced Workshop Committee, in accordance with the mandate of our Three-Year Plan to hold such a workshop at the Montreal SAA meeting. Richard will Chair the Three-Year Plan Committee as called for in the new bylaws. Of course, Laurie A. Baty will remain Chair of the Newsletter Committee, and has selected Bruce L. Johnson as Assistant Editor. In close consultation with Richard, I have appointed Lynn Ann Davis as Chair of the Mid-Year Meeting Committee, and Diane L. Vogt-O’Connor as Chair of the Program Proposals Committee for sessions at the Montreal meeting. We are still conferring about the selection of a Chair for the Bibliography Committee. The latter Committees will be most active during Richard’s Chairmanship and I am sure that the Committee Chairs and he will be complimentary workers for the Section. SAA promises that a new membership directory is forth coming, so I have not appointed a Committee to create a VM Section directory at this time.

I have appointed Barbara Orbach as our new liaison to the MARC VM Users Roundtable. Mark Coir will remain our liaison to Architectural Records Roundtable, and I will perform a similar function for the Academy of Certified Archivists. I have appointed Gregory Lukow as our first liaison to the Film and Television Archives Advisory Committee. This appointment was a result of the Section’s decision not to institute Subgroups for Still Photographs, Moving Images, and Graphic Materials as I had proposed in Seattle. I firmly believe that the VM Section must address the administration of pictorial graphic materials as well as the still photographs that most of us are concerned with. I hope that having a liaison to F/TAAC is a significant step in that direction, and that the Advanced Workshop will include participants who will discuss issues crucial to the administration of moving images and graphic materials.

Please review the Seattle meeting minutes, the new bylaws, and the list of officers in this issue of Views. Much time and effort has been expended on these matters. The bylaws can be amended if they prove to be defective or ineffective. There are many Committees for you to become involved with. Select one or more and call the Chair to ask how you can be helpful and appreciated.

One final note and sign of relief. As a result of the letter-writing campaign I initiated in response to SAA Council’s Committee on Sections, and Roundtables’ proposal to require a 200-member threshold to maintain status as a section, which many of you responded to with determination and faultless logic, it appears that we have been successful in thwarting that proposal. The Chair of the SAA Committee, James M. O’Toole, recently wrote to me that there will be no threshold proposed for sections; that for the first time SAA members will be enabled to join two sections regardless of whether they are institutional or functional sections; and that the membership form will be redesigned so that choices can be indicated each year. Visual Materials will remain a Section and a very effective one.

Let’s celebrate by submitting arresting images [you mean like Mapleshoe’s?—ed.] to the Editor of the SAA Newsletter, Teresa Brinati, who has made a special request from our Section for coverworthy material.

If you have questions, concerns, or comments, please contact me.

ARCHITECTURE ROUNDTABLE
Tawny Ryan Neb, Architectural Records Consulting

Seattle Update

Twenty-eight people attended the first meeting of the Architectural Records Roundtable held at the annual meeting of the Society of American Archivists in Seattle. The meeting was called to order by Tawny Ryan Neb (Architectural Records Consulting), who discussed the history of the roundtable and the SAA administration requirements for the group. Neb was elected chair of the roundtable and Mark Coir (Cranbrook Archives) was elected vice chair. Coir will assume chairmanship at the end of the 1991 SAA meeting in Philadelphia.

To drum up support for the roundtable, announcements about its activities will be placed in newsletters or journals of the Society of Architectural Historians, Society of American Archivists, and other professional associations representing the interests of those who generate, hold, or curate collections of landscaping, railroad, engineering, maritime design, and architectural records.

Liaisons were named to various groups. These liaison members will bring news from these organizations to the roundtable and will serve to open channels of communications in preparation for future roundtable activities.

