

**Visual Resources Association**

**New York** 

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**15th Annual Conference  
February 11 - 15 1997**

*Welcome to -  
New York City!*

*Visual Resources Association  
15th Annual Conference -  
February 11 - 15, 1997*

*Welcome to the 1997 VRA Conference in New York City!  
We hope that you will find the 15th Annual Conference of  
the Visual Resources Association to be rewarding, not only  
for the information presented in the meetings, but for the  
opportunity to explore some of the unique offerings of the  
city in the company of colleagues and friends - old and new.  
Please welcome new members at this year's conference.*

## Conference At-A-Glance

### February 11 - Tuesday

- 1-5pm Workshop I (Riverside Ballroom)
- 1-5pm Workshop II (Liberty 5)
- 7-9pm Registration Desk (New York Ballroom Foyer)

### February 12 - Wednesday

- 8am-5pm Registration Desk (Imperial Foyer)
- 9-11am Session I (Imperial B)
- 11am-2pm - Committee meetings
  - 11-noon Editorial (Carnegie 1)
  - 11-noon Travel Awards (Liberty 3)
  - noon-1pm Nancy de laurier Writing Awards (Liberty 4)
  - noon-2pm Data Standards (Liberty 5)
- 2-4pm Session II (Imperial B)
  - Session III (New York A)
- 4-5pm CONFU Open Forum (Liberty 3)
- 5-7pm Member's Reception (New York A)
- 7:30pm - Executive Board Meeting I (Pres. Suite)

### February 13 - Thursday

- 8am-5pm Registration Desk (Imperial Foyer)
- 8-9:45 am Annual Business Meeting (Imperial B)
  - 7:30 - 8am Continental Breakfast (Imperial B)
- 10am-noon Session IV (Imperial B)
- 12:30-2pm Session V (at CAA Hilton, Petit Trianon)
- 1-3pm Soho Walking Tour
- 1-5pm Open House - Cooper Union
- 2-3:30pm - Reception - Regional Chairs/Committee Chairs (Pres. Suite)
- 3-5pm Roundtable I (Liberty 3)
  - Roundtable II (Liberty 4)
- 5:30-7pm Committee meetings

- 5:30-6:30 Membership (Liberty 2)
- 5:30-7pm Joint Task Force (ARLIS/VRA/VRD) (Liberty 1)
- 6-10pm Executive Board Meeting II (Pres. Suite)

### February 14 - Friday

- 8am - 10am Registration Desk (Imperial Foyer)
- 9-11am Session VI (Imperial B)
- 11-noon Planning Meeting - VRA 1998-Philadelphia (Imperial B)
- Noon - 4pm New Technologies Roundup (Versailles Ballroom)
- 1-3pm Session VII (Imperial B)
- 2-4pm Open House - Institute of Fine Arts - NYU
- 3-5pm Roundtable III (Liberty 3)
  - Roundtable IV (Liberty 4)
- 7-10pm Tansey Travel Award Dinner

### February 15 - Saturday

- 9am - 2pm Princeton Tour
- 9-11am Roundtable V (Liberty 4)
  - Roundtable VI (CANCELLED)
- 9:30-11:30 am Open House - The Metropolitan Museum of Art Slide and Photograph Library
- 9:30-10:15 am Tour - Giambattista Tiepolo Exhibition - The Metropolitan Museum of Art

# Registration and Thanks -

## Registration and Information

VRA registration and information will be in the Imperial Foyer, at the Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers, 811 Seventh Ave. at 52nd. St.

## On-Site Registration

Registration times during the conference are limited. See the attached schedule of events.

On-Site registration .....\$95.00

Daily registration.....\$45.00

## VRA Program Fees

The registration fees include admission to all sessions and roundtables, the members' reception, and the continental breakfast at the business meeting. 1997 VRA membership dues may be included with your conference registration. Institutional memberships are entitled to one conference registration at the members' rate.

*Please note: Participants are individually responsible for the cost of local transportation and museum admissions, unless otherwise noted. Only VRA conference registrants may attend VRA sessions or activities, and badges must be worn at all times as proof of registration. Your VRA badge is your admission ticket to all events, including the CAA exhibition hall, the New Technologies Roundup, and selected CAA sessions - listed in this program.*

## Thanks

Genuine thanks go to the members and friends who helped ensure the success of this program. VRA's New York City and East Coast members provided invaluable local arrangements assistance - their names are listed at the back of the program. Please thank these people when you see them during the conference - without their help, your conference would not have been possible.

Also, a very heartfelt thanks to anyone who has offered - and there were many - sane and intelligent suggestions throughout the past year as well as help and comfort for the conference coordinator, board and local arrangements



committee. Please feel free to acknowledge and praise the local arrangements committee, session moderators, workshop leaders and roundtable leaders for their tireless efforts and help.

## Hotel and Travel

### CAA Information

We will be continuing our system of reciprocal entry for VRA members and CAA members - to certain sessions at each conference. VRA members' badges will admit them to not only the CAA exhibition hall - but also to sessions on New Media/Technology, marked with a starburst symbol in the CAA program schedule. *A list of these sessions and their location appears at the end of this program.* Also, CAA attendees will be able to attend VRA sessions dealing with new technology as well. These sessions will be noted in your final VRA conference program, and CAA will publish these sessions in their January/February newsletter, on their Web Site, and a note will appear in the CAA program to check the board for the sessions. *Note: CAA does not allow members of affiliated societies to register for the CAA conference at the CAA members' rate.*

### Hotel Information

The VRA Conference headquarters hotel is the Sheraton New York Hotel & Towers, on 811 Seventh Avenue at 52nd Street. The hotel is located directly across from the CAA conference hotel and is surrounded by Broadway theaters, 5th Avenue shopping, Central Park, Rockefeller Center - in the heart of midtown Manhattan. The hotel offers several restaurants, Streeter's New York Cafe and Hudson's Sports Bar & Grill, as well as being near many other area restaurants. Your registration packet at the conference will list neighborhood eateries. The hotel also has a health club on site. The pool is in the Sheraton across the street from our hotel, but is accessible by registrants of both hotels. Parking at the hotel will run you \$25 - \$30 per day. All VRA sessions, including the workshops, with the exception of the VRA/CAA

inbetween session on Thursday, will be held at the Sheraton.

