Annual Report 2013
Gerd Muehsam Award Subcommittee

Submitted by: Philip Dombowsky
pdombowsky@gallery.ca
613-990-0588

2013-2014 Gerd Muehsam Award Subcommittee:
Sarah Osborne Bender, Philip Dombowsky (Chair), Elizabeth Ehrnst, Alan R. Michelson, Gregory P.J. Most (Board Liaison), Anna Simon.

Activities over the past year (April 2013-March 2014):

Pasadena Conference, April 25-29, 2013:
The Gerd Muehsam Award annual meeting was held at the Pasadena conference on Sunday, April 28th and attended by Philip Dombowsky (Chair), Erin Elliott, Sarah Osborne Bender, and Alan R. Michelson. Discussion focused on the quality of the submissions for the 2013 Gerd Muehsam Award, including the winning paper by Amanda Milbourn; whether ballot and judging procedures need to be modified; and on ways of publicizing the award in the year ahead.

Philip Dombowsky (Chair) presented the Gerd Muehsam Award to Amanda Milbourn at the ARLIS/NA Convocation Reception, held at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium on April 28th. Amanda received the award for her essay “New Literacies = New Models: Using Embedded Librarianship to Proactively Address the Need for Visual Literacy Instruction in Higher Education.” Amanda graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles Graduate School of Education and Information Science, in June 2012, and is employed as Assistant Librarian at Disney Consumer Products in Glendale, California. She presented her paper as part of the New Voices in the Profession panel at the Pasadena conference on April 26th.

May 2013:
Anna Simon, Research and Instruction Librarian at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., and Marsha Taichman, Visual Resources and Public Services Librarian at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, joined the subcommittee, replacing outgoing members Virginia Allison (L.A. Louver Gallery, Venice, California) and Erin Elliott (Sotheby’s Art Institute, New York). Updates regarding incoming and outgoing members of the subcommittee were forwarded to Nedda Hassan Ahmed, in order for adjustments to be made to the ARLIS/NA website.

August 2013:
A schedule for the upcoming year was finalized by the Chair and sent to subcommittee members. Through the efforts of Rebecca Cooper, Awards Chair, the statement regarding the travel reimbursement portion of the Gerd Muehsam Award was expanded on the Gerd
Muehsam Award page of the ARLIS/NA website to read: “Up to $300 travel reimbursement to attend the ARLIS/NA 42nd Annual Conference in Washington, D.C., May 1-6, 2014. This amount may be used to reimburse travel expenses, but will not apply to meals, tours, or other costs.”

September-October 2013:
An announcement regarding the Gerd Muehsam Award was sent to program directors and selected faculty of ALA-accredited library schools, and posted on various listservs, including ARLIS-L.

November 2013:
A reminder of the Gerd Muehsam Award was sent to library program directors and selected faculty, and posted on ARLIS-L.

December 2013:
Eleven submissions, including ten essays and one web project, were received by the December 6th deadline. The submissions were distributed to committee members using Dropbox. Committee members were instructed to fill out a separate ballot for each submission and to return their ballots to the Chair on or before February 14th.

January 2014:
Subcommittee member Marsha Taichman requested leave from the subcommittee until next year. The request was granted by the Chair.

February 2014:
Subcommittee members returned their ballots to the Chair, who tallied the votes. Based on the ballots, Jasmine Burns was selected as this year’s winner of the Gerd Muehsam Award for her essay “Digital Facsimiles and the Modern Viewer: Medieval Manuscripts and Archival Practice in the Age of New Media.” The paper was written as a Master’s thesis in Art History at Binghamton University, State University of New York. Jasmine is pursuing a career as a Visual Resources Librarian and is currently enrolled in the MLIS, Archives/Archival Administration program at University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee.

March 2014:
The Chair notified Jasmine Burns that she was this year’s winner of the Gerd Muehsam Award. Jasmine accepted the award and agreed to present her paper at the New Voices in the Profession panel at the upcoming ARLIS/NA conference in Washington, D.C., and to submit it for publication in Art Documentation. The President of ARLIS/NA and the Chair of the Awards Committee were also notified of the result. Jasmine’s contact information was forwarded to Kim Detterbeck, co-moderator of the New Voices session, and to Judy Dyki, editor of Art Documentation.

The Chair sent letters to the ten unsuccessful applicants, thanking them for taking the time to forward submissions for the 2014 Gerd Muehsam Award. A notice was sent to subcommittee members asking them to properly dispose of this year’s submissions and to offer suggestions for the Gerd Muehsam Award annual meeting at the upcoming ARLIS/NA conference in Washington, D.C. (May 1-5, 2014).