

REGISTRARS COMMITTEE - WESTERN REGION
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF MUSEUMS

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER
SPRING 1980

Greetings fellow Registrars, Associates and Allies;

It is hoped that the content of the quarterly RC-WR newsletters will keep us informed as to the activities and accomplishments of Registrars in the Western Region, keep us advised of news and events that concern Registrars and keep us apprised of general information of interest. We welcome news and suggestions for future newsletters.

Betty Smart
Secretary-Treasurer
RC-WR

Recap of 1979 RC-WR Activities

Officers: Charlotte Johnson, Chairperson (Registrar - Robert H. Lowie Museum of Anthropology, California)
Betty Smart, Acting Secretary/Treasurer (Registrar - California Department of Parks and Recreation, California)

Activities: 3/15/79 - By Laws mailed to membership for ratification.
By Laws were subsequently ratified by vote of the membership
6/9/79 - Mailing of newsletter and Ballots to paid members.

Slate of Officers:

Chairperson - Michael Bell, Oakland Museum, CA
Kittu Gates, Portland Art Museum, Ore.

Secretary/Treasurer:

Ted Greenberg, Judah Magnes Memorial Museum, CA
Betty Smart, Calif. Dept. of Parks & Rec., CA

Vote of the membership elected the following for a two year term:

Chairperson: Michael Bell
Secretary/Treasurer: Betty Smart

10/23/79 Meeting of RC-WR at the WRC Annual Meeting held in Portland Oregon. 18 members were present. Election results announced. Announcement that the RC-WR adopted the by laws of the National Registrars Committee for the Western Region Committee

As a result of the session on the "Training of Registrars", those present felt that any form of testing or accreditation would not be practical, since the duties of registrars vary greatly from institution to institution. There are too many personal characteristics that a registrar must have for which there is no way of testing. The group attending the meeting felt that it would be advisable to establish a statement of Professional Practices and adopt a Code of Ethics.

Marsha Gallagher, Museum of Northern Arizona, who is working on the Registrars Committee Task Force, asked any interested registrars to send copies of their institution's loan forms for her reference.

Charlotte Johnson, outgoing Chairperson, was presented with a bouquet of flowers as a token of thanks for her efforts in guiding us through the beginnings of RC-WR.

1980 Activities and Accomplishments

Michael Bell and Betty Smart met to chart course of RC-WR.

Main Objectives: -produce a quarterly newsletter & membership brochure
 -increase membership
 -encourage participation
 -appoint State coordinators

To this end, Chairperson, Michael Bell, appointed the following people:

Membership Chairperson: Sheridan Hatch, Sacramento Museum & History Department, CA

Program Committee: Marsha Gallagher, Museum of Northern Arizona, AZ

Paula March, Palace of the Legion of Honor, CA

Nominating Committee: Barbara Zentner, University of Oregon Museum of Art, Ore.

Nancy Ellis, Museum of Cultural History, UCLA, CA

State Representatives: Barbara Zentner, Ore.

Marcia Anderson, Arizona Historical Society, AZ

Gail Joice-McKeown, Seattle Art Museum, WN

A loss to all of us in the Registrars Committee-Western Region is that of Michael Bell, who is moving east to greener pastures. As elected Chairperson, he has laid the groundwork for a strong viable organization. His letter follows: (3/14/80)

Dear friends (and not so friendly friends alike),

With a measure of regret, I must announce my early resignation from the Chair of our committee as of April 15th. Your new leader will be Kittu Gates of Portland, in accordance with the By-Laws, who will undoubtedly do an excellent job of guiding our programs and informing everyone about developments in the profession. I have made a few appointments that should help disperse authority among the western states for better representation, closer feelings of involvement between people, and better avenues of communication. We have begun a membership drive with Sherry Hatch at the helm. We have secured the good services of two people to be our nominating committee for the subsequent officers. And best of all, we have Betty Smart going full blast keeping things in order during transition.

My decision to resign has come as the result of a combination of situations equally divided between career goals and Proposition 13. Had I known about these changes earlier, I would not have run for the office and for this inconvenience I must apologize. Hopefully I have extricated myself soon enough for Kittu to be effective at all stages of our business from now on. Finally, I must say that I have enjoyed learning the museum world from the viewpoint of Registrar! Without this kind of experience I am quite sure I would be completely incapable of having any effect at any other job I might hold in this profession. Bless you all.

That about says it...take good care Betty

Kittu Gates is already in action and working on our behalf. With the full support of her institution, Portland Art Museum, Kittu will attend the annual AAM meeting in Boston - and will provide representation for the RC-WR. If anyone has any matter that they feel should be brought up at the Board or Business meetings, Kittu would like to hear from you.