### Getting to the Conference Hotel

**By air:** Carey Bus Service makes trips from JFK and LaGuardia every 1/2 hour from 6am to midnight (travel time about 1 hour), and leaves from outside the luggage area at each airport. The cost is \$10-\$15 one way, and the Sheraton is one of the main drop off points, along with a few other hotels in Mid-town Manhattan. From Newark, there exists a similar service, at a similar price - ask for the bus to the Sheraton. Gray Line Air Shuttle Buses run from all three airports to nearly 50 hotels in Manhattan every 20 minutes from 7 am to 11pm, cost is about the same - but the ride may take longer because stops are made at more hotels.

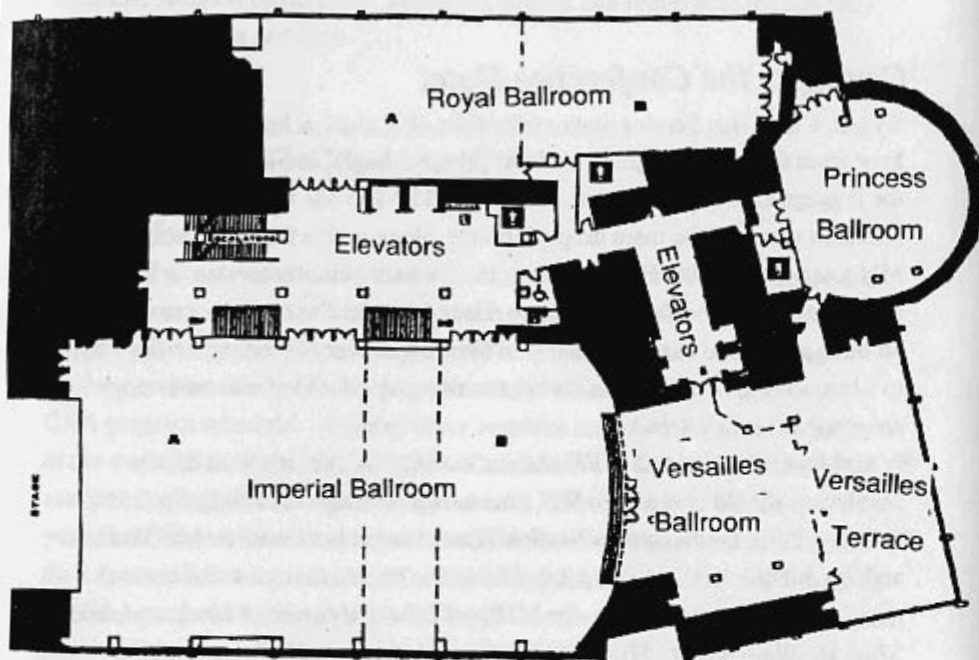
**By taxi from the airports (JFK and LaGuardia):** A cab ride to Midtown Manhattan should cost \$30 to \$35, plus tunnel or bridge tolls and a tip (15%).

**By train:** From **Pennsylvania Station** (Penn Station between 31st and 33rd sts. and 7th & 8th avenues) - Take a taxi from the 7th avenue exit to the station, take a bus (exit on 8th avenue for M10, get off at the corner of 8th Avenue and 52nd. st. Walk east on 52nd St. 1 block to 7th Avenue. Walk north on 7th Ave., 1/2 block to the hotel, take a subway (E train to 7th Ave. & 53rd St. Walk south on 7th Ave., 1/2 block to hotel. From **Grand Central Station** (42nd St. & Lexington Ave.) - Exit at Western exit and get a taxi from the taxi stand. Buses & subways are too complicated from here, as both require transfers or long walks. (*Note: Subway and bus fare is \$1.50. Buses require exact change (no bills or pennies), token, or Metrocard. Subways require token or Metrocard. Tokens or Metrocards are sold by clerks or machines in the subway stations. Tokens are the SAME for buses and subways. Free transfers between subway and buses are not available.*)

