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Leadership Update

Officers for 2014:  
Emily Guthrie, NEH Librarian, Winterthur Museum, Co-Coordinator  
Jessica Shaykett, Librarian, American Craft Council, Co-Coordinator  

Incoming Officers: TBD at 2015 Conference

Brief Narrative of Activities

Decorative Arts was revived as an ARLIS SIG at the 2013 Pasadena Conference under the leadership of Linda Seckelson from the Metropolitan Museum. The group had been inactive for many years, but with renewed interest from several librarians working with decorative arts resources and scholarship it continues today. The goal of the group is to work collaboratively on projects that benefit users of decorative arts resources and to build awareness within the art libraries community of issues and initiatives in decorative arts collections.

At the 2014 ARLIS/NA Conference in Washington D.C., the Decorative Arts SIG presented a session on trade catalogs entitled *Trade Catalogs: Opportunities and Challenges.* Moderated by Seckelson, the following speakers presented on this topic:

Jared Ash: “Trade Catalogs as Objects of Fine Printing and Design”  
Gail P. Bardhan: “Through the Looking Glass: A Medium-Specific Collection”  
Emily Guthrie: “From Stickley to Sears: Material Culture and Trade Catalogs”  
Stephen Van Dyk: “Trade Catalogs: Invaluable Resources”  
Carolyn York Yerkes: “Projects and Products: Building History in Architectural Trade Catalogs”

ARLIS/NA Strategic Plan

The Decorative Arts SIG is currently focusing on the following strategic goals:

Goal 1.D. Provide opportunities for members to participate in shaping the role of the profession in the changing environment of art information and scholarship.
**Activity:** Facilitate an ongoing dialogue concerning new advances in the decorative arts through the establishment of a website and blog for the SIG.

**Status:** In Progress (goal of establishing a Dec Arts blog in 2015)

**Goal 4.A.** Provide a framework and forum for resource sharing collaborations between members and outside institutions, organizations and consortia

**Activity:** Promote current efforts of resource sharing collaborations underway by ARLIS/NA members and affiliated groups.

The Dec Arts SIG is exploring the potential for a collaborative project with the Smithsonian Institution Libraries (SIL) to digitize resources on makers' marks and hallmarks. Marks books (and online equivalents) are information resources for object identification and dating that are regularly used by collectors, antique dealers, appraisers, curators, historians, and scholars. Images of marks with corresponding information can be found in both key encyclopedias of hallmarks, as well as in chapters of major works on metalwork, ceramics, porcelain, glass, and in some cases furniture. In 2014 the SIL organized the scanning of their marks and hallmarks books that are out of copyright (pre-1923). Members of the Dec Arts SIG are working together to identify other copyright free hallmark works that have or could be added to an online repository that would greatly enhance the decorative arts community’s access to this valuable information.

**Status:** In Progress

**Goal 4.C.** Increase awareness of the importance of unique and special collections and their significance in supporting the missions of their parent organizations.

**Activity:** Provide resources and opportunities for ARLIS/NA members working in the decorative arts to present at conferences and contribute to dialogue on issues in this specialized area of the arts. In addition, raise awareness of organizations and collections devoted to decorative arts research and preservation.

**Status:** In Progress

**Issues/Requests for the Executive Board**

The Decorative Arts SIG has no issues for the Executive Board at this time.