Kittu sends her greetings and said that she is looking forward to working with the RC-WR and seeing to what limits we can rise in the next one and one half years.

NEWS FROM THE REGION

California: Charlotte Johnson (Lowie Museum, CA) has been appointed Northern California representative to the Board of Directors of Western Regional Conference, American Association of Museums.

Paula March, (Calif. Palace of the Legion of Honor, CA) coordinated a seminar in San Francisco on February 11, 1980 entitled "Use of the Mini Computer in the Museum".

Pat Nauert, (Los Angeles County Museum, CA) and Michael S. Bell, (Oakland Museum, CA) are serving as faculty at an American Association of Museums Registrars Workshop being held in New Mexico in Mid May.

Ted A. Greenberg, (Judah L. Magnes Memorial Museum, CA) hosted the Northern California Registrars' Quarterly Meeting in Berkeley on February 6, 1980.

Sherry Hatch, (Sacramento Museum & History Department, CA) will host the next Northern California Registrars Quarterly Meeting in Sacramento on May 16, 1980 at 12:00 noon.

Oregon: Barbara Zentner, (University of Oregon Museum of Art, Ore.) was a panel member at the Traveling Exhibitions Workshop sponsored by the Oregon Art Commission and Visual Arts Resources of the University of Oregon. They plan to offer future workshops for registrars.

Barbara Zentner plans on organizing a statewide communication network for Oregon registrars.

Washington: Gail Joice-McKeown, (Seattle Art Museum, WN) submitted the following report:

Our first Washington State Registrars meeting was held on April 12. We met here at the Seattle Art Museum for the program. Our guest speaker was Mr. Rod Slemmons, Curator of Photography at the Whatcom Museum of History and Art, Bellingham. His topic, PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTIONS AND THE REGISTRAR, was of interest to Registrars of Art, History, and Natural Science museums alike. His lecture included aspects of identification, classification, cataloguing, storage, and legal problems. I was pleased with the response of approximately 30 registrars, curators, and even one director, from various areas of the state. The award for travelling the furthest went to Registrar, Hazel Burrows of the Cheney Cowles Museum in Spokane, but there were also attendees from as far away as Yakima, Goldendale, and Bellingham. Gloria Richards, who was formerly the Registrar of the Wyoming State Museum in Cheyenne, heard about the meeting and was able to attend. Kittu Gates and Sandy Troon were also able to attend from Portland.

Response to the meeting has been wonderful. Everyone felt it was very useful to meet each other and share ideas and problems. Rod Slemmons lecture was excellent and answered several questions that people had concerning problems with their historic or art photo collections. His slide presentation illustrated different types of historic photographs, problems of conservation and storage, and keys to identification. He provided a very useful handout which described cataloguing, storage, identification and offered a bibliography.

After a tour of the Peruvian Gold Show, we took a brief tour of my office, and the

art storage areas of the museum. We shared our problems and ideas concerning storage management.

I hope to hear of future topics of interest for meetings of this type.

Gail Joice-McKeown
Registrar

ED.NOTE: I hope that Gail will send us the handouts from their meeting so that we can include them in the next quarterly newsletter! Sounds like a terrific meeting.

Our next newsletter will come out after the AAM meeting, so any comments, suggestions, reports, or information should be sent to your editor by the first week in July. All future newsletters will be sent to PAID MEMBERS ONLY, so be sure to get your dues in.

Betty Smart, Registrar
Calif. Dept. of Pks. & Rec.
1280 Terminal Street
West Sacramento, CA 95691

Free Newsletter: The Association of Systematic Collections
Museum of Natural History
The University of Kansas
Lawrence, Kansas 66045

Complimentary Subscription: Technology & Conservation
A publication of the Technology Organization, Inc.
One Emerson Place
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Application for Complimentary Subscription

Valid only in the United States and Canada

Do you wish to have a free subscription
to Technology & Conservation?