The liaison members are:

American Institute of Architects (AIA):
Tony Wrenn
Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA):
Tony Petersen (Art and Architecture Today)
California Cooperative Preservation of Architectural Records (COPAR):
Waverly Lowell (NARA, San Bruno)
International Congress on Architecture (ICA):
Maygane Daniels (National Gallery of Art)
International Conference of Architecture Libraries (ICAM):
Nicholas Olsberg (Canadian Center for Architecture)
Library of Congress Committee for the Preservation of Architectural Records (COPAR):
Sara Stone (NARA)
The Design, Engineering, and Construction Industry Action Committee (DECIA) of the Association of Records Managers and Administrators will prepare a survey of schedules used for architectural records by DECIA members. Those interested in research should contact Dr. John J. McColgan, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, Charleston Navy Yard, 100 First Avenue, Boston, MA 02129.

Nicholas Olbergs updated the membership on the status of the Foundation for the Documents of Architecture (FDA), a Getty-funded group headquartered at the National Gallery of Art. FDA will publish a guide to the description of architectural records shortly. Mr. Olserg urged those present to review the document and to send their criticisms and comments to him. A list of roundtable members will be sent to him.

Marygane Daniels brought the formation of the Architectural Drawings Cataloging Discussion Group of the Art Libraries Society of North America (ARLIS/NA) to the attention of the roundtable. This group will meet at each ARLIS/NA annual meeting. Persons wishing to learn more about the activities of this group are encouraged to write Alfred Willis, Architecture Section, ARLIS/NA, Heinz School of Architecture Library, Kent State University, Kent, OH 44422 (216) 672-2876.

GEORGIA VISUAL MATERIALS PROJECT

The Visual Materials Project at the Georgia Department of Archives and History is underway. With VM Section member A. Lee Eltzroth as consultant, a database for the subject documentation and retrieval of visual materials in the collections of both the Georgia Department of Archives and History in Atlanta and its branch depository, the Georgia Historical Society in Savannah, is being designed. Initiated last summer, the project database uses dBase III Plus software, a relational database management program already utilized by both repositories. The primary objective of the three-phase project is to provide standardized subject access (item-level and collection-level) to those materials for which physical control already exists (photographs, prints, drawings, paintings, cartoons, book illustrations, posters, and other two-dimensional pictorial works). The Library of Congress 'Thesaurus for Graphic Materials is being used for standard topical subject terms and field types are designed for compatibility with this format. In RLIN (Research Libraries Information Network), to which both institutions belong (though records for these visual materials will not be entered directly into the RLIN database at this time).

A second objective of the project is the development of a Georgia name index into personal and corporate name headings and headings for events and places (as well as "creators"—artists, architects, etc.) into an authority file. These records are being formalized now during the second phase of the project as large numbers of records from the Department of Archives' Vanishing Georgia Collection are added to the database. Researchers at the Georgia Historical Society and at the Georgia Department of Archives and History will benefit from the standardization of terms between these two collections. It is hoped that the cooperative effort will encourage more standardization among Georgia's many libraries, archives, museums, and historical societies having visual material collections.
COlLecTion SNAPSHOtS

The Documentary Photographic Archive, Audrey Linkman, Curator

The Documentary Photographic Archive (DPA), in Manchester, England, is an independent registered charity, established fairly recently and small in size. We like to think we have turned this situation to advantage by exploring new approaches to the collecting and indexing of photographs.

At the DPA we try to preserve the image, in context, together with the vital documentation, which is the key to its interpretation. Our holdings fall into two main categories, an historical collection and a growing body of contemporary commissioned material.

The DPA's historical collection of some 80,000 items is copied from the family 'albums' of people who lived and worked in the Greater Manchester area. Dating mainly from the 1880s to the 1940s, the photographs reflect the work of the commercial portrait photographer, both studio and itinerant, and increasingly from the 1890s onwards the work of the family amateur. Practices and conventions of these photographers determined both choice of subject and the manner of treatment of the subject. In general the special occasion is celebrated in the family at the cost of routine normal and everyday life. The collection features: studio portraits, street portraits, interiors, school photographs, workplace, leisure and special occasion images.

The DPA commissions contemporary photographers to document aspects of life today to serve as a record for the future. We place an emphasis on the recording of the routines of everyday life.

Our photographs do not work within the traditions of the record and survey movement which emerged in the 1890s and generated much of the material preserved today in our library, archival, and museum collections. Record photographers adopted an 'antiquarian' approach to history, favored topographical subjects and attempted objectivity.

