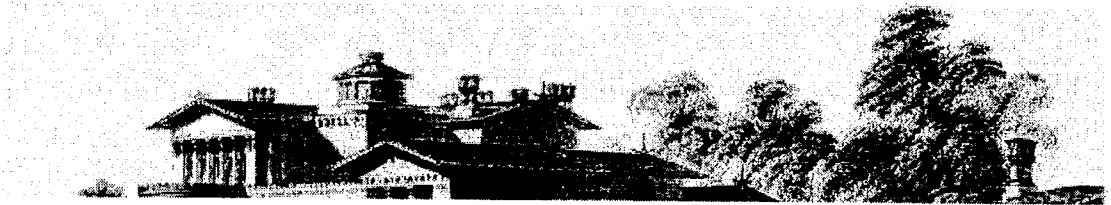


I first realised that this year's ARCLIB conference would be held in Glasgow when the city won the bid to host the 1999 UK Architecture and Design Festival way back in 1995. Forty pairs of eyes turned to me at the following year's ARCLIB AGM, and I knew the game was up.

ARCLIB BULLETIN NO.9

February 2000



From the start, the 1999 conference was seen as an ideal opportunity to attract international delegates, following on from the success of the Edinburgh conference in 1994. I was very fortunate to have the help of Diane Lindsay and Candida Fenton from the University of Strathclyde, without whom arranging such a large event would have been impossible.

HOSTING THE ARCLIB CONFERENCE

*David Buri, The Mackintosh School
Glasgow School of Art*

By holding the conference at Strathclyde on one day and at Glasgow School of Art on the other, we hoped to present delegates with an interesting contrast between the city's two architecture schools and their parent institutions. With hindsight, I can now see that this gave us twice as much to organise, but hopefully it worked and reflected something of the different nature of the two institutions.

Unlike previous years, we never really settled on a theme for the conference, hence the rather vague and millennial title of 'Building on the Past'. We had an amusing time batting around various possibilities until Diane came up with the final title. We did, however, want to highlight some of the many initiatives currently underway in Scotland, and also provide an informal opportunity for overseas delegates to speak, as the ARCLIB Committee were keen to rebuild some of the international links which had been strong in earlier years.

By the New Year, the conference and plans for the associated events and visits had really begun to take shape, helped by the city's exciting plans for the Festival year. With so much to see and do in Glasgow, deciding what to leave out was the biggest problem. Despite my earlier intentions to give delegates plenty of free time, I found myself packing more and more into the programme.

We had absolutely no idea of the numbers likely to attend, particularly as the conference dates were later than usual. We decided to err on the side of caution, and budgeted for around 40 delegates. In January, with the help of a graphic design student at GSA, we produced an attractive brochure, and followed this up by blitzing every e-mail list that we could think of. In all, we probably targeted more than 1,000 people worldwide. At first, bookings were worryingly slow, but by Easter they were coming in at a steady rate, with Catherine Tranmer doing an excellent job of encouraging overseas colleagues to attend. Not for the first time, I wondered how previous organisers had managed to arrange such successful conferences without the benefit of e-mail and the web. It also made me think that, given the necessary skills, we could probably make more use of technology in future years - perhaps using an electronic booking form and a more developed conference web page with maps, images of the venues and other background information.

All three of us had been anxious about raising sponsorship for the conference, but this proved surprisingly painless and we received exceptionally generous support. Certainly, no-one owes me any favours anymore! Perhaps we were feeling increasingly positive about the event, and this came across to potential sponsors. A number of organisations have supported ARCLIB regularly for several years now, and I think we should be very grateful to them.

I've rather glossed over what was more than a year of hard work for all three of us, but it was very satisfying watching the event develop and take shape. I seem to recall a collective attack of the jitters in early June when the scale of the conference and our responsibility for its success or otherwise suddenly hit us, but I found that a week's holiday away from my PC was a very effective cure.

What had seemed an age away suddenly arrived on 21 July, and it was a real pleasure to greet colleagues, particularly those with whom I had corresponded by e-mail during previous months, but never met. Perhaps the greatest satisfaction, though, was during the meals and other breaks, when I looked around and saw, or rather heard, sixty people all talking animatedly, networking and enjoying each others' company. After all, that's what conferences are really about..,

My thanks again to Diane and Candida, and also to the ARCLIB Treasurer, Norman Ashfield, who was unfailingly supportive and helpful. It was a relief not to have to worry about the financial side of things, especially as this year's conference turned over something like £11,000.

I am now benefiting from all sorts of contacts I made with delegates, sponsors, and even academics and colleagues in my own institution whom I didn't know that well. So do consider hosting a future conference yourself; you'll be surprised at what you, your institution, and your city have to offer!

