Art Libraries Society of North America, 33rd Annual Conference, Hilton Americas, Houston, Texas, April 1-6, 2005

Session 18: Decorative Arts in Houston and the Lone Star State
Tuesday, April 5, 11:30am – 1:00 PM

Co-moderators:
Kristen Regina, Hillwood Museum & Gardens
Kathy Woodrell, The Library of Congress

Speakers:
Michael Brown, Bayou Bend
H.H. “Pancho” Howze, Winedale
Cindi Strauss, Museum of Fine Arts, Houston
Ron Tyler, University of Texas at Austin

Recorder: Kristen Regina, Hillwood Museum & Gardens

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Summary:

Kathy Woodrell opened the panel and introduced Cindi Strauss. Ms. Strauss presented an illustrated overview of the MFA Houston’s decorative arts collections, and explained the evolving collecting policies and rationales behind the formation of her department; the title of her talk *A Modern Vision: Developing the Collection of Modern and Contemporary Decorative Arts and Design at the Museum of Fine Arts, Houston*. Kathy next introduced Michael Brown and his talk, entitled *Ima Hogg’s Bridge to “an American Heritage.”* He spoke of the American decorative art collections at Bayou Bend. He gave the audience a greater sense of the exemplary collections of American and regional furniture, glass, and paintings housed there. He also discussed how they are continuing Ima Hogg’s vision by adding to her collections.

Kristen Regina then introduced Dr. Ron Tyler, who gave a broad overview of many collections across the state of Texas, not just in Houston. His talk was aptly titled *From Collectors to Museums: The Texas Experience.* Dr. Tyler’s presentation framed the lectures of the other panelists who dealt with a single museum collection. He also gave the flavor of the Texas collecting experience within which the other collections formed.

Lastly, Kristen Regina introduced Pancho Howze. Mr. Howze spoke about the building of Winedale, its wall-decorations, and the very best of Texas and regional furniture. Also founded by Ima Hogg, Winedale created an interesting contrast with the objects previously shown from Bayou Bend. The title of his lecture was *Texas Biedermeier Furniture in the Winedale Collection.*

The panel lasted exactly one-and-a-half hours. While there were no questions from the floor, there were many private discussions with the speakers afterwards.