Yes No

Signed _____

Date _____

Name _____

Title _____

Organization _____

Dept. or Div. _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

1. I am engaged in or responsible for conservation, preservation, and/or restoration work. Yes No

2. Which one of the following best describes your function or title?

- | | |
|--|--|
| A <input type="checkbox"/> Museum Director | F <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation Architect |
| B <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation/Historic Agency Director | G <input type="checkbox"/> Architectural Historian |
| C <input type="checkbox"/> Curator | H <input type="checkbox"/> Government Official |
| D <input type="checkbox"/> Scientist | I <input type="checkbox"/> Educator |
| E <input type="checkbox"/> Conservator/Restorer | J <input type="checkbox"/> Other (explain) _____ |

3. Number of people you supervise:

A 1-10 B 11-25 C 26-50 D 51-100 E Over 100

4. Highest educational degree received:

- 01 Associates (field) _____
02 Bachelors (field) _____
03 Masters (field) _____
04 Doctorate (field) _____

5. My work involves recommending, specifying, or approving the purchase of:

- A analytical equipment and instruments
B chemicals
C paints, preservatives, etc.
D building hardware, materials, components
E security systems
F environmental controls and systems
G photographic/documentation equipment
H services

Subject matter that would be of interest to you _____

Classifieds

specializing in 20th century photography; experienced person to catalog and care for. Please send resume and salary require

Positions Available

☐ **Registrar**, Southern California museum of modern and contemporary art located 40 miles south of Los Angeles seeks museum registrar to handle dual functions of documentation and care of growing permanent collection along with maintaining necessary records for very active changing exhibition program. Applicant must have experience working in museum registration, be knowledgeable about specific handling problems and condition reporting of contemporary art, be high energy and "systems minded." Position available about February 15th. Please send resume giving salary history to Thomas H. Garver, Director, Newport Harbor Art Museum, 850 San Clemente Drive, Newport Beach, CA 92660.

☐ **Registrar**. Responsible for care of 100,000-item history collection of artifacts, photographs and archives; initiation of EDP. MA or MLS preferred. EOE. January or possible immediate opening. Send resume and letters to Museum of the Great Lakes, 1700 Center Avenue, Bay County, MI 48706.

☐ **Registrar**, Atlantic Richfield Corporate Art Collection. Responsible for record keeping, shipping and receiving, movement and placement of over 1000 objects in offices throughout the United States. Administer program for framing and maintenance. Computerized inventory system. Candidate should have at least four years experience as chief registrar in a museum. Must have top administrative and communication skills. Must be willing to travel. Salary range \$18,000-\$22,000, plus company benefits. Send resume to Betty Gold, Director of Fine Arts Programs, Atlantic Richfield Company, 505 S. Flower St., Los Angeles, CA 90071.

☐ **Registrar**, Office of Historic Properties, National Trust for Historic Preservation. Responsible for records and collections management policies and procedures for 250,000-piece fine and decorative arts collection located at historic house museums throughout the country. Records are kept by computer-generated file. Requirements: knowledge of accessioning and loan procedures, legal problems of records administration, and fine arts insurance. Degree in art history or related field, with special emphasis on American decorative arts. Minimum of three years registrarial experience with an established museum of art or historic house museum. Send resume to Charles F. Ellis, Director, Museum Properties, National Trust for Historic Preservation, 1785 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20007.

☐ **Curator**, Collection. Primary responsibility to supervise records keeping, conservation and research for historical and cultural collection of the museum. Supervise the registrar, assistant registrar, librarian and numerous volunteers. Serve as editor for most museum publications including a bi-monthly newsletter. Establish regular contact with donors or potential donors. Directly responsible to the executive director. Candidate should have a Masters degree or equivalent, with at least 3 years experience in a related field. Demonstrated ability to write, edit and communicate with the public essential. Salary in upper teens, depending on qualifications. Send curriculum vitae and requirements to: Donald R. Otto, Executive Director, Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, 1501 Montgomery St., Fort Worth, TX 76107.

☐ **Researcher**—Responsible to registrar. Duties include research and documentation of collections, preparation of condition reports, assisting education department and sharing the supervision of students and volunteers. Prefer BA in art history or related field with special emphasis on American painting, decorative and folk arts, or utilitarian artifacts. An ability to organize, communicate effectively, assume responsibility and work well with people is essential. Please send resume and references to Celia Y. Oliver, Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, VT 05482.

REGISTRAR, Seneca Falls Historical Society. Responsible for all records management relating to collections, registration of objects, and establishing a cataloging system to deal with large backlog of unaccessioned items. Other curatorial and administrative duties as needed. Position is funded by a one-year grant; possibility for additional two-year extension. BA with history background and museum experience required; MA in museum studies preferred. Position available June 1. Salary: \$8,000. Send resume and references to Ann M. Hermann, Director, Seneca Falls Historical Society, 55 Cayuga Street, Seneca Falls, New York 13148.

REGISTRAR, Museum of the Great Lakes. Responsible for care of historic collection, accessioning, restoration, and computerization of records. One to three years collections or archival work required. Some EDP or systems theory experience required. MA or MLS preferred. Training in care of photographs, maritime and Michigan history preferred. Salary: \$10,000. Send resume and letters of reference to Registrar Search, Museum of the Great Lakes, 1700 Center Ave., Bay City, Mich. 48706.

