Book Arts Roundtable Meeting
Monday, April 4th, 2005, 2:30-4:00 PM

Moderator: Jae Rossman, Yale University (not present)
Vice Moderator: Jonathan Lill, Yale University

Attendees: Amy Ballmer, Annette Haines, Andrea S. Goldstein, Anne Reid, Barbara Prior, Claudia Covert, Dawn Henney, Ed Loera, Heather Cleary, Joy Kestenbaum, Kathy Cowan, Kelley Wolfe Bachli, Sandra Still, Lyn Korenic, Sue Maberry, Mary Louise Castaldi, Maria Pisano, Kathleen Svetlik, Moira Steven, Mary Wasserman, Nina Stephenson, Nancy Pistorius, Rosemary Furtak

Minutes:

It was an energetic and well-attended roundtable this year in Houston! The meeting began with the introduction of Jonathan Lill and a reading of the Book Arts Roundtable Charge. An announcement was made of the Artists’ Book Conference at Wellesley in June 2005 and Heather Cleary and Kathleen Svetlik provided details on the ARLIS-SC sponsored ABCLA conference in May 2005, in Los Angeles. Discussion followed as to the programs and issues to be addressed by each. Moira Stevens announced the current status of Nexus Press, its future existence, and the likely disposition of its archives. Moira is hoping to reconstitute a panel discussion on Nexus Press from this year’s CAA conference at the 2007 ArLiS conference in Atlanta. A message concerning the Fred Hillbruner Memorial Book Fund was read in memory of Fred and his contribution to book arts librarianship.

The roundtable next discussed cataloging issues in book arts. The ABCLA conference will have programs dealing with current problems. Johanna Drucker’s plans for a union catalog and for a content structure of book arts metadata was discussed. Heather Cleary is beginning an aggregation of local word lists and thesauri used in describing artists’ books. Progress on these issues should be reported at Banff.

The proposed survey of collections of artists’ books within the United States was reviewed. Comments were gathered on further shaping of the survey tool to ease data gathering. Hosting, editing, and updating issues were also considered with the revamped ARLIS website seen as the best place to make both the survey and its results accessible to the public. Nancy Pistorius informed the roundtable of her work in this area. The goal is to produce a comprehensive list of collections with collecting focus, collection size, and contact details to strengthen a sense of community and awareness of each other and to facilitate artist-librarian contact.

Finally, a letter was read announcing Jae Rossman’s resignation as moderator. Jonathan Lill was voted in as moderator; Nancy Pistorius of the University of New Mexico was voted in as vice-moderator. Judging from the show of hands, we expect a good turnout next year in Banff!