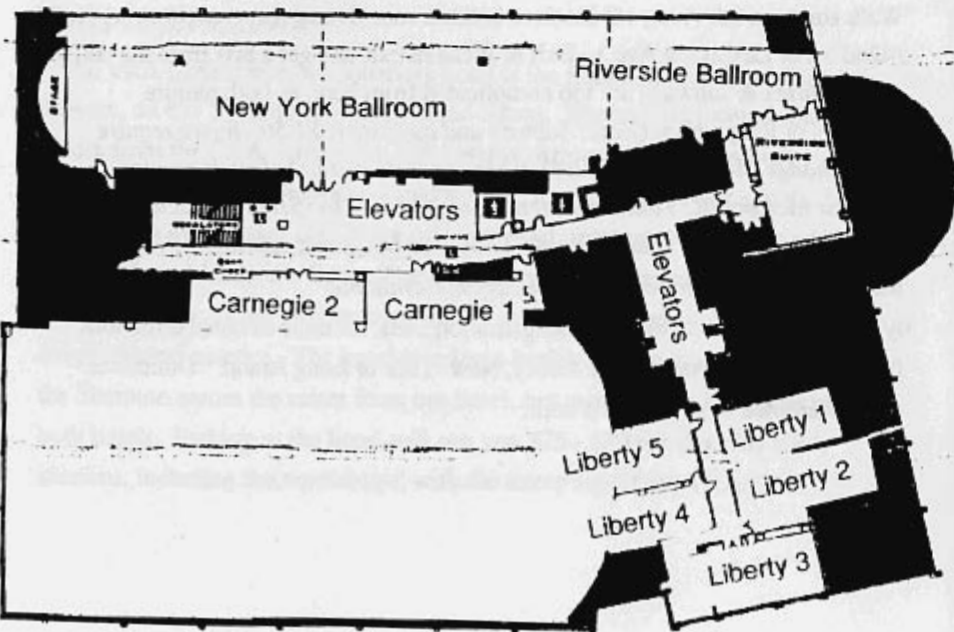
**By car:** Please contact the VRA Registration Desk for more detailed directions from either Connecticut, New Jersey, New York or Long Island. Directions are too detailed to be included here.

Floor Plans of Sheraton

SECOND FLOOR



THIRD FLOOR



## Program of Events

Tuesday, February 11

Workshop I - 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Digital Imaging 101

*Riverside Ballroom - 3rd Floor*

Instructor: Dennis Kois

Text Introduction to Imaging, Besser/Trant, \$7.00.

As the practicality and cost-effectiveness of digital imaging technologies continue to improve, a great number of visual resources professionals are finding basic knowledge of this field key to their ability to discuss, evaluate, and supervise or plan for digital imaging projects--from collections management systems to the use of digital imagery in printing processes. Yet, paradoxically, it is this so-called basic information that is often the most difficult to obtain--absent entirely from many resources, or turned into a snooze-inducing exploration of acronym-mania (known as SIEoAM to computer people) in others.

Beginning with the mechanics of digital imaging and expanding outward, this session will provide attendees with the knowledge necessary to cogently consider and discuss the technological and practical issues of the field. Information will be presented in a manner that avoids jargon and instead focuses on practical issues, answers common questions, and recognizes real-world constraints.

Topics that will be addressed include terminology, technical considerations and equipment, scanning and other methods of input, editing software, file formats and compression, image display, and output. A brief sampling of the related topics that will be discussed includes differences in digital images for in-house use, for printing, and on the Internet; costs; conservation issues involved in the scanning of original works; copyright issues for digital imagery

on the Internet: "so you want to get your institution on the Web..."; Macintosh vs. Windows PCs; color management; and technological advancements.

This session is meant to be introductory and is not intended for those with advanced knowledge of digital technologies. A basic understanding of computers (e.g., you use one) is expected. Time will be provided for questions.

*Dennis Kois, Digital Technology Consultant, Staten Island Institute of Arts. (718) 727-1135, x 37. Email: dck0303@is4.nyu.edu.*

**Workshop II - 1:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Data Migration Projects**

***Liberty 5 - 3rd Floor***

**Instructor: Susan J. Williams**

Especially since the advent of the World Wide Web, data needs to be increasingly "fluid." This workshop is intended to address general issues of importing data and images between different software shells. The workshop will focus on real project examples to illustrate problems and solutions in data clean-up, data mapping, attaching digital images to textual data, and matching the software tool to a particular task. Handouts will compare many of the current popular software products: Excel, EmbARK, Filemaker Pro 3.0, VRMS, and ImageAXS among others. Additional handouts and discussion will deal with data dictionaries and templates in an effort to identify a practical "core" record. Sample templates currently in use in a range of projects will be shared.

*Susan J. Williams, Slide and Photograph Collection, Art and Architecture Library, Yale University.*

**7:00 - 9:00 pm REGISTRATION DESK**

***New York Ballroom Foyer***

## ***Wednesday, February 12***

**8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - REGISTRATION DESK**

***Imperial Foyer - 2nd Floor***

**9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

### **Session I**

**A Panel Discussion: What Can Art/Architecture Librarians and Visual Resources Curators Learn From Each Other?**

***Imperial B***

**Moderator: Ann Whiteside, Harvard University.**

The worlds of book and visual resources collections evolved separately, often in isolation from each other. However, with the recent development of digital technologies and their integration into both the library and academic environments, the traditional boundaries between book libraries and visual resources collections are blurring. Libraries now collect image products that in the past were the purview of visual resources collections. Conversely, visual resources collections, as they become available in digitized form, are available to broad audiences as rich study and research tools. The boundaries are no longer definitive; we need to share our knowledge and expertise and work together to provide access to many different types of materials in a variety of settings. Colleagues who work in both environments will speak about issues involved in establishing cooperative collaboration in all areas of our libraries, from collections to services. **CAA Attendees Welcome.**

*Participants:*

*Deborah A. Kempe, Frick Art Reference Library, "Blurring the Thin Blue Line."*

*Katherine Jones-Garmil, Harvard University, "A Convergence of*



*Needs in the Archival, Library, and Museum Communities."*

*Joy A. Blouin, University of Michigan, "Pushing Integration: A Visual Resources Curator's Perspective."*

*Margaret N. Webster, Cornell University, "Thoughts of an Architecture Visual Resources Professional."*

*Aniko Havlerson, University of Southern California, "Promoting Local Access to Images via the World Wide Web: A Collaborative Process."*