An ARCLIB Tradition

Julia Barrett, University College Dublin offers some advice on losing weight.

Involvement with ARCLIB offers two ways to lose weight: one is to organize an ARCLIB conference; the other is to partake of a by now well-established ARCLIB tradition. What you might be asking, could that possibly be? Deep discussions on the relative merits of *Barbour v TI*, or *APId v Avery*? Web-based delivery of instructional tools. Mutual bewailing concerning lack of resources?

No, no, none of these, but something far more soul-enriching: the annual Conference Clubnight.



Julia Barrett

This sterling tradition (some might say endurance test but I assure you I am not one of those), was instigated by Jeff Johns and myself many years ago, and despite some low points (Bristol on a Tuesday night), has some dedicated followers. Indeed not only has this tradition survived, but positively flourished. Oldcomers and newcomers (Jeff, Anne, Stephanie, Kevin, Renato, Jonathan, Conchita, Linda and Rebecca) together set forth this year in Glasgow in search of that indefinable ingredient that seals the success of the ARCLIB Conference.

It should, however, be said that this was not without the odd obstacle or two. The problem of no student card between the whole lot of us did rather catch us off-balance (on a Thursday night during the summer holidays). However, when finally economic sense prevailed at Club no.3, we were well-rewarded. This was what I had been missing all year: those dance beats, hypnotic and relentless in their intensity, the dry ice pumping out white billows to merge crazily with syncopated spotlights swirls. And above all else the sheer self-expression of it all. See y'all on the dance floor next year in Newcastle!



Sylvia, Jonathan & David enjoy Conference Dinner, Glasgow

A delegate's view

Jonathan Berry, Welsh School of Architecture, Cardiff; a first-time delegate to an ARCUB Conference, shares his impressions of the Glasgow meeting.

It is a long way to Glasgow from Cardiff by train. But definitely, definitely worth the trouble and this is from someone who lost his wallet at Crewe station on the way there!

The ARCLIB '99 conference began with a drinks reception at the Lighthouse, the largest architecture and design education centre in Europe, and an opportunity to view the exhibitions on Alexander Thomson and Charles Rennie Mackintosh, two of Glasgow's most famous sons. This was followed by a witty and informative illustrated introduction to Glasgow which charted the founding of the city through to its recent revitalisation. The meal afterwards began a noticeable trend for excellent food and provided an opportunity for the delegates to make new friends and contacts.

My digestive powers were tested again the following morning with a full Scottish vegetarian breakfast, and then the main proceedings began with two speakers from Building Design Partnership who discussed the information

needs and skills of architects from the positions of an information user and provider.

Subsequent papers described the GAELS project (Glasgow Allied Electronically with Strathclyde; http://gaels.lib.gla.ac.uk/info_skills/) and the EDULIB project. The former is an on-line, collaborative skills training and information provision package for architecture and engineering students, while the latter is part of the eLib programme and aims to enhance educational skills and experience amongst Higher Education librarians. Deyan Sudjic, Director of the Glasgow 1999 UK City of Architecture and Design Festival, then described the year-long celebration of architecture and design in which over 300 events ensured there was something to see every day - an amazing feat and very inspiring. This was followed by the reports of Architecture School Librarians from overseas describing a wide range of projects and co-operative ventures, and the AGM.

The evening entertainment began with a trip to Queen's Cross Church, a Mackintosh masterpiece, and the conference dinner at the House for an Art Lover, which was until recently an unrealised Mackintosh competition design. The meal was fantastic, although I finally managed to fulfil a lifetime ambition by finding a fly in my soup! These human dynamos then commandeered the dance floor at a local club until 3a.m. and the security staff were astounded when they were told we were a group of librarians ...[See *Julia Barrett's description of 'An ARCUB tradition' p. 2, Eds.*]

The last day of the conference was as enlightening as the previous: the first paper described SCRAN (Scottish Cultural Resources Access Network, a fully searchable resource database of Scottish material culture and human history (<http://www.scran.ac.uk/>)). The next paper on architecture and the internet was one of the main reasons for my attendance at this conference, and I was not to be disappointed, as Alan Bridges gave a perceptive and frank view of the strengths and weaknesses of this medium, emphasising the need to critically evaluate all web-based sources and underlining the complementary nature of these resources to traditional printed sources. The conference closed with the visual feasts that are the Mackintosh Architectural Drawings Collection and a tour of Glasgow School of Art's Mackintosh building.

The day ended with the option to visit either the University of Strathclyde's Virtual Environment Laboratory or the 'Homes for the Future' expo. I chose the latter, and after visiting some engaging and inspiring interiors, had a look around 'Home', an exhibition on the twentieth century house.

