

ARLIS ON

it's about **YOUR** community

ARLIS ONTARIO'S OFFICIAL E-NEWSLETTER

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ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION

Monday December 15,
6:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Ontario College of Art &
Design Library

- # bring your favorite "potluck" hors d'oeuvres
- # acquire treasures from your ARLIS-Ontario colleagues!

Visit the [ARLIS-Ontario website](#) to preview items!

notes from the chair

The fall semester, the first involving the "double cohort," is racing toward its finish line. As we race along with it, we'll be glad to finally catch our breath, catch up on some of those ever-growing piles on our desks...

The Silent Auction event at OCAD on December 15 should be the perfect antidote to any stress encountered along the way!

At the Fall Meeting in Toronto, we had passed out surveys about what kind of work is done by our ARLIS/NA Ontario members. Twenty-three forms were filled out and submitted; the following is a summary that you might find quite interesting.

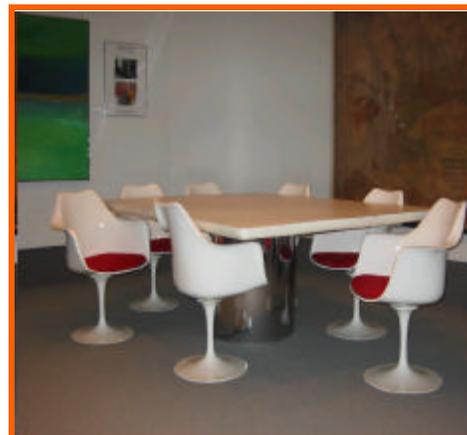
Of the 23 entries, 18 were from members; 5 were visitors at the Fall meeting.

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member profiles

Art-related printed and manuscript materials in Archives & Special Collections, Scott Library, York University

[Mary Williamson](#)



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BOOKS, PERIODICALS, EXHIBITION CATALOGUE

When I began my career at York as Fine Arts Bibliographer in 1970, art books in many categories were becoming rare and difficult to find.

New universities and well-funded libraries had entered the scene, and out-of-print books – when available – cost far more than when newly published. In those early years decisions were made at York to house particular categories of printed materials in the safety of Special Collections. All are listed in the Yorkline catalogue.

photography books.

Includes several examples from almost all the leading photographers of the 20th century. From Alfred Stieglitz's Camera Work (no. 11, 1905) through Leni Riefenstahl, Cecil Beaton, Richard Avedon, Mapplethorpe, Karsh, etc.

graphic art annuals. From Decorative Art (1907-1957), Modern Publicity (1924-) to contemporary titles.

pamphlet size exhibition catalogues. The Canadian Art Exhibition Pamphlets include many thousands of Canadian catalogues stored in filing cabinets.

ephemeral art periodicals. Primarily Canadian titles, such as Criteria, File, Fuse, Onion, Parallelogramme, Vanguard.

older art periodicals, e.g. Genius (1919-21), Studio (1893-64), Jugend (1896-20), Journal of Indian Art & Industry (1884-1916)

Canadian illustrated periodicals from the 1840s

on, including domestic titles and women's magazines with illustrations and covers by Canadian artists.

Also source works from the 19th and 20th centuries; multi-volume catalogues raisonnés; and 19th and 20th century books and periodicals containing original prints. While in Special Collections they are less accessible than in the open stacks, but at least they survive and can be consulted or loaned on ILL. This cannot be said of these kinds of books housed in the open stacks in earlier years, and now missing or thoroughly mutilated.

The printed materials include over 10,000 books, pamphlets and periodicals from the library of Germain Bazin, author and former chief curator of the Louvre. The Bazin library is particularly strong in 19th century French artists, Paris salon catalogues, and works devoted to erotic art.

MANUSCRIPT COLLECTIONS

Among numerous collections related to artists and art history in the York Archives:

Joyce Wieland (1931-1998). Correspondence, manuscripts, printed material, audio & video tapes, related to her career as an artist and filmmaker, plus personal papers. FO445

Avrom Isaacs (1926-). Business records and correspondence related to

Isaacs Gallery (1942-1991); biographical material related to artists, e.g. Dennis Burton, Graham Coughtry, William Kurelek, Robert Markle, Mark Prent, Gordon Rayner, Michael Snow, Joyce Wieland, Inuit artists. Access restricted. FO134

bill bissett (1939-), poet, artist and musician. Personal and professional papers, photographs, memorabilia, sound recordings. FO266

Helen Lucas (1931-). Correspondence, scrapbooks, photographs, over 300 sketches and prints including work for book illustration. FO100

Jules Heller, printmaker and former Dean of Fine Arts. Completed questionnaires from 224 Canadian printmakers, 1973-76, and taped interviews with several artists including Christopher Pratt and David Blackwood. FO323

CEAC.(Centre for Experimental Art & Communication, 1973-1980), cultural offshoot of the Kensington Arts Association. Correspondence, photographs, slides, newspaper clippings. FO285

Onion: The Toronto Paper on the Arts (1974-1983). Editor: Stephen Mezei. Correspondence. FO367

Prof. Zdenka Volvaka. Fonds includes her extensive research files related to art in Nigeria. FO132

recent projects

Library– Art Gallery of Ontario

Randall Speller

Art librarians still have to deal with books, in spite of all the chatter about their demise and the supremacy of online resources. As art librarians we are able to appreciate the artistry of the book, and the work of the many illustrators and designers who have made a living working for publishers and commercial art firms. Studying their contribution not only provides a different perspective on Canadian art history, but it also enables us to look at collections and books in new ways. Several recent projects I have been involved in over the past year (2003) prove the point.