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. - **COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

11 am - noon *Editorial Meeting (VRA Bulletin) - John Taormina - Carnegie 1*

11am - noon - *Travel Awards Committee - Lindy Narver Liberty 3*

noon - 1pm - *Nancy de Laurier Writing Awards - Leigh Gates - Liberty 4*

noon - 2pm - *Data Standards - J. Dustin Wees Liberty 5*

2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**Session II**

*Approaching the New Century: Visual Resources, Electronic Media, and the Changing Art History Classroom*

*Imperial B*

Moderator: *Kathe Albrecht, American University.*

As we approach the twenty-first century, educators are beginning to integrate new electronic technologies into their teaching, redefining the lecture hall as a flexible, multimedia classroom. The visual resources professional plays a significant role in facilitating this transformation by providing tutorials on

electronic resources, developing databases of digital information, and establishing methods of information retrieval. This session will focus on successful applications of the new media in the art history classroom and provide suggestions for visual resources professionals to use at their own facilities.

Several innovative electronic projects including a modern art web page, a multimedia course for art history students, and an introductory class on researching art on the World Wide Web will be described. Participants will share their ideas on curriculum development, methods of data delivery, electronic resource information, and other issues pertinent to the new media classroom. **CAA Attendees Welcome.**

*Participants:*

*Kathe Albrecht, American University, "The Age of (Digital) Enlightenment: Enhancing Student Access to Visual Culture."*

*Nancy Schuller, University of Texas at Austin, "The Development of a Graduate Seminar on Visual Resources for Art History and Library Science Students."*

*Marybeth Koos, Northern Illinois University, "Integrating the World Wide Web into a Visual Resources Library: A Case Study."*

*Kathleen Cohen, San Jose State University, "Balancing on the Edge: Bootstrap Training and Development."*

**Session III**

*Managing a One-Person Slide Library*

*New York A*

Moderator: *Peggy Ottens, Dickinson College.*

This session will address the needs of one-person slide libraries in small institutions. Where do they fit into the big picture of the institution and the



field? Results of a member-wide survey dealing with these issues will be reported as part of the session.

*Participants:*

*Tina Bissell, University of Michigan, "Report on the recent 'Survey on Current and Continuing Education of Visual Resources Professionals'."*

*Ben Kessler, Princeton University, "The Best Search Engine."*

*Jenni Rodda, Institute of Fine Arts, NYU, "It's Not My Field: Domain Specialization at the Institute of Fine Arts."*

*Ginger Sheridan, Ohio University, "Today's Successful Slide Curator - Art History Sage or New Technology Savvy?"*

*John Lee Butler-Ludwig, University of Chicago, "Visual Resource Management Today, Challenges for the New Professional."*

*Maureen Burns, University of California-Irvine, "The Hermaphrodite as a Paradigm for the Visual Resources Specialist: The Best of Both Worlds - Professional and Academic."*

12:30 - 2:00 p.m.

**Session V**

A Panel Discussion: Copyright and Fair Use Issues for Academic Slide Collections

**CAA Affiliated Society Session**

**New York Hilton and Towers, Petit Trianon**

Moderator: Jeanette C. Mills, University of Washington.

In this session, lawyers and slide curators will discuss a variety of copyright

and fair use issues that affect academic slide collections. The moderator will introduce the panelists, then each panel member will have time to comment on the issues she/he perceives as being most significant. The balance of the session will be devoted to questions. In advance of the conference, the moderator will solicit questions from the VRA membership and subscribers to the VRA listserv; these will be used to start the discussion. There also will be time for questions from the audience. The purpose of this session is to provide a forum for the discussion of copyright and fair use issues that interest many academic slide librarians and curators and are not generally discussed openly.

*Participants:*

*Loy Zimmerman, Slide Curator, Art Department  
California State University - Long Beach*

*Virginia M.G. Hall, Curator, Art History Visual Resources Collection,  
Johns Hopkins University  
VRA Representative to the Conference on Fair Use*

*Frederick T. De Kuyper, Associate General Counsel,  
Johns Hopkins University*

*Kurt Wiedenhoeft*

*Saskia Ltd. Cultural Documentation*

**1:00 - 3:00 pm. Tour - Soho Tour**

*A walking tour of the Soho cast iron architecture district with visits to Soho/downtown galleries of art. Museums in the area can be visited on your own after the tour (Guggenheim Soho Museum, Museum of African Art, etc.) - but admission fees are up to you. Cafes and bistros in the area will also be pointed out if you'd like to stop and indulge after the tour. If the weather is nasty, dress appropriately, but more time*

will be spent indoors. *Directions about where to meet will be at the Registration Desk.*

**Tour leader: Eileen Krest, Slide Curator, Queens College/CUNY.**

**Pre-registration required.**

**1:00 - 5:00 pm Open House - Cooper Union**

**Database Demonstration: Cooper Union Graphic Design Database**

**Sessions held at: 1:15, 2:00, 2:45, 3:30 and 4:15.**

*Looking for a hand-lettered logotype, an anthropomorphic typeface or large-scale diacritical signs? Searching for these and other topics is the inspiration for the creation of The Cooper Union Graphic Design Database, an on-line image database currently under development at The Herb Lubalin Study Center of Design and Typography in the School of Art. Funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts, the database is intended to preserve and disseminate material related to the history of graphic design. The project is a component of the National Graphic Design Archive (NGDA), a pilot program developed to facilitate the organization of graphic design collections nationwide.*