So what, apart from several extra inches around my waist, aching muscles and a new wallet, have I achieved? The chance to further develop an understanding of what is required to be a subject librarian in a very relaxed and supportive atmosphere, and the opportunity to make many fine new friends. Attending this conference was thoroughly enjoyable and I am

convinced that such upbeat events not only re-ignite one's enthusiasm, but also provide an invaluable opportunity to learn from the experiences and opinions of one's colleagues.

It just remains for me to extend my sincerest thanks to the Joyce Brown Memorial Fund, Cardiff University, for enabling me to attend, to the organisers for a fantastic conference and to all the delegates who went out of their way to make me so welcome.

"I would have loved it to have gone on for ever!"

Diane Lindsay, University of Strathclyde, analyses the results of the ARCLIB Conference Evaluation.

Total number of returns =17

Question 1: Rating for accommodation

Number of returns 16 Best possible score 80 *Actual score 63*

Returns comprise:

9 returns rated 4 (36)

4 returns rated 3 (12)

3 returns rated 5 (15)

Average rating 3.93

Comments:

1 respondent lived elsewhere and did not return a rating

"Clean, comfortable & central"

1 respondent would have liked a kettle in the room

Question 2: Rating for catering

Number of returns: 17 Best possible score 85 *Actual score 78*

Returns comprise

1 return rated 3 (3)

5 returns rated 4 (20)

11 returns rated 5 (55)

Average rating 4.58

Comments:

Some nibbles were required at the reception

Question 3: Cost of conference/Value for money

Number of returns: 17 Best possible score 85 *Actual score 81*

Returns comprise

4 returns rated 4 (16)

13 returns rated 5 (65)

Average rating 4.76

Comments

Money should be spent on technical support to avoid problems with equipment

Question 4: Duration of conference

Number of returns 17 Best possible score 85 *Actual score 82*

3 returns rated 4 (12)

14 returns rated 5 (70)

Average rating 4.82

Comments:

"I would have loved it to have gone on forever!"

Friday travel may cut out some cheap rail fares

Returns comprise:

Question 5: Duration of sessions

Number of returns 17 Best possible score 85 *Actual score 71*

2 returns rated 2 (4)

1 return rated 3 (3)

6 returns rated 4 (24)

8 returns rated 5 (40)

Average rating 4.17

Comments:

45 minutes or longer (as talks were so good!)

45 minutes to allow for discussion

35 minutes, allow for housekeeping and questions

"Just right -concentrates the mind"

Question 6: Other arrangements (packs, publicity, exhibits, tours etc)

Number of returns 17 Best possible score 85 *Actual score 81*

Returns comprise:

1 return rated 3 (3)

2 returns rated 4 (8)

14 returns rated 5 (70)

Average rating 4.76

Comments:

Tour on last day should be a bit shorter to let people get away to airport/station. Thursday a very full day

Popular sessions included:

GAELS project

EduLib project

Architecture & the Internet

Deyan Sudjic

SCRAN

BDP-Lorraine Jefferson's presentation.

A number of participants also commented that they had enjoyed the visit to Queen's Cross Church.

Most encouraging of all for next year's organisers - all returns indicated that the delegates would be back next year!

Are you likely to attend next year's conference?

Unqualified Yes: 13

Yes -subject to funding, circumstances etc: 4

ARLIS Conference, 1999

Emma Floyd, Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, London, describes the 1999 ARLIS UK & Ireland Annual Conference.

This year's ARLIS conference entitled *Taking stock: collection development into the 21st Century* was held at the University of Warwick, between the 22nd and 25th July. The facilities of this campus of the University were excellent: the many lectures and discussion groups were also superb, all connected to the theme of collection development.

At the start of Thursday afternoon's sessions, Sarah Shalgosky of the Mead Gallery talked about the Warwick University Art Collection of which she is Curator. The collection is 33 years old and was, from the beginning, very strong on contemporary abstract art, much of which consisted of large bright canvases bought to fill the spacious new buildings of the university. There are also many modern sculptures dotted around the campus which have been used to create a sculpture trail. John Henshall, University Librarian at Warwick, then talked about collection development in his library, and Richard Parker, his Art Librarian, told us about the art and architecture collections there.

Brian Lang, Chief Executive of the British Library spoke in the second session on *Setting the agenda for the nation's resources* where he talked about the new British Library resources and the fact that the Library needs to co-

operate with other institutions to be able to continue to provide an effective service to the nation now that so much is being published.

This talk was followed by a reception at the Warwick Arts Centre. After dinner Richard K. Morris of the History of Art Department of the University gave a lecture on the historic buildings of Coventry. We were surprised to learn that so much has survived the bombing of 1940 and that there were so many buildings from the 1960s that have now been listed.

