Hello ARLIS members!

I invite you to attend the next Meeting of the Ontario Chapter of ARLIS/NA This fall, we have prepared a day of engaging events on the campus of McMaster University. In addition to our business meeting, we have planned two tours that will appeal to lovers of fine art and lovers of artifacts alike!

Lesley Bell, Image Resources Curator, Brock University

Location & Date
McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario
Friday 12 October 2007

Travel
Here are the essential details for the meeting, on Friday, October 12th. You'll find a more full description in the online ARLIS newsletter - link from our home page. You'll also find instructions for driving or taking public transit to McMaster. Please consider car pooling. Hamilton's transit system offers frequent buses from the downtown bus terminal to the University. The trip is usually 15 minutes.

Registration Fee
The fee for the day will be $20.00. Please pay at registration.

RSVP
Please rsvp by October 9th to Lesley Bell, if you plan to attend: Lesley.Bell@brocku.ca

Agenda
9:00 – 9:30 Meeting
Hyliard and Grace Chapell Room, room318
In McMaster University Student Centre; enter from Stirling Street and look for elevators along the south wall. Go to the 3rd floor. Follow the signs. Beverages and a light snack are provided.

9:30 – 11:30 Business meeting

11:30 – 1:00 Lunch
East – West Restaurant (allow 10 minutes walk from the Student Centre to the restaurant, and 10 minutes to walk to the Art Museum after lunch). We have a reservation on the mezzanine level. You can peruse the menu ahead of time!

1:00 – 2:30 Gallery Tour
McMaster University Art Museum
We will tour the Museum’s Paper Centre, and have the opportunity to view the current exhibitions, Quantal Strife, and a photography exhibit that looks at Afghan women journalists, writers, filmmakers, activists and photographers entitled, “Voices on the rise: Afghan women making the news.” Quantal Strife is a group show of work by three emerging artists, Scott Carruthers, Crystal Mowry and Marc Ngui. As well, we will view The Paper Centre, where the Museum houses its works of art on paper when not on display. The staff will divide our group into two, so that we can visit the paper centre and also view the exhibition.

http://hospitality.mcmaster.ca/Menu_EMW_Bistro_Menu.htm
2:30 – 4:00 Lecture
Mills Memorial Library Wang Classroom, main floor
Dr. Carl Spadoni, Archivist and Research Collections Librarian of the William Ready Division of Archives and Research Collections
http://www.mcmaster.ca/russdocs/russell.htm
will talk to us about an astounding resource and collection at McMaster. The Bertrand Russell Archives occupy an entire room in the Division. We will meet in a seminar room where Dr. Spadoni will display and talk about notable aspects of the Archives. He promises to bring lots of items for us to peruse. After the talk, we can tour the Archives on the lower floor of the Library.

In addition, a colleague who works in the Archives will speak about early printed books and medieval manuscripts housed in the Ready Division. Dr. Kathleen Garay is a medieval scholar, and she will bring with her examples of these publications. In addition, McMaster houses the Marian Engel Archive. Dr. Garay’s co-edited a book entitled, Marian Engels: a life in letters (2004, University of Toronto Press), which has received positive critical reviews.

The meeting ends at 4pm.
For those who would like to stay for dinner we can make our way to Hess Village, a picturesque neighbourhood near downtown Hamilton. Please indicate when you register that you would like to stay.
On Friday, September 7, the Faculty of Information Studies at the University of Toronto held its first ever “Meet the Student Clubs and Chapters” lunch for incoming students. Hosted by the FIS student council, the event provided students with the opportunity to learn more about professional organizations and student clubs related to the information professions. As student representative, I attended this event on behalf of ARLIS/NA Ontario and created a display to introduce our chapter’s goals and activities. Our new bookmarks and brochures were available for students to take with them and we had a raffle for one free student membership.

The students I spoke with are very interested in the arts and were excited to learn about ARLIS/NA Ontario and the art and visual resources information professions. Fourteen students have joined the ARLIS/NA Ontario FIS student email list and are keen to hear more about our activities and events. In the future, I hope to make contact with students from other disciplines and with the Master of Library and Information Science Program at the University of Western Ontario.