*The design collection at the Study Center consists of editorial design produced by Herb Lubalin in the 1960's, promotional items designed by Lou Dorfsman for the Columbia Broadcasting System and a cross-section of European and American graphic design produced from the 1950's to the present. Of the 1700 images scanned from the Design Collection, 600 have been cataloged. (A detailed description of the collection is available on the Study Center's Web site: <http://www.cooper.edu/art/lubalin/LBfront.html>.)*

**Cooper Union - Exhibition**

**Techno-Seduction - January 17 - February 15, 1997**

*Techno-Seduction, an exhibition produced jointly by The Cooper Union and The College Art Association (CAA), celebrates the work of*

*over 40 artists examining identity, sensuality, sexuality, gender and seduction through new media and technologies. The exhibit will include two-and three-dimensional work and site-specific installations. The projects are displayed through a wide array of media including print, photography, xerography, animation, video and interactive software. Accompanying the exhibition is a 106-page, full color catalogue. A reception for the exhibition will begin at 5:00 immediately following the open house; a web site of the exhibition is located at: <http://www.cooper.edu/art/techno/index.html>*

*Location: The exhibition will be on display in Cooper Union's main Foundation Building located at 7 East 7th Street on the SW corner of 3rd Ave. and 7th St. The Database demonstration will be on view in the Cooper Union Albert Nerken School of Engineering located at 51 Astor Place, directly north of the Foundation Building in the Driscoll Multimedia Center, Rm. 136. Visitors may take the #6 train (subway) to Astor Place or the N or R train (subway) to 8th St. For more information contact, Lawrence Mirsky at (212) 353-4214.*

**2:00-3:30 - Reception - Regional Chairs and Committee Chairs - President's Suite**

**3:30 - 5:00 p.m.**

**Roundtable I**

**Conservation Practices: The Ideal/The Reality: Some Consequences/Some Solutions**

**Liberty 3**

**Moderator: Margo Ballantyne, Lewis & Clark College.**

*This session will start with what we know the "ideal" to be and then "get real" with what many slide librarians have. Examples will be shown as well as examples of interesting and practical solutions. Since most people do not have and will not ever have ideal climate controls in their slide libraries, some*

basic things one can do will be presented. Advice about conservation practices for digital media (i.e. CD-ROMs) will also be given. The moderator will be introducing the panel, as well as giving some examples with slides.

*Participants:*

*Julie Hausman, University of Iowa, "Dehumidifiers and Electronic Air Cleaners."*

*Eileen Fry, Indiana University, "Stand-alone Climate Control Systems."*

*Patricia mcRae, University of Nevada at Las Vegas, "Mildew & Dust v. the VRA - A Technical Knockout."*

*Lynn Lickteig, University of Colorado College of Architecture and Planning, "C-D ROM Archival Information."*

*Rachel Dvoretzky, Rice University, ( in absentia), " Humidity Control Rig-Up - A Camouflaged De-Humidifier."*

**Roundtable II**

Who Has the Perfect Mona Lisa, Part Deux: Cataloging and Access in Digitized Collections

*Liberty 4*

Moderators: Jenni Rodda, Institute of Fine Arts, New York University; and Sherman Clarke, Bobst Library, New York University.

As visual resources collections continue the transition from traditional photographic media to electronic image acquisition, the role of cataloging is changing. Is the physical location of the original slide or photograph, as determined by its idiosyncratic classification number, as important as the descriptors used in an image database? These descriptors locate an image

within a database the same way the call number locates an image within a drawer of other slides. We have argued back and forth about universal cataloging for years; can we agree on a common language for the building of image databases? Will we see the need to use the same vocabularies in order to connect our databases together? An extension of the "Who Has the Perfect Mona Lisa?" roundtable held at the annual conference in Boston in 1996, participants may expect a similarly lively and substantive discussion.

**5:30 - 7:00 p.m. - COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

5:30 - 6:30 - Membership - Kathe Albrecht - *Liberty 2*

5:30 - 7:00 - Joint Task Force (VRA/ARLIS/VRD) on Professional Issues - Margaret Webster - *Liberty 1*

**6:00 - 10 pm. - Executive Board Meeting II**  
President's suite.



## Notes.....

## Friday, February 14

8:00 am - 10:00 am - **REGISTRATION**

*Imperial Foyer*

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

### **Session VI**

**Access to Images in Non-Academic Collections**

*Imperial B*

**Moderator: Adina Lerner, Assistant Archivist, The Walt Disney Archives.**

This session will deal with image collections in disciplines other than art, specifically in a for-profit environment. How do these corporate digitized



collections get access to their images, what kind of cataloging do they use? These collections have very different requirements: they usually own the copyright but still have to control image access within their company. Speakers include archivists and curators from corporate and for-profit institutions.

*Participants:*

*Adina Lerner, The Walt Disney Archives*

*The Walt Disney Photo Library is a part of the Walt Disney Archives, and as such, has a long history. The Photo Library serves the entire corporation's historic photographic needs. While traditional methods of delivery still take a large portion of the workload, more and more requests are made to provide desktop visual reference. Working with other business units, the photo library is piecing together an image database accessible to anyone on the corporate internet.*

*Sue Terrible, Archivist, Microsoft Corporation*

*Microsoft's Archive is putting much of their image collection in a digital format, but this does not mean traditional visual resources archival concerns fall away. They are in the final planning stages of moving to a new facility. A part of this new facility is adapting systems to meet a need for companywide digital image access and delivery.*

*Janet Strong Adams, Pei Cobb Freed & Partners*

*Pei Cobb Freed & Partners is a prominent architectural firm with more than 150 projects worldwide. The presentation will examine the work habits of this New York office, the scope and applications of its visual resources, and the various cataloging, storage and retrieval systems employed.*