The first session of the following day started with James Bettley of the National Art Library at the Victoria and Albert Museum talking about stock disposal. ARLIS has been drawing up guidelines for stock disposal, which are nearly ready for publication, and he outlined various things to bear in mind when drawing up your own policy. Sarah Gould of the IFLA office for the Universal Availability of Publications (UAP), based at the British Library in Boston Spa spoke about interlibrary loan trends.

After a demonstration of the online Grove were: Dictionary of Art, delegates split into six discussion groups. The subjects covered were Access to information versus holdings, led by Gaye Smith; Foreign language materials, led by Steven Holland; Information co-operation, led by Olivia Fitzpatrick; Non-book materials, led by Nikki Atkins; Electronic sources, led by Jenny Grant; and Book disposal policy and problems, led by Bob Duckett.

After lunch we split into three groups and set off on study tours to Coventry, Warwick and Stratford respectively. I went to Warwick where we explored the Castle and the Lord Leicester Hospital. The Castle is now run by Madame Tussaud's and is full of waxwork models of former inhabitants. The Hospital is far more sedate and is still inhabited by retired soldiers who show visitors around the beautiful half-timbered building. The tours were followed by a reception and dinner in St. Mary's Guildhall in the centre of Coventry.

On Saturday morning, the previous day's discussion groups were repeated. After coffee, Clare Jenkins of Birmingham University Library talked about the Consortium of University Research Libraries (CURL). CURL was founded in 1982 to enable research libraries to share cataloguing information and co-operate with each other. The CURL database will contain 20 million catalogue records by the end of 1999. Then Ronald Milne of the Research Support Libraries Programme (RSLP) spoke about the Programme's grants to academic libraries for various proposed projects; for example, a web site on book history and book design and a database of cartoons and caricatures. After lunch Ray Templeton of the British Film Institute (BFI) talked about the future of the Institute and how it is trying to spread its resources outside London. Hinda Sklar of the Architectural Association then gave advice on setting up digital libraries. After tea, David Pearson Librarian of the Wellcome Trust told us how to develop our special collections.

The Sunday morning session was begun by Pat Noon, Librarian of Coventry University Library. His very funny talk on access to higher education libraries for outside users helped us shake off our hangovers. David Ruse of City of Westminster Libraries then talked about collection development in public libraries with particular reference to Westminster Reference Library's Art and Design Library. A plenary session reported on the discussion groups and wound up the conference.

As usual, the ARLIS conference was excellent; the facilities, talks, organisation and company were all first class. It is a great learning experience and, perhaps more importantly, a chance to meet other art librarians from around the world.

The story of ARCLIB

Catherine Tranmer, Resource Editor, RUDI, and formerly Subject Librarian (Architecture & Planning), Oxford Brookes University reviews the development of ARCLIB. Catherine's photographs taken at past conferences illustrate this Bulletin.

The early years

During 1987 and early 1988 telephone conversations between four librarians serving schools of architecture started the train of events which led to the formation of what we now know and love as the Architecture School Librarians' Group or ARCLIB. The prime movers were Sylvia Harris, Karen Latimer, Ian Mayfield and myself, who agreed that no existing group served the wide professional interests of architecture school librarians. ARLIS (Art Libraries' Society) and CIIG (Construction Industry Information Group) were the two which offered some coverage of the subject, but at that time ARLIS seemed to concentrate on the architectural history aspect and CIIG was more concerned with construction and architectural practice libraries. Our jobs were more broadly based since we were involved in

- materials selection across a wide range of subjects required in architectural education
- information services, including published guides, catering for enquiries from degree to research level
- database work — using online databases and creating our own
- educating (hopefully for life) architecture students in information access methods

To see how many others might be interested in forming our own group, we organised our first meeting in Oxford in April 1988, and librarians from

seventeen schools attended. Heartened by such a positive response, we decided to attempt an annual event and to operate in an informal way. Our task was made easier because we were such a small group — only around 32 at the time — so between enthusiastic volunteers the task of ringing round and getting support and ideas was relatively easy.

Going into Europe

After a second seminar at South Bank, and with a third arranged at Kingston later in 1990, our attention as informal organisers became focused when Tricia Noble and I accepted an invitation to attend the annual seminar of the French architecture school librarians in Paris in Spring 1990. This introduced us to a large group of librarians whose schools were administered very differently from ours, but who had many of the same concerns — including the best way to organise in order to be effective. We heard about the French schools' co-operative indexing project for periodical articles (then called ARCHIRES), located in and supported by the Ministère de l'Équipement, and the thesaurus compiled for it. We also met librarians from Italy and Spain who were at a similar stage to us in coming together in their own groups. From this initial meeting in Paris we came away with two proposals:

- 1) That a European Congress of architecture school librarians be established with elected representatives from participating countries, to extend the co-operative work the French schools had started.
- 2) That European Community Funds should be sought to translate the French thesaurus into the Community languages, thereby making the contents of the ARCHIRES available to all.