DPA-commissioned photographers attempt more than the portrayal of factual information. Their photographs comment, suggest, insinuate, and appeal to the emotions. They are subjective interpretations. So, in addition to the images, our photographers maintain detailed written records that annotate the content of the images but also describe their own approach to their work.

The DPA is unique in preserving the total body of material produced in the course of the commission--negatives, contact prints, work prints, and, of course, written documentation. Subjects of commissions to date include: "A Year in the Borough of Salford," Clement Cooper on 'Afro-Caribbean Youth in Moss Side,' Shirley Baker on 'The Photographer at Work,' and Paul Rees on 'The Heritage Industry.'

The DPA collections are located at the Greater Manchester County Record Office, 56 Marshall Street, New Cross, Manchester M4 5FU. The collections are open to the public on Tuesdays when a member of the DPA is present at the Record Office to assist

with enquiries between the hours of 10 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 4:30 pm. Individual appointments can be made at other times by arrangement. For more information, contact Audrey Linkman, Documentary Photographic Archive, 0/0 Cavendish Building, Cavendish Street, Manchester England M15 6BG. Telephone 061-228-6171, ext. 2738 (with answering machine).

DAGuERREIAN SOCIETY IN NORFOLK

The Daguerreian Society held its second annual meeting at the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk October 26-28. The following officers have been elected: President: John Graf; Vice Presidents: Robert Shlaer and Susan Barger; Secretary: vacant (Patricia Abbott, although elected, resides in LA due to poor health); Treasurer: Frank Granger. The new officers assumed their responsibilities at the business meeting on October 28.

The 1991 Symposium will be in Santa Fe, New Mexico, November 1-3.

ILLUSTRATIONS SOUGHT

For their forthcoming Directory of Massachusetts Photographers, 1840-1900, the authors, Ron Polito (University of Massachusetts at Boston) and Chris Steele (Massachusetts Historical Society), are looking for interesting and unusual images by nineteenth-century Massachusetts photographers that they might use as illustrations. All material used will be fully credited [as it should be!]. Please send photocopies or copy prints to Mr. Chris Steele, Massachusetts Historical Society, 1154 Boylston Street, Boston, MA 02115, (617) 536-1608.

MOIS DE LA PHOTO, PARIS

Every two years, in November and December, most museums and galleries in the French capital participate in the gigantic manifestation which reaffirms the commitment of the public purse and private initiative alike to photography. Three topics have been selected to give intellectual and/or thematic coherence to this year's shows: Japan, Fragments of Social Discourse, and Spectacles and Myths (the latter in homage to Roland Barthes).

The Japanese exhibits include nine centurth-century views, from pictorialism to modernism and other traditional shows. Fragments of Social Discourse will regroup such varied images as Nadar's portraits and caricatures, Zola's snapshots, and a Lewis Hine retrospective, the First World War, Hungary 1925-1955, and Bill Brandt in the '30s.

Spectacles and Myths has as a subtext the love, peace, and assassination decade of the 1960s, with works devoted to fashion photography, portraits of Général De Gaulle, as well as works by Ginsburg, Rauschenberg, Jeanloup Sieff, and others too obscure to mention.

For anyone contemplating visiting Paris during the Mois de la Photo, brochures listing all exhibitions will be widely distributed. There also will be blanket coverage in the press. Alternatively, advance information can be obtained from the organizers, Paris Audiovisuel, 35 Rue la Boétie, F-75008, Paris, (tel: 43.59.33.01).

LOOKING FOR HELP OR A JOB?

First. Positions Wanted! Richard Pearce-Moses is teaching a course in photographic archives at Arizona State University. Students are introduced to the basic principles of archives, the special problems managing photographic collections, and gain practical experience in arrangement, housing, and description. Many of these students are looking for entry-level jobs in archives or special collections. If you have job openings or internships, please send him a copy of the announcement to share with his class. Richard's address is in the box on page 2; BITNET IACORPM@ASUACAD.

