

Society of American Archivists
Architectural Records Roundtable
Annual Meeting

11 August 2010, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Location: Washington Marriott Wardman Park Hotel, Room Virginia AB

Co-chairs: Todd Kosmerick and Keli Rylance

Attendance: 32

Business:

1. Donna McCrea provided news from SAA Council. She discussed the revised SAA statement on diversity, the guidelines for graduate programs in archival studies, and the fundraising campaign in conjunction with SAA's 75th anniversary next year.
2. The program portion of the meeting was a presentation by John Powers, Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO) in the National Archives and Records Administration. He talked about classified and declassified information, starting with President Obama's new executive order on classification, and he mentioned other executive orders since 1975. The 1995 executive order called for declassification at certain dates.

ISOO works with 65 agencies. They work on special projects and act on complaints. The office provides administrative support to the Classification Review Board. It is using technology to assist with classification issues.

John mentioned one ARR member who had contacted him regarding a federal attempt to seize architectural records in the member's repository. ISOO plays an active role in working with university archives. The office is an intermediary between the university archives and federal agencies.

The executive order affecting archives is on the ISOO website. Architectural records are affected if they show current national security plans and current [occupied?] structures. John brought up the example of the Greenbrier Resort. The executive order addresses non-federal records, and it requires federal review. ISOO will take records and return what is declassified, and John brought up examples of the Muskie Archives and the George Schultz collection at a California repository.

Question and answer period: The FOIA and appeal process was discussed, and appeals are really through the Interagency Security Review Committee. John talked briefly about ISOO involvement in the recent wiki leak, and there was a question about

geospatial datasets. Another question was about classification of architectural plans for federal buildings. The current policy was developed in consultation with GSA [not sure I got this right]. It affects courthouses and prisons, among other buildings. In classifying the architectural plans, it has to be demonstrably shown that withholding the information is in the interest of national security, and has to take into account such questions as “Is the building still in existence?” “Is the building still owned by the federal government?” and “Is the building still being used for its original purpose?” A question came up about embassy drawings. John said these would have to be reviewed on a case-by-case basis and to contact him. Then there was a question about ductwork drawings, and John said GSA has guidelines [I have a note to contact John for the guidelines]. John commented that there may be a need to go to a higher-level person for review. There was a question about what the legal instrument for seizure is, but the answer was that this action actually hasn’t happened yet. John said Homeland Security has given criteria for restriction, and there are plans to improved information sharing among different levels of government.

3. Returning to roundtable business, Todd Kosmerick discussed current roundtable membership. On 3 August 2010 there were 273 active members and 41 list participants. Compared to the 6 October 2009 numbers (205 active members, 15 list participants) there has been a 33% increase in active members and 173% increase in list participants. Todd talked about efforts taken in Fall 2009 to increase membership by inviting new members through messages to the Archives and Archivists list (A&A), Art Libraries Society Discussion list (ARLIS-L), International Council on Archives list (ICALL), American Society of Landscape Architects list, Association of Architectural School Librarians list (AASL-L), and EXLIBRIS-L. Keli Rylance talked about upcoming plans to survey the membership on what they expect out of the roundtable.
4. Results were announced for the ARR officer election. The two candidates, Graham Weigand and Linda Sellars, were thanked for running. Sellars was announced as the new ARR co-chair. As this was the first year that the roundtable used the electronic ballot, the membership was asked if there had been problems in voting. The membership agreed the process had worked well and should be used again in 2011.
5. In the absence of web liaison Kate Rogge, Todd Kosmerick talked about the ARR website. SAA is moving to Drupal for content management, and sections and roundtable have until December 2010 to migrate content to the new system. Todd mentioned that this will be a good time for the roundtable to review the website, make updates where necessary, and add any new content that the membership wants.
6. Waverly Lowell then spoke about the Managing Architectural, Design, and Construction Records Workshop offered this year as an SAA pre-conference. She said it went well. It was attended by a mixed audience of 32 people. SAA will probably offer the

workshop again, and Waverly suggested working with the SAA education staff to have local workshops.

7. Linda Sellars then spoke on the “Changing the Landscape” project at NC State University.
8. Nancy Hadley then talked about the American Institute of Architects Historical Directory. It was launched in January 2010. AIA published an article about it. [Nancy said she could provide a link to the website] Nancy had worked on getting architect names into the Getty system. Her next project is to develop a master list of AIA awards.
9. There was a brief discussion of session proposals: the failure of last year’s proposal, this year’s endorsement process, and proposal ideas for SAA 2011 (deadline October 1). Tawny Ryan Nelb brought up her recent encounter with CAD files and that maybe a session could be developed around that. A discussion ensued on work done by Kristin Fallon and Harvard and that the Façade project had a report on its website.
10. The meeting concluded with other announcements and business. Keli Rylance talked about a modernist group [Keli, can you flush this out?]. [My notes have that Waverly Lowell said something, but not sure what. Perhaps this was when she said that instead of adding more formal officers to the roundtable that members can serve in ad hoc groups.]