☐ **Museum Registrar**. The Neuberger Museum State University of New York, College at Purchase is seeking a registrar for its permanent collection

and for loans. Registrar is responsible for accessioning; insurance; shipping and receiving; arrangements and condition reports for all works of art; the physical and legal movement of objects and out of the building; cataloging the collection. A degree in the history of art or the visual arts and three to five years of professional museum experience; knowledge of domestic and foreign travel; ability to work with artists and students. Salary range \$14,000-\$16,000. Send resume by November 15, 1979, to: Suzanne Delehanly, Director, Neuberger Museum, SUNY College at Purchase, Purchase, NY 10577. Equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

☐ **Registrar**, Yale University Art Gallery. Immediate full time position for individual with at least years registrarial experience. BA in art history or equivalent museum experience required. Individual must possess considerable managerial skill and must have some knowledge of the conservation of works of art, should be able to supervise loans to and from foreign and domestic institutions (including familiarity with fine arts insurance) and must be informed about standard methods of cataloging works of art. Salary negotiable. Contact Richard S. Field, Acting Director, Yale University Art Gallery, Box 2006, Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520.

☐ **Assoc. Curator** with duties as registrar of wide range collection and coordinator of educational activities with community; possible curatorial activity depending on specialization. PhD desirable. German and French or Italian reading. Broad education in art history; museum experience highly desirable. \$13,000-14,000. Application deadline July 1. Apply to: Edzard Baumann, Acting Director, Museum of Art and Archaeology, 1 Pickar Hall, University of Missouri, Columbia, MO 65211.

Publications

☐ **49 pieces of good advice**. From established deferred giving program to cleaning fragile tiles, MUSEUM NEWS reprints provide practical information from the experts. Most titles are 50 cents. For a list of all 49, plus other AAM books and pamphlets, write to AAM Publications, Thomas Jefferson St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20007.

☐ **Fine Arts Insurance: A Handbook for Museums**, by Patricia Nauert and Caroline Black. Get the whole insurance picture with new manual from the Association of Art Museum Directors. \$4 to AAM and AAMD members; \$5 to others. Send orders (prepaid only) to AAM Publications, 1055 Thomas Jefferson St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20007.

☐ **Museum Registration Methods**, by Dorothy Dudley and Irma B. Wilkinson. The latest greatest edition of this invaluable guidebook contains information on all registration procedures including packing and shipping of objects, moving and storage of collections, regulations governing importing and exporting, and changes in the laws. \$19.50 hardbound, \$15 to members; \$1 paperback, \$10 to members. Send order to AAM Publications, 1055 Thomas Jefferson St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20007.

☐ **Personnel Policies for Museums: A Handbook for Management**, by Ronald L. Miller. New from the AAM, this comprehensive guide will help administrators develop or revise personnel policies for their employees. \$6.75 to AAM members, \$9 to nonmembers. Write Publications, AAM, 1055 Thomas Jefferson St., NW, Washington, D.C. 20007.

APPOINTMENTS

Midwest

Indiana: Peggy Smith is registrar at the Children's Museum, Indianapolis.

MARTHA DURANT MEAD has been named museum registrar and MARY ELLEN HENNESSEY NOTTAGE has been named curator of decorative arts and domestics at the Kansas State Historical Society.

Susan J.

Dickey is the registrar at the Indiana State Museum, Indianapolis.

The South Carolina Museum Commission promoted Winona O. Darr to museum registrar.

WHAT'S IN A NAME



WRC as an acronym is a bit unclear. You could pronounce it "work," (and for many of us it is) but it isn't in the same league with NOW, or VISTA, or AIM—initials that embody not only the names of these organizations but suggest their objectives as well.

At the 1979 Annual Meeting there was talk of adopting a new name to more accurately reflect WRC's relationship to the American Association of Museums. It is perhaps misleading to have our large and independent association labeled as just a conference of AAM, no matter how effective that relationship is, and no matter how supportive of AAM's efforts we are.

The job before us, then, is to find a new name for WRC which is descriptive of our geographical area and our professional *raison d'être*. The suggestion that we return to our former name of WMA, Western Museums Association, has caused considerable concern among our good friends in the Western Association of Art Museums. WMA is too much like WAAM, they feel, and will cause confusion as to which organization is which.

We certainly expect to resolve this issue to the satisfaction of WAAM and ourselves. We value our alternate year joint meetings too much to permit any confusion or ill will to develop between us. None of us in the museum profession today should condone unnecessary competition or duplication of effort. (The joint meeting of WRC and WAAM has been highly successful, and has resulted in savings in precious travel monies and duplication of program. Attendance has been better and the choices richer.)

Picking a good acronym for our Western association of museums is not easy, however. Hopefully the membership can do better than we did the other night when sleep was hard to come by:

WOMB Western Organization of Museum Buffs: has a secure, warm, and protective connotation. PACT Pacific Association of Cultural Treasures: sounds cooperative, but too much like an armed truce. HUMP Holy Union of Museum Professionals: sounds too elitist—almost smug. SMUG has possibilities, but could go in two directions: Super Museums Under God, or Small Museums Under Ground. Under ground suggests an active resistance movement. A more plaintive response might be Small Museums Usual Grips.

MAW has a motherly sound; stands for Museums Association of the West. On the other hand, MAW could also strike the timid as something about to swallow them. POMP for Pacific Organization of Museum Professionals also sounds elitist. PUMP for Pacific Union of the Museum Profession isn't much better, although you could get a handle on it.

While we're at it—how about a new acronym for AAM? It seems to us they could quite properly choose MOTHER as a name: Museum Organization To Help Each Region.

For the states, we can't seriously recommend our midnight manderings, but here they are: California Union of Museums: CUM, or if you prefer, MUC, Museums Union of California. The state is big—how about SCAM: Southern California Association of Museums? For a sweeping change, how about BROOM: Bay Region Organization of Museums.

For Oregon, we suggest—oops, we have to go now—the men in the white coats are breaking down the door.

A. A. H.

Arts Administration & Management

The University Extension Program at the University of California, Berkeley, is now offering a certificate program in arts administration and management. The program is directed toward those interested in a career in the arts administration field, including opera and dance companies, theaters, symphony orchestras, museums and community arts organizations. A certificate is awarded to each student upon the completion of seven required courses and three electives. Electives may be taken in the areas of museum studies, journalism and publishing, and management.

For more information, call 415-666-3291 or write to Certificate Program in Arts Administration and Management, UC Extension Center, 55 Laguna St., San Francisco, Calif. 94102.

In cooperation with the Registrars Committee, Museums Collaborative, Inc., sponsoring a comprehensive survey and evaluation of new materials and technology which might provide better protection for objects in transit. Registrars are involved in this effort in an advisory capacity.

The committee has drafted a professional practices statement for museum registrars and expects to have a revised statement ready for presentation and adoption in June.

Work continues on the preparation of a handbook on the content and format of loan contracts. The committee expects that a rough draft will be ready in June 1980.

AAM/ICOM Calendar

May 18 International Museum Day. This is the third annual observance to commemorate the museum's role in contemporary society. Museums are urged to mark this day with special events that will raise the public's awareness of museums and the services they provide as educational institutions and cultural resources.

REGISTRAR S COMMITTEE WESTERN REGION

Dear Members and Friends,

We extend an invitation to you to join the Registrar s Committee Western Region of AAM. We are still accepting dues for 1980. The Committee represents your interests as professional registrars and our goals are to broaden our influence in the region, to expand our representation of registrars and to provide for future projects and programs financially.

So that we can serve you as a professional organization, the Committee is undertaking the increase of our membership. We thank those who have joined this year and ask that you pass this letter on to your colleagues. Our membership is not limited to registrars. It should include associate members - curators, directors and other staff as well as firms with who you do business and other interested people who can benefit from membership in our organization.

To date we have 30 members from Arizona, California, Oregon and Washington. We hope this letter will stimulate interest from the other states in the Western Region. Let's hear from all of you registrars from Alaska, Idaho, Hawaii, Nevada and Utah. We know there are lots of you out there and we want to get to know you and what you are doing and how you are doing it. We hope to be able to have information exchanges, news of upcoming events, meetings, seminars, and workshops in the forms of a newsletter - more or less on a regular basis - and we need input from you. But in order to do that we need to know what's happening out there in those almost 700 museums in the Western Region. So let's get those memberships in. Membership dues are \$5.00 for both active and associate members. Tear off and return the lower portion of this letter.

DON'T MISS OUT - JOIN TODAY!

Sincerely,

Sherry Hatch

Sherry Hatch, Membership Chairperson

REGISTRAR S COMMITTEE - WESTERN REGION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME _____ TITLE _____

INSTITUTION _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____ TELEPHONE _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP: ASSOCIATE \$5.00 _____
 ACTIVE 5.00 _____

Make checks payable to: REGISTRAR S COMMITTEE WESTERN REGION

MAIL TO: Sherry Hatch, Membership Chairperson
1931 K Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

R C W R
350 ROSS WAY
SACRAMENTO, CA 95825