Second. The University of Louisville Photographic Archives is seeking applicants for the position of Associate Curator. Lots of arrangement and description, supervision, reference, special assignments. Masters and one year of experience. $23,705. For more information contact Andy Anderson (502) 588-6752. To apply, send cover letter, resume, and three references to University Personnel Services, University of Louisville, Louisville, KY 40292. eoe/aee.

MEETINGS:

March 4-5. Art on Screen: Film and Video in Museums. The Metropolitan Museum of Art, Division of Education Services and the New York State Council on the Arts, $150 out-of-state. Contact the Office of Public Programs, Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1000 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10028-0198.


TRADE FAIRS:

March 24, 1990. Eighth Annual D.C. Antique Photo Show. Over 50 tables of stereoviews, cdvs, daguerreotypes, photographs, other stuff photographic [their advertisement specifies NO CAMERAS!] Rosslyn Ballroom, Rosslyn Westpark Hotel, 1900 N. Ft. Meyer Dr., Arlington, VA. Preview admission is $20 and begins at 8:30 a.m.; public admission is $5 and begins at 10:00 a.m. The show is open until 5:00 p.m. For more information, contact Russell Norton. P.O. Box 1070, New Haven, CT 06504, (203) 562-7800.

IN PRINT:

Peter E. Palquist. Shadow Catchers: A Directory of Women in Photography Before 1901. Arcata, CA: The author, 1183 Union Street, 95521. $40 plus $2.50 p&h (CA residents add $2.50 tax). First edition limited to 500 copies. Reviewed by Clifford Kalinik, Graphic Antiquity, Fails Church, VA.

The prolific Peter Palquist has struck again. Twenty years of information gathering, editing, and cross-referencing has resulted in a comprehensive tome which is both extremely useful and attractive. Peter has breathed life into what could have been a mere recitation of names, dates, and places. As the title states, Palquist’s work concerns the recognition of women in the California photographic trade, not simply photographers. Individuals were eligible for inclusion in the directory based on their participation in ten broadly defined categories, ranging from gallery owner or photographer to photo-printer, photo-mounter, photographer, clerk in a photographic enterprise, or recognized amateur. Incidentally, the “cut off” year off 1901 was selected so that the valuable 1900 census (compiled in June 1900) could be used.

Shadow Catchers’ entries are arranged alphabetically listing the subject’s name, most commonly used name, marital status, occupation as defined in one or more of the several noted categories, place and date of photographic activity, vital statistics, and the source of information for the entry. The subject’s biography is chronologically presented including the years not spent in photography. Where possible, the entries are illuminated with a portrait of the subject or an example of her work.

To impart the flavor of the early photographic days, Palquist sprinkled throughout his reference a generous serving of magazine art, catalogue illustrations, advertisements, poems, and related photographs. Most of this material has not been circulated since the time of the original publication at the turn of the century. Five essays by or about women photographers in California have been thoughtfully integrated into the entry listing. I particularly enjoyed Laura Adams’s 1900 article “The Picture Possibilities of Photography” and the report on Miss Elizabeth Fleischmann, “The Woman Who Takes the Best Radiographs.” A list of selected readings and a useful checklist of women in California photography arranged by county and period of activity completed this valuable work.

As usual, Palquist meticulously lists his source materials and explains some of the particular difficulties involved in ferreting out his information. In this regard, his stated philosophy is a liberal approach to include rather than exclude any possible candidate. As long as there was some evidence of a woman’s participation in photography prior to December 31, 1901, she was included in Shadow Catchers “even though the vast bulk of her activities occurred after that date.” Of equal importance to the reader, is Palquist’s explanation of his research limitations. He explains the extensive use of the United States Federal Census reports and newspapers and journal articles. He admits that he was able to examine only about half of the hundreds of possible extant California city directories. And, as might be expected, he sends out a call for additional information from his readers for a future upgrade.

Shadow Catchers: A Directory of Women in California Photography Before 1901 has set the standard for regional listings. It is a thoughtfully prepared directory that provides needed information and serves as a solid basis for further investigation.