Last April I acted as a judge in the Alcuin Society's Annual Awards for Excellence in Book Design in Canada. Held in Vancouver, judging took place at Simon Fraser University, the Harbour Centre, on April 26th 2003, when this year's judges, Sue Colberg (University of Alberta), Sharon Romero (Emily Carr College of Art and Design) and myself (Art Gallery of Ontario), met to select the prizewinners. Invitations were sent to 600 Canadian publishers to submit

books published in Canada during 2002 with each title representing the exclusive work of a Canadian book designer(s). Over 275 books were received, and separated into eight separate categories: Children's books, Limited Edition, Pictorial, Poetry, Prose Fiction, Prose non-fiction, Prose non-fiction illustrated, and Reference. The principles of the judging are that each book must be judged as a total entity. The judges examine every aspect of each book including the dust jacket, binding, end papers, half-title page, copyright page, title page, page layout, typography, integration of illustrations, chapter openings, running heads, reproduction of illustrations, clarity of printing, and choice of paper. The variety and selection of books is always amazing; from the fabulous illustrated children's books from Quebec, to the quality printing of the private presses. Trade publishing design continues to improve as designers are now assigned to books on a regular basis. A catalogue of the winners was published by The Alcuin Society. The contest results can be viewed on the Alcuin Society's Website at:

<http://www.alcuinsociety.com/Activities/2003Catalog/2003winners.htm>

The second event was the Bibliographical Society of Canada's Annual

Conference, which this year focused on Canadian illustration. Six papers were delivered to members of the Society at the Toronto Public Library in June. Among the contributors was Jonathan Franklin of the National Gallery of Canada Library who spoke on 'Book Illustration by Canadian Painters before the First World War.' I presented a paper on the illustration and design of "the Design for Poetry" series by Frank Newfeld, published by McClelland and Stewart. Newfeld created an outstanding series of five poetry books between 1960 and 1964, four of which were issued in the series. They included *Rivers Among Rocks* by Ralph Gustafson (1960), and Leonard Cohen's *Spice-Box of Earth* (1961), arguably the most beautiful books produced in Canada in the 1960s. Fraught with financial problems, troublesome authors, and a publishing house in the midst of rapid change, the story sheds light on these remarkable, but little known books. Other papers were presented at the meeting on the *Canadian Illustrated News* (1869-1883), illustration in books published in the Prairies represented in Peel's Bibliography of the Canadian Prairies, on Allan Brooks, the Canadian Wildlife illustrator, and the children's books of May Cutler at Tundra Books. For more information on the society and its

programmes, see:

<http://www.library.utoronto.ca/bsc/>

Another project that is underway is the History of the Book in Canada. Developed by a team of historians, literary scholars, librarians, and information specialists, a History of the Book in Canada/Histoire du livre et de l'imprimé au Canada defines Canada's place within an international network of book history studies. The five-year project will publish six volumes (three in English, three in French) in conjunction with the University of Toronto Press and Les Presses de l'Université de Montréal. The primary objective of the project is to produce a three-volume interdisciplinary history of the book in Canada from the beginnings to 1980. Volume III will focus on the 20th century (1918-1980). My contribution is a brief chapter on the role illustration and design has historically played in the manufacture of Canadian books. Artists and designers have played a significant role in shaping the Canadian book and it is vital that their contribution be acknowledged in this project. The paper was submitted at the end of October 2003. The website for the project is:

http://www.hbic.library.utoronto.ca/home_en.htm

"[O]f making many books there is no end" says Ecclesiastes (12:12), but the

history of the design and illustration of books in Canada is endlessly fascinating.

notes from the chair

continued...

WHERE WE WORK:

18 at universities:

10 in the library;

8 in the art dept.

(of these, 3 indicated both categories)

4 public art museum or gallery

2 in the library;

2 in Photo Resources.

2 public library

2 broadcasting organization

(guess which one!)

1 architectural firm

1 interior design firm

WHAT WE DO:

20 Public service/ reference

13 Physical retrieval of

materials for patrons:

8 for lectures;

10 for research;

7 for other *(collection*

development,

broadcasts, community

presentations,

photographic instruction)

Cataloguing: System:

2 MARC;

10 other systems *(e.g.*

Inhouse, Dewey/Sears,

Masterformat, other)

Material:

2 Monographs;

2 Serials;

7 Slides;

5 Digital images;

1 Other non-print;

2 Non-art-related material

(current events; building products and finishes)

Professional Duties:

11 bibliographic

instruction:

4 in classrooms;

10 in small groups in library

(3 do both)

5 management

3 research/publication

as part of their job descriptions

9 collection

development

(Selection, acquisitions)

7 library displays

14 people mentioned projects they have been working on this year. This should give us a basis for encouraging reports in the newsletter...

At this time I would also like to thank the 2003 ARLIS-NA-Ontario Chapter board for all their good work this year. It was a great learning experience for me, and very rewarding to work with you. Thank-you very much!

A hearty welcome to the new members of the board!

On a personal note, I would like to wish all of you a beautiful holy-day, holiday season,

Hildegard Lindschinger