Kalan Greenwood
Student Representative
University of Toronto

Mary Kandiuk recently published a comprehensive bibliographic reference book on 27 selected Caribbean or South Asian writers who have lived in Canada for at least part of their writing careers.

The following article is reproduced from Y Files, York University’s daily bulletin, with the generous permission of YFile editor Jenny Pitt-Clark. For entire article see:

Jenny Pitt-Clark. “Librarian’s bibliography offers research treasure trove.” Y Files (6 July 2007)

www.yorku.ca/yfile/archive/index.asp?Article=8746

Mary Kandiuk
Visual Arts, Design & Theatre Librarian, Scott Library, York University

Mary Kandiuk, ARLIS/NA Ontario Student Representative, at FIS with the ARLIS/NA Ontario Chapter’s display that she designed. photograph permission of Kalan Greenwood


Mary Kandiuk, permission Y Files, York University
Success in university is often a happy marriage of good research and writing skills. Now students and researchers investigating Canadian authors who hail from the Caribbean and South Asia can access a new resource designed with their needs in mind.

York University reference librarian Mary Kandiuk (right) has recently published a comprehensive bibliographic reference book on 27 selected Caribbean or South Asian writers who have lived in Canada for at least part of their writing careers. In Caribbean and South Asian Writers in Canada: A Bibliography of Their Works and of English-Language Criticism (Scarecrow Press, 2007), Kandiuk has created a treasure trove of information for researchers. The book is the first of its kind.

In it, Kandiuk provides a comprehensive overview, with a brief biography and an exhaustive chronological list of each writer’s monograph fictions. She complements this information with a list by author of books, parts of books, periodical articles, book reviews and dissertations that critique their work. Kandiuk’s extensive knowledge of research comes into play with her penchant for accuracy, and while her purpose is to provide a source of academic material, she also cites other sources, including popular print, that include in-depth treatment of the author’s life or work.

Her focus on accuracy in this project has its roots in Kandiuk’s life, her day job as a reference librarian at York University’s Scott Library and her own personal passion for literature. "The writers that excite me are those who come from the Caribbean or South Asian countries," said Kandiuk. "As I developed the concept for the book, I considered my own responsibilities and the needs I came across as a reference librarian. This book is the result of a perceived need by students working in these areas. It was created with two key criteria, specifically what is it they are looking for and what do they need to find?"

The writers included in this volume, says Kandiuk, are responsible for some of the most interesting writing coming out of Canada today. While the work of these writers is attracting worldwide attention and acclaim, literary criticism relating to their work is often scarce and difficult to locate.

By citing critical source material on the works of these 27 significant poets, novelists, and dramatists, Kandiuk has filled a gap in existing bibliographical tools. The figures included in this bibliography are celebrated established authors such as York’s own Michael Ondaatje (a professor at Glendon), Austin C. Clarke, Bharati Mukherjee and Rohinton Mistry, as well as exciting newcomers like Dionne Brand and Marlene Nourbese Philip.

For Kandiuk, preparing Caribbean and South Asian Writers in Canada was a painstaking labour of love. "This was a project that was four years in the making, from start to finish. I began on my sabbatical and started research. I started to collect information and import it into bibliographic software from different databases, from library catalogues," said Kandiuk. "One thing I felt strongly about when doing this project is that it is not enough just to collect it and put it out there, you need to take a look at it to see if the information is actually correct. Is the article actually on the page? Is it truly there, in that journal and on that date? What tends to happen with the Internet is that mistakes are made and they get repeated. Someone will write something and it will be incorrect and the next person picks it up and the next person and it is out there and it is wrong."

Experience is the best teacher, and for Kandiuk, the process she went through to compile her first bibliographic reference French Canadian Authors: A Bibliography of Their Works and of English-Language Criticism (Scarecrow, 1990), provided a perfect primer for her new book.

"Publishers like to have annotations and a little more than just the citation. What I did in both my books was I would indicate the subject matter of the work. This is important because sometimes it is difficult to tell from the title. As a result, a student can discover ahead of time that if they were doing an essay on Michael Ondaatje’s The English Patient that the article cited has information that is relevant to their essay.