Available and/or Forthcoming


Palquist, Peter, ed. Daguerrean Annual, 1990. Arcata, CA: Peter Palquist for the Daguerrean Society, 1990. 204 p. $25 (plus $3 p&h). CA residents add tax. Order from Peter Palquist, 1183 Union St., Arcata, CA 95521, with checks made payable to the Daguerrean Society. (To be reviewed.)


ARTFUL DODGING: Things Heard, Enhanced, and Passed On

WEST

Los Angeles, CA. Robert Sobiezak, former head of the curatorial unit at the International Museum of Photography at George Eastman House recently became Curator of Photography at the Los Angeles Museum of Art.

Riverside, CA. Jonathan W. Green, a photographer, author, professor of photography, and founding director of the Wexner Center for the Visual Arts at the Ohio State University, has been appointed director of the California Museum of Photography.

MIDWEST

Green Bay, WI. A recent newsletter of the Daguerrean Society noted an article by Vern Eiklund on "Gutta Percha Pistol Cases" in the Bulletin of the American Society of Arms Collectors (#56, pp. 25-34). The daguerreotype case industry crossed over to the weapons industry by manufacturing cases. Might be worth checking into.

NORTH EAST

Andover, MA. The Northeast Document Conservation Center (NEDCC) announces that it has received a grant of $136,000 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to equip a state-of-the-art photographic preservation laboratory in its new headquarters. The lab facility will expand NEDCC's capacity to copy unstable photographic negatives onto safety film. NEDCC invites institutions with photographic holdings to obtain estimates for collections in need of reformatting. For more information, contact Mary Elizabeth Ruwell, Director of Photoduplication Services, NEDCC, 200 Brickstone Square, Andover, MA 01810, (508) 470-1010.

Blue Hill Falls, ME. Northeast Historic Film exists to preserve and make available to the public moving images of the northern New England region. The organization recently released its new videotape catalog. Among the titles available, Drawing a Lobster Pot (1901), Logging in Maine (1906), Trout Fishing, Rangeley Lakes (1906), and Maine's TV Time Machine (1950-1969), a compilation from the Bangor Historical Society's WABI collection. Prices seem to be reasonable ($18.85 to $24.95). For more information contact Northeast Historic Film, Blue Hill Falls, ME 04615, (207) 374-2736.

EAST

Binghamton, NY. There's a photo auction located in this southern-tier town. For catalog information, contact Larry Gottheim, 33 Orton Ave., Binghamton, NY 13905-3409.

State College, PA. Heinz Henisch has resigned as editor of The History of Photography. We believe that Henisch has been editor since the beginning of the journal. The new editor is Mike Weaver of Oxford University. Weaver may be reached c/o Taylor and Francis, Ltd., 4 John Street, London WC1N 2EP, England.

New York, NY. Photographers, sculptors, painters, and others involved in the visual arts can get information on whom to contact for support, housing, insurance, health benefits, and legal aid by calling a toll-free hot line. The telephone number has been set up by the Marie Walsh Sharpe Art Foundation in cooperation with the American Council for the Arts (ACA). It will link callers to the Arts Resource Consortium Library in New York, where a reference librarian will refer them to specific foundations, government programs, and other sources of services and technical assistance for visual artists. Calls will be answered on weekday afternoons from 2 to 5, Eastern standard time.

Bruce Cohen, a spokesman for the ACA, said the foundation has asked the council to set up such a service after it heard about similar services provided to other types of artists' groups. The foundation eventually hopes that it will be able to support efforts to link a caller's computer directly to the council's database. The hot line number is (800) 232-2789. For more information contact David Bosca, Library Manager, American Council for the Arts, 1285 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10019, (212) 245-4510.

Rochester, NY. There has been a reorganization of the International Museum of Photography at George Eastman House. Robert Sobiezak has left, as has Janet Burger. That's too many at once. [Or was it a shake-up?-ed.]

VIEWS: The Newsletter of the Visual Materials Section of the Society of American Archivists is published three times a year by and for the Visual Materials Section. For membership information, call or write the Society of American Archivists at 800 S. Federal, Suite 504, Chicago, IL 60605, (312) 922-0140.


Your comments and suggestions for improvements will always receive a cordial hearing. The next deadline is February 15, 1991. Opinions expressed are those of the authors.

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