*Beth Zarcone, Time-Life.*

*The Time Inc. Picture Collection is composed of 20 million images in many different formats - the collection dating from 1936. How the Collection provides prompt and comprehensive access to its diverse*

*internal clientele will be the focus of the talk, especially looking at how desktop access to the collection was developed and will be provided with the implementation of the image database.*

11:00 - noon - Planning Meeting for 1998 VRA Conference -  
Philadelphia - Jeanette Mills/ Micheline Nilsen  
*Imperial B*

12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

### **New Technologies Roundup**

*Versailles Ballroom - CAA Attendees Welcome.*

**Coordinators:** Ann Vollmann Bible, The Metropolitan Museum of Art Photograph and Slide Library.

Michelle Murray, Visual Resources Collection, Dept. of Art History and Archaeology, Columbia University.

### **Exhibitors:**

*Archivision*

*Gallery Systems (A Digital Arts & Sciences Co.)*

*The Museum System for Windows*

*EmbARK*

*The Reindeer Company*

*Digimarc Corporation*

*Re:discovery Software, Inc.*

*Light Impressions*

*ArtLook, Inc.*

*Digifilm Services Inc.*

*Cuadra Associates, Inc.*

*Eastman Kodak Company*

*Canadian Heritage Information Network*

*Academic Press*

*Saskia, Ltd. Cultural Documentation*  
*Documensa*  
*Adobe Systems*

1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

### **Session VII**

**On the Margins: Visual Resources Collections and Illuminated Manuscripts**

*Imperial B*

Moderator: Elizabeth O'Keefe, Pierpont Morgan Library.

Illuminated manuscripts are crucial to the study of medieval and Renaissance art. Images drawn from these manuscripts form a significant part of most visual resources collections but documenting these images poses enormous problems. The information accompanying the slides is often incomplete or incorrect. Even when it is accurate, the cataloger is faced with the problem of how to organize the information in some sort of coherent data structure that will facilitate retrieval.

The library and curatorial worlds have only recently begun to grapple with the problem of machine-readable cataloging standards for illuminated manuscripts. The MARC AMC format is increasingly being used for bibliographic records for illuminated manuscripts and their surrogates, as is AACR2 and the Library of Congress Subject Cataloging Manual. These standards provide a useful model for documenting manuscripts as whole entries. Unfortunately, visual resources collections seldom include representations of entire manuscripts. The cataloger is faced with two major problems: (1) to identify what the slide represents, and (2) to determine how best to arrange the information in a descriptive record and to determine the nature and form of access points.

The speakers in this panel discussion will try to define the core data elements

for the description of illuminated manuscripts--What types of information should the cataloger be seeking and/or incorporating in a record?--and to map the sources and methods of research most useful to someone attempting to identify an image from an illuminated manuscript. A list of reference sources will be provided in a handout. **CAA Attendees Welcome.**

*Participants:*

*William Voelkle, Pierpont Morgan Library*

*Will define key elements from the curatorial perspective and discuss the role of the repository as information provider.*

*Maria Oldal, Pierpont Morgan Library*

*Will discuss the VRA Core categories from the standpoint of a librarian who uses MARC for cataloging illuminated manuscripts, surrogates, and books and articles about manuscripts. She will discuss areas in which visual resources curators and librarians could benefit from increased cooperation.*

*Eileen Fry, Indiana University*

*Will present the perspective of the image resource specialist with emphasis on the difficulties encountered in image-level cataloging, particularly when done from and for surrogates. She will also analyze the new Categories for Descriptions of Works of Art, the Core Categories, the Dictionary of Art, the AAT, and other systems designed for manuscript information.*

*Susan Von Daum Tholl, Simmons College, will give the art historian's perspective on the core and more. She will also discuss information resources on the Internet relating to illuminated manuscripts.*

**2:00 - 4:00 pm - Open House - Visual Resources Collections - Institute of Fine Arts - NYU.**

*Curator Jenni Rodda and her staff will be on hand to show you around*

*their quarters in the historic Institute of Fine Arts. The Institute occupies the James B. Duke House, one of the great Fifth Avenue mansions. IFA's Visual Resources Collections include almost 2.5 million photographs, from glass plates to digital records. Tours will be given roughly every half hour, or as groups coalesce.*

**Directions:** Institute of Fine Arts, 1 East 78th Street. The James B. Duke House is on the northeast corner of 78th Street and Fifth Avenue, near the Metropolitan Museum. To get to the Institute from the Sheraton, you can walk ( it takes about 35 minutes) east on 51st Street to Fifth Avenue, then up Fifth to 78th Street;

you can take any Madison Avenue bus by walking across 51st Street to Madison Avenue (one block farther east than Fifth), then take the M1, M2, M3, or M4 to 77th Street and Madison Avenue, then walk across 77th Street to Fifth and up one block;

you can take a cab ( the fare will be about \$5.00);

you can take the subway from 7th Avenue and 53rd Street - take the E ( a blue train) east towards Queens to Lexington Avenue and 51st Street, change to the 6 ( a green train) uptown to 77th Street and Lexington Avenue. Then walk one block north, 3 blocks west to the IFA.

**At the from door, tell the guard on duty that you are there for the VRA tour, and SHOW YOUR REGISTRATION BADGE. The guard will give you directions from there.**

3:00 - 5:00 p.m.