Kandiuk also applied for a minor research grant from the library and was able to hire Jennifer Wentworth, a research assistant who happened to be a York part-time librarian. "I owe her a huge debt," says Kandiuk. "She was very committed and dedicated to the project.

'We had these weird librarian talks," chuckles Kandiuk. "We would whisper and ‘ooh’ and ‘ah’ over new citations. I scanned the bibliographies for everything we found. It is like being a detective, we would find un-indexed references and work through the web of material to find more un-indexed material that was not in the databases or catalogues."

The level of detail was very involved, said Kandiuk. "By the end of the project, my son was calling it the ‘evil book’."

She says the project was made possible because of the unique status that librarians have at York University.
We are not cloistered here. York librarians have a wonderful and dynamic research life and there are many opportunities for growth here at York that librarians in other academic institutions do not experience," says Kandiuk. "At York, librarians are involved in the life of the University’s community.

I am involved with the York University Faculty Association and librarians serve on numerous University-wide committees. It puts us in touch with the University.

For more information, visit the Scarecrow Press Web site www.scarecrowpress.com/ Karen Mackenzie
Chief Librarian, AGO

Congratulations are due to Karen McKenzie who was interviewed for Art Documentation this spring.


Below is a commendation sent by Joan Benedetti to the ARLIS-L listserv on 3 September 2007.

The issue includes several articles that especially interested me ... but because of my special interest in art museum librarianship, I turned first to an article near the end of the issue (p. 62): "From Holland to Canada: Karen McKenzie, Art Museum Librarian."

Abandoning the strict Q & A format they have used in past Art Doc interviews, Tom Jacoby and Eileen Markson have woven a seamless narrative of Karen's professional development and career, incorporating quotations from her as appropriate with a narrative story of her development and accomplishments together with a history of the development of one of Canada's pre-eminent art museum libraries, the Research Library of the Art Gallery of Ontario, where Karen has worked, first as a cataloger, and then as Chief Librarian, since 1980. As always with these bios, the reader learns much previously unknown about the subject, including some personal information. (Who knew that Karen is originally from The Netherlands?)

For those who have known Karen as an ARLIS member (since 1974!) and leader and for those who have a special interest in art museum libraries, this biographical/historical essay is fascinating and informative about the history of art museums and their libraries over the past 30 years or so. (The trials and tribulations—and successes—of Canadian art museums over that period of time are not that different from the experiences of U.S. art museums.) I was especially taken with Karen's list of six qualities desirable in a successful museum librarian (p. 66).

The essay ends with a plea to the Society from Karen to consider Toronto soon as an annual conference site, "a city in the midst of an unprecedented cultural renaissance." As someone who attended the wonderful Toronto conference in 1979, I absolutely second the motion. And the highlight should be the new AGO research library designed by Frank Gehry (with more than a little help from Karen) that will open in 2008.

Daniel Payne
Head, Reference Information & Access Services, OCAD

Daniel presented a paper at the 73rd IFLA Conference and Council in Durban South Africa. Titled, “Exhibiting Libraries: Integrating Information Literacy in the Studio-Based Art & Design Curriculum,” his paper explored how student art exhibitions using the OCAD Library as a site and subject helped bring information literacy principles to the fertile curricular practices of studio-based instruction.

It’s been a pleasure and a challenge to chair the chapter this past year. I want to thank executive members Michele Lang, Lesley Bell, Randall Speller, Robert Fabbro and Kalan Greenwood for their guidance and expertise offered so generously.

The strength of an executive is the commitment it’s committees to follow through on their ideas. A number of the proposals put forward by our membership committee have been undertaken and I thank Kalan our student rep for taking the lead in this outreach project..

Heather, has reviewed some of the issues of archiving our chapter material. And Daniel once again has assembled a great newsletter. Jill, Karen and Margaret are heading the 2012 steering committee. Eric has continued to post the reports and photos on the web to highlight all their chapter activities. Your help on our committees in future will be necessary and appreciated.

Best of luck to Lesley Bell who will chair next year, I’m sure with the thoughtfulness and passion that is her way. Please lend your continued support to her and the executive over the coming year. Your involvement will make all the difference.

Sincerely,
Janet Muise