Creating ARCLIB

Our 1990 meeting at Kingston featured a report from the Paris séminaire and a paper from Ghislaine Lhermitte, librarian at Rouen, describing French activities. Following on from discussions at the Paris seminar we in the UK decided to organise more formally. At an inaugural committee meeting in November 1990 we adopted the ARCLIB name and a constitution, and 'elected' ourselves as officers. The first committee comprised Catherine Tranmer (Chair), Karen Latimer (Secretary), Ian Mayfield (Treasurer), Sylvia Harris and Tricia Noble (Publicity Officers), who were joined in April 1991 by Pamela Masters, representing the Scottish Schools, and acting as European representative. We defined ARCLIB's aims as

- To exchange and disseminate information between schools of architecture
- To organise training for members
- To act as a pressure group
- To promote international contacts and co-operation

These aims have remained substantially the same since, with the addition later of a fifth — to support the activities of, and co-operate with,

organisations

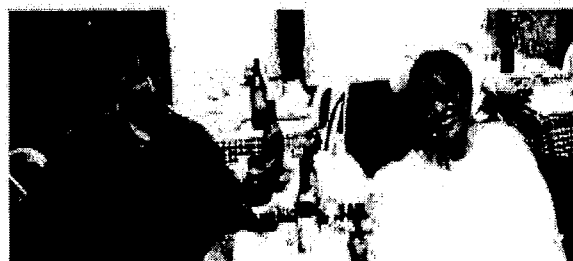
wherever situated, having similar objectives.

Feeling that a logo for ARCLIB was important, we organised a competition for architecture students in 1994, and this was won by a Romanian student from the school at La Villette, Paris, doing an Erasmus year at Oxford Brookes!

Financing the group

As a new group, with no initial funds, and committee expenses being borne by our own institutions, we saw the need to raise money, yet did not want to adopt a large membership fee. We agreed that £10 per institution,

recoverable by a reduced rate for the annual seminar would be fair, and we also managed to get grant aid of £100 from Butterworths, and £300 from COPOL (Council of Polytechnic Librarians) in 1992.



We had hoped that SCONUL would also give us a grant, but they declined. It therefore seemed appropriate to look to our seminars to raise money, by attracting both non-ARCLIB members and sponsorship from companies invited to exhibit or feature in conference packs. This strategy still appears to work successfully, and ARCLIB has always had a healthy bank balance, due mainly to careful management by our first treasurer Ian Mayfield, and his successor Norman Ashfield. Peter Jackson, formerly Chief Librarian of Oxford Polytechnic, has kindly audited our accounts from the start, and benefits from the occasional lunch out as a thank-you.

Back into Europe

At around the same time as ARCLIB was being created, the Italians' CNBA (Coordinamento Nazionale Biblioteche di Architettura) was formed under the Chairmanship of Mariagrazia Ghelardi (Florence), followed later by the Spanish. The only group which did not subsequently organise with a committee and officers was, strangely, the French, which has remained a pure co-operative. However, its enthusiasm for cooperation with other European colleagues remained strong, and all ARCLIB members were invited to the next Paris 'seminaire' in March 1992. Because the French annual seminars are paid for by the architecture schools and the Ministry, there is no fee, and our costs were minimised by Parisian librarians who volunteered to put us up in their homes. Ten ARCLIB members attended, one gave a paper describing ARCLIB's activities, and several of us participated in discussions on European co-operation and joint projects.

During the previous year Mariagrazia Ghelardi had organised an ERASMUS—funded programme of visits to various countries by multi-national teams (usually 3 persons and including some ARCLIB members), to review and document resources and practice in architecture school libraries (I was lucky enough to get Athens and Thessalonika, see ARCLIB Bulletin No

1, 1993, p 7). Her report on the programme was sent to ERASMUS, and results were later written up for the IFLA Art Libraries Meeting in Barcelona in 1993

Discussions at the end of Paris 1992 resulted in a proposal to set up the European Congress, previously suggested at Paris 1990

This idea was taken up again at the International Seminar on Architectural Information, organised by the CNBA in Venice in November 1992, attended by myself, Keith Parker and Pamela Masters (see ARCLIB Bulletin 1, 1993, p 5) This was a much larger and more formal gathering, with simultaneous translation and attendance by representatives from twelve countries. One proposal arising from the proceedings was that the Italian network (ARCHINET) should form the basis for a European network between libraries, and that the library system at the Venice School (IUAV) sponsored by Olivetti should provide the links between libraries, creating a virtual library in architecture.

It would also create a large database into which libraries could pour their records of holdings - books, articles, dissertations/theses, audio visual materials etc. As we know, these things have not come to pass, and in many ways this is disappointing after all the energy expended in discussing them — the difficulties presented by differences in national practices and administration were just too great. One result was, however, that several Italian databases subsequently became available on URBADISC, joining in with the European co-operative (UK, French, Spanish and more recently German) which manages this CD-ROM.



Our involvement in European activities has declined in recent years, probably due to increased workloads all round. However, we still try to maintain contact with our European colleagues, and I maintain a mailing list of all ARCLIB's non-UK contacts. Ian Mayfield and I attended the French seminar in Clermont-Ferrand in 1995 (see ARCLIB Bulletin No 5, 1996, p 5) and David Buri gave a paper about the

ADAM project at the Paris seminar of 1996, (see ARCLIB Bulletin No 6, 1997, p 8) Alice Crossland gave a paper about organisation of slides at the CNBA conference at Turin in 1997, and Sylvia Harris gave a paper on the architecture library of the future to CNBA in Genoa in 1998.

ARCLIB Annual Seminars/Conferences

Our annual meetings started as one-day events, the first residential conference being our fourth, organised by Keith Parker in York on the theme

of architectural conservation. Here it was that our keynote speaker, John Fidler of English Heritage, compared us to 'masters of the universe', and together with certain delegates from across the Irish Sea revealed to our group strategies to cope with an early-closing (11pm) out-of-town university bar. The most important question raised at York might have been 'How many conference delegates and bottles can you get in a single study bedroom?'

ARCLIB organised its first international conference in September 1994, with speakers from six non-UK countries, and 15 delegates from 8 non-UK countries. This successful event, which constituted the 5th European Architecture Librarians' Conference, and ARCLIB's 7th was held in Edinburgh. We even merited a civic reception with the Lord Provost. It was at this gathering that our friends from IUAV in Venice offered to maintain our email list on their server, which is still home to ARCLIB-L.

ARCLIB's meetings have become famous for the quality of the speakers, the relevance of the papers, the friendliness of the participants, the lively social scene and, for some, the pain of the hangovers! A complete list of our annual events is appended to this article.

ARCLIB co-operative projects

Over the years several projects have been undertaken which have proved useful to the group, and ARCLIB has made its presence felt in various arenas. The Venice conference of 1992 had asked delegates to contribute national projects for co-operation, and we chose to offer:

- a union catalogue of periodicals in our subject(s)
 - a directory of UK/Eire architecture school libraries
 - a database of architecture dissertations
- The first was successfully completed in 1995, the second started as a paper document but was transferred to the Group's web site in 1998. The third, after initial investigation, proved beyond our resources, following the failure of an application for project funding by COTAC (Conference on Training in Architectural Conservation).

At some point in the past we made an informal agreement to supply other ARCLIB members, where we could, with loans and copies of materials via the 'black economy'. Many of us felt that the cost and bureaucracy of traditional interloan practice could be shortcut by using our ARC LIB contacts, and that articles of four pages or fewer could be faxed free to fellow members. The use of ARCLIB-L has assisted in this practice, which appears to work well.

The Bulletin was started in 1993, largely due to the commitment of Ian Mayfield, who edited it (and wrote a large part of it) until 1998, when Madeleine Brown and Janet Owers took over as editors. The list of refereed journals, produced by Margaret Gregory with members' contributions in 1998, was put on the Group's web site, which went on-line at Liverpool. John

Moore in 1997 and is maintained by Joan Shaw. A list of videos on architectural subjects is being compiled by Julia Barrett

Other activities

ARCLIB has, over the years, through its members contributed to

- new product development through beta testing and constructive comments on commercial databases! information sources In particular, meetings were held with RIBA Services in an attempt to improve the quality of APId Some improvements to it were subsequently made
- items for inclusion in the RIBA Book List compiled by the RIBA Recommended Books Selection Group (member Sylvia Harris)
- ideas for the RIBA's checklist for visiting boards re quality of library services
- liaison with ARLIS and CIIG
- discounts on various products for members

What happens next?

After twelve years of professional co-operation, it seems appropriate at the new millennium to look ahead. What is the future for architectural education, and how will libraries continue to serve staff and students? How will the architecture profession adapt to the 'wired society'? Will advances in technology continue to change our work practices and procedure? How will ARCLIB fare over the next few years? We may not yet know the answers to all those questions, but it is likely that the members of our exclusive little club will continue to provide as much support and inspiration to each other in the future as they have in the past. The faces may change over the years, but let's hope the ethos always remains the same.

Appendix: ARCLIB Annual seminars: conferences and organisers 1988-1999



Oxford 11 April 1988

a.m. Providing information services

p.m. User education, architecture databases,
guided walk — Oxford centre infill buildings
(Catherine Tranmer)

South Bank 5 April 1989

a.m. Freelance work, slide cataloguing

p.m. El Cid construction database, Docklands Tour
(Tricia Noble/John Thomas)

Kingston 9 July 1990

a.m. French architecture librarians' conference, Ove Arup, RICS - info for
working/studying in Europe

p.m. Eisenman's library at Cincinnati, Avery Architectural Periodicals Index on
DIALOG (Susan St Clair)

York 8-9 July 1991

Architectural conservation
(Keith Parker)

Portsmouth 16-17 Sept 1992

Electronic bibliographic databases
(Ian Mayfield)

Belfast 7-9 Sept 1993

From document to disk
(Karen Latimer)

Edinburgh 13-16 Sept 1994

Developing networks

[5th European Architecture Librarians Conference]
(Pamela Masters/Alice Crossland)

Cardiff 4-6 July 1995

The role of publishing in architecture
(Sylvia Harris)

Liverpool 10-12 July 1996

Finding and meeting users' needs
(Margaret Gregory/Joan Shaw)

Birmingham 14-16 July 1997

Current issues and developments in architecture

librarianship
(Norman Ashfield)

Bristol 6-8 July 1998
Green architecture
(Maggie Black)

Glasgow 21-23 July 1999
Building on the past [International conference]
(David Buri/Diane Lindsay/Candida Fenton)

Newcastle 2000
To be announced
(NBS Services)

AASL - The Association of Architecture School Librarians



Michael Leininger, Architecture Librarian, Rotch Library, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; who attended the Glasgow Conference, describes our American counterpart - AASL.

Like ARCLIB, AASL began life as a breakaway organization. The original Association of Architectural Librarians was an amalgam of school, firm, and association librarians which met during the AIA annual convention. School librarians felt that their concerns were not being addressed and proposed a new organization devoted to academic librarianship. An alliance with the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture was formed and AASL met for the first time in 1979 in Savannah, Georgia.

AASL is a small organization. We have a mailing list of about 150, which includes all architecture schools in the US and Canada, but our annual

meetings are attended by as few as 18 to 35 people. Attendance is usually influenced by location. The size of the US coupled with the magnetic draw of the meeting venue determine how many people will travel to an annual meeting. Fortunately, ACSA nearly always selects venues which are rich in architectural interest.

The advantages of meeting with ACSA are numerous. We participate in opening sessions and receptions (at no charge) and are welcome to attend plenary sessions when time allows. We are given a meeting room. We may participate in ACSA tours, which often entail entree into otherwise inaccessible private buildings. Our Deans and Department Heads are usually present and notice and appreciate our involvement in their event. Without this alliance it is questionable our organization would survive.

AASL has struggled for years with the problems which attend an organization which meets only once per year. 'Accomplishments' beyond the meeting are few. We have worked to make accrediting standards for libraries more consistent with library practice. We have put together a core list of journals for undergraduate programs. We have focused on the problems of starting architecture libraries, and have helped colleagues grapple with initial accreditation. We have a directory and a listserve which afford much needed collegial communication. But, most important, we have become a family of like-minded professionals.

Based upon anecdotes I heard in Glasgow, much the same is true for ARCLIB. The help we are able to offer each other, beyond more formalized systems, is invaluable. Alliances built over time become the *raison d'être* for the organization. This is particularly valuable within the context of a large country, where many colleagues are far away from any other architecture school. I know from experience that I have been able to help my students and faculty with unorthodox requests that would have been impossible to fulfil without this network of colleagues.

Another similarity between AASL and ARCLIB was apparent to me at your AGM. A single hour, annually, is not enough time for substantive decisions to be made. This is an unavoidable problem and one I suppose we must accept. An item of new business overlooked must wait one year to be initiated. An item of old business uncompleted by a busy volunteer may need another year for completion. These frustrations and the sense of 'getting nowhere fast' that accompanies them, are compensated by the personal relationships and sense of community we share.

ARCLIB members are most welcome to join AASL. Our annual dues are only \$10. Most members pay dues when registering for the annual meeting. Two

newsletters are mailed annually, a meeting wrap-up which goes to our entire mailing list, and an interim issue to members only. Our listserve, which is not very busy, may be joined at the following address: listserv@unllib.unl.edu No subject line, message should read "subscribe aasl-I your name".

You need not be a member to join our listserve.

Information about AASL is available on our website:

<http://libraries.mit.edu/rotch/architecture/aasl.html>

Advance information about our Annual Meeting begins to appear on our website shortly after the New Year. In March we meet in Los Angeles, a city rich in Twentieth Century architecture (Greene and Greene, Wright, Schindler, Neutra, and Gehry, to name a few.) We would be delighted to welcome any of you who can see your way to attend AASL conferences and I will keep you informed via ARCLIB-L.

Thanks very much for the invitation to attend your meeting in Glasgow, the warm and friendly welcome and the excellent conference. I hope to return.

SARCLIB

May the force be with you...

Pam Masters, Edinburgh College of Art

Cue music. Roll credits. Text appears bottom screen, scrolls forward like a spaceship and disappears into far distance. A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away the Scotie Republic was preparing for a meeting with the Trade Federation.

The only source of mediation lay in the hands of STAR CLIB, whose members Princess Aleia, Pam Solo, R2-G2, Luke Taywalker, Frewmacka and CD-3D aided by Jedi Knight Obu won Webrudi were speeding to a conference in the Millennium Virgin.

Those readers, bedazzled so far by the strange exploits of STAR CUB or SARCLIB -the Association of Librarians in Scottish Schools of Architecture read on. This tale too begins long ago.

In the mists of time four Schools of Architecture were established as part of four Schools/Colleges of Art in four cities in Scotland:

Scott Sutherland School of Architecture, Gray's School of Art, Aberdeen.

School of Architecture, Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art & Design, Dundee.

School of Architecture, Edinburgh College of Art.

School of Architecture, Glasgow School of Art.

In the 1960s two further departments were established, the Department of Architecture set up in Edinburgh by Robert Matthew, ex-Professor of Architecture at Edinburgh College of Art, and the Department of Architecture and Building Science in Glasgow at Strathclyde University.

In time, the four Schools of Architecture, previously located within the former Scottish Central Institutions, moved with their parent institutions into closer collaboration with existing Universities, Scott Sutherland School eventually merging with its re-named parent the Robert Gordon University 1992 -, Duncan of Jordanstone 1994 - becoming part of Dundee University (itself only independent in 1967), Edinburgh College of Art moving to become a constituent College of Heriot-Watt University 1968- which it uniquely remains for probably a small amount of time yet, and Glasgow College of Art entering an association with Glasgow University but choosing to retain its increasingly unique position as an independent School of Art. In 1982 the Association of Scottish Schools of Architecture [ASSA] was set up to be an agent of mutual support for all the Scottish Schools of Architecture.

The geographical position of the current six Schools, as with many other major institutions and organisations in a fairly compact area of Scotland, and the concentration of activities in these cities has been a factor in encouraging collaborative ventures of which libraries are only one. Due to this, the library network in Scotland ensures that librarians meet not only in groups related to subject areas but also institutional groups, forms of material groups, etc. These can be both formal and informal and mean that the same librarians can meet on different occasions with different hats. This provides a healthy arena for debate and planning. SARCLIB members keep in touch with ARLIS, CIIG and SVAG -the Scottish Visual Art libraries Group and organisations in the wider arena.

Technological initiatives from the MANS at the top to email at the bottom have further improved communications. Older co-operative ventures such as UCABEL - UCABLIS set-up by the currently named Scottish Visual Art group (SVAG) Edinburgh libraries Federation [ELF] once-chaired appropriately by the librarian of the Royal Botanic Garden! have moved forward to SALSER - the on-line centralised periodicals database. New ventures such as the ADAM project, GAELS and SCRAN are demonstrating the level of initiative and co-operation within Scotland.

The librarians in the Scottish Schools/Departments of Architecture have built up many informal contacts so, when on that fateful day of 9 July 1990, Pam Masters attended the third ARCLIB conference at Kingston Polytechnic and was later persuaded to join the ARCLIB Committee, it seemed logical to formalise the connections already existing between the librarians in Schools of Architecture in Scotland.

The first international and seventh ARCLIB conference, foolishly suggested by Pam and held in Edinburgh in June 1994, was the first occasion when ALL the Scottish Architecture librarians were present together. It is a shame that

at the second International and 12th ARCLIB Conference, held recently in Glasgow in July of this year 1999, we could not repeat the hat-trick! Come back Iain - all is forgiven!

The current members of SARCLIB are Jim Fiddes - Aberdeen, January 1980; Iain Gillespie- Dundee; Alice Crossland -Edinburgh University & Pam Masters Edinburgh College of Art March 1976 -, David Buri- Glasgow School of Art, February 1992 -and Diane Lindsay