### **Roundtable III**

A Virtual Swap Meet in New York

#### **Liberty 3**

Moderators: Loy Zimmerman, California State University at Long Beach; and Elizabeth J. Antrim, San Jose State University.

In visual resources collections today, curators have a need to share; fortunately, technology has provided us with the necessary conditions to do so. This virtual reality swap meet (roundtable) will highlight collaborative projects that have worked; discuss new ways and means of sharing ideas, experiences, and resources; and perhaps shed some light on what we need to do to prepare for the many changes that are taking place in our profession. A series of short (eight minute) papers will introduce these topics for discussion.

#### **Participants:**

*Trudy Jacoby, Trinity College, "Networking in the Northeast: The Benefit of Shared Cataloging and Authority Files."*

*Micheline Nilsen, University of Pennsylvania, "A Collaborative Project with the Society of Architectural Historians."*

*David Barber, OhioLINK, "Efforts to Create a Central Image Database for State University Libraries in Ohio."*

*Kathleen Cohen, San Jose State University, "Collaboration as a Strategy for Procuring Funding."*

*Allan Kohl, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, "Art Images for College Teaching Projects."*

### **Roundtable IV**

A Core Record for Visual Resources Collections

#### **Liberty 4**

Moderators: Elisa Lanzi, Art and Architecture Thesaurus; and J. Dustin Wees, Sterling and Francine Clark Art Institute.

A moderated discussion about the VRA/Data Standards Committee Core Record project, this session will provide an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with members of the committee as well as those who participated in a test of



the Record. The Core Record is being proposed as a standard for the visual resources community. Membership input is crucial to the success of the project.

**7:00 - 10:00 p.m. -Luraine Tansey Travel Award Fundraising Dinner - The Nice Restaurant, 35 E. Broadway (Chinatown)**

*Please join your colleagues in this popular annual event. The New York local arrangements committee has lined up quite an evening in New York City's Chinatown, at The Nice Restaurant (yes, that's really the name!) Located at 35 E. Broadway, in the heart of Chinatown, the restaurant received a two-star rating in the New York Times, and is a festive, glittery Hong Kong-style establishment. The 12-course Chinese feast will include vegetarian choices for those so inclined - therefore no need to choose vegetarian or non-vegetarian for your dinner. There will be tables of 10, and dishes will be delivered to each table. There will be a cash bar available: alcoholic drinks are \$3 - \$3/50, soft drinks are \$1.00 each. Tea will be provided with the dinner. A shepherded group or groups will go by subway (here's your chance to ride the subway!), and directions will be provided in final registration packets for those wishing to cab-pool together. A portion of your dinner price will go toward the Travel Award fund.*

*Shepherds: (subway):Jenni Rodda, Institue of Fine Arts,NYU  
James Monteith, Vassar College*

*Directions will also be available for those who wish to go by cab.*

*Pre-registration and payment required.*

## **Saturday, February 15**

**9:00 - 2:00 pm (approx.) - Tour - Princeton Tour**

*Tour of two collections at Princeton: The Visual Resources Collection, Benjamin Kessler, Director, with an emphasis on their*

*cataloging database and imaging applications and, The Index of Christian Art, Colum Hourihane, newly appointed Director of the Index, where yet another database system is growing. Participants can visit the Art Museum on campus after lunch. Tour and lunch (lunch paid for on your own - there are possibilities nearby, and the tour will probably lunch together) will end at about 2pm.*

*Participants should leave the hotel at 9:00 am, and get to Penn Station by 11:00am. Written directions will be available at the VRA Registration Desk. New Jersey Transit is the easiest, fastest and cheapest (as opposed to Amtrak), and many trains run daily between Penn Station and Princeton. Tickets will be purchased that day on your own - the fare (roundtrip) is \$14.00. Plan to arrive in Princeton by 11:00am - where the group will be met by Ben Kessler. One can expect to return to NYC by 5:00 pm at the latest.*

*Participation limited to 15. No charge for tour - but train tickets and lunch are on you. Pre-registration required.*

9:00 - 11:00 a.m.

### **Roundtable V**

**The Digital Transition**

**Liberty 4**

Moderator: John Cloud, Univ. of California at Santa Barbara.

This session will deal with the real costs of the digital transition. These can include (1) social and organizational implications as well as monetary expenditures, (2) the status and evolution of digital imagery access and query systems--"how an image is described" as being the most important aspect of digitization, and (3) what images are being left behind and are not being digitized--how historical and older materials often become less accessible.

### **Roundtable VI -**

**Session cancelled**



*We are sorry to have had to cancel this session - due to an illness in the moderator's family.*

Collection Development: What's the Policy?

Joint VRA/ARLIS Roundtable

Moderator: Martha Mahard, Fogg Art Museum, Harvard University.

**9:30 - 11:30 - Open House - The Metropolitan Museum of Art Photograph and Slide Library**

*Open house at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Photography and Slide Library will be held for VRA conference attendees during these 2 hours on Saturday morning. Coffee will be provided. Please enter the Museum at the 81st Street entrance where you may check your coats. Proceed to the Uris Center Information Desk where you will receive a pass and directions to the Slide Library upon presentation of your VRA conference badge.*

**9:30-10:15 am - Tour - Giambattista Tiepolo Exhibit, The Metropolitan Museum of Art**

*Tour of the Exhibition, Giambattista Tiepolo, at The Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Photograph and Slide Library has arranged, through the Metropolitan's Education Department, a tour for a limited number of VRA conference attendees.*

*Directions: Please enter the Museum at the 82st Street entrance (Main Entrance) and stop at the reception desk immediately to your right just inside the main door. A staff member from the Photograph and Slide Library will be there to welcome pre-registered tour participants and to direct you to the meeting area for the exhibition tour. It is important that you wear your VRA Badge. The tour will begin promptly at 9:40 am. Please join the Photograph and Slide Library Open House after the Tour. **Pre- Registration required.***

## CAA Sessions -

*VRA conference attendees may attend the sessions listed below upon presentation of their VRA badges.*

### Feb. 12 - Wednesday

8:00<sup>PM</sup> 10:30 am. - Gramercy A, 2nd floor (Hilton)

*Cyberspace: Trojan Horse or Roman Holiday? A Discussion of our Electronic Future.*

*Andrea Feeser, University of Hawaii*

*Jon Winet, California College of Arts and Crafts; UC Davis.*

### Feb. 13 - Thursday

9:30 am - Noon - Great Hall - Cooper Union

*The Artificial Life Class*

*Roy Ascott, University of Wales College, Newport*

12:30 - 2pm - Great Hall - Cooper Union

*(CAA Committee on Electronic Information and CAA Education Committee)*

*The Magic Classroom I: The Promise*

*Kathleen Cohen, San Jose State University*

*Ellen Baird, University of Illinois, Chicago*

2:30 - 5pm - Great Hall - Cooper Union

*Office Looks: Visual Relations in Corporate Culture*

*Stephanie Ellis, University of California, Davis*

8:00 - 10:00 pm - Gramercy A, 2nd Floor (Hilton)

*Electronic Arts and the Concept of the Gesamtkunstwerk ( Total Art Work)*

*Michael Rodemer, School of the Art Institute of Chicago*

## **Feb. 14 - Friday**

9:00 - 10:30 am - Gramercy A, 2nd Floor (Hilton)

*Crossing the Boundaries: Electronic Art Within and Without*  
Lily Diaz, University of Art and Design Helsinki

12:30 - 2:00 pm - Gramercy A, 2nd Floor (Hilton)

(CAA Comm. on Electronic Info. and CAA Education Comm.)

*The Magic Classroom II: Making it Happen*  
Ellen Baird, University of Illinois at Chicago  
Kathleen Cohen, San Jose State University

2:30 - 5:00 pm - Gramercy A, 2nd Floor (Hilton)

(CAA Committee on Electronic Information)

*Learning Digitally: Glossy Gadgets or 21st - Century Chalk?*  
Ellen Schiferl, University of Southern Maine

## **Feb. 15 - Saturday**

9:00 - 10:30 am - Gramercy A, 2nd Floor (Hilton)

*Art and Artist on the World Wide Web*  
Margot Lovejoy, SUNY, Purchase

11:00 am - 12:30 pm - Gramercy A, 2nd Floor (Hilton)

*Content and Context: Art on the Net*  
Philip Sanders, Trenton State College

2:30 - 5:00 pm - Gramercy A, 2nd Floor (Hilton)

*Removing the Walls, Expanding the Arts: the Future Role of the Artist*

Maureen Wong, artist, New York  
Danny Tisdale, New Museum of Contemporary Art

## **CAA Exhibition Hall -**

### **Book exhibits and Vendor exhibits**

Show your VRA badge for admission.

New York Hilton and Towers

Americas Halls, 3rd Floor

### **Hours:**

Thursday 9:00am - 6:00 pm.

Friday 9:00am - 6:00pm

Saturday 9:00am - 2:30pm

Notes.....

## *The Association*

### Visual Resources Association

*Incorporated as a General Not For Profit Corporation in the State of Missouri, under no. N00028029, 13, August 1982.*

*Applications for membership in the Visual Resources Association will be available at the VRA registration desk ( Sheraton Hotel & Towers) during the conference. Annual dues for 1997 are \$55, \$70 outside North America. Student and retired rate, \$27. Contributing membership is \$80 to \$299. Patron membership is \$300 and above. To become a member, send your application and check ( U.S. currency only, please) to Arleen Arzigian, Membership/VRA, Boston University, Art Hist. Dept./Slide Library, 725 Commonwealth Ave., Rm. 306, Boston, MA 02215. Membership includes a subscription to the **Visual Resources Bulletin**.*

#### Association Officers

*President: Joseph Romano, Oberlin College*

*President-Elect: Jenni Rodda, Institute of Fine Arts, NYU*

*Vice-President: Patricia L. Keats, California Historical Society*

*Secretary: Arleen Arzigian, Boston University*

*Treasurer: Lynda S. White, University of Virginia*

*VRA Bulletin editor: John Taormina, Ohio State University*

#### Editors

*Visual Resources Association Bulletin: John Taormina, Ohio State University*

*Visual Resources: An International Journal of Documentation: Helene E. Roberts, Dartmouth College; Christine L. Sundt, University of Oregon.*

*Susan Melick Bresnan, Metropolitan Museum of  
Art Photograph and Slide Library*

*Jenni Rodda, Institute of Fine Arts, NYU*

*Cooper Union, Lawrence Mirsky*

*Eileen Krest, Queens College/CUNY, Soho  
Galleries*

*Ben Kessler, Princeton University*

*Priscilla Farah*

*Susan Melick Bresnan, The Metropolitan  
Museum of Art Photograph and Slide Library*

*CAA Arrangements Patricia L. Keats, California Historical Society*

*Suzanne Schanzer, CAA Conference Coord.*

*Kathleen Cohen, San Jose State University*

*Hotel Arrangements Jennifer Segre, Sheraton Banquet Manager*

*AV/Computers Maureen Kitchenmann, Projection/ Sheraton*

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*New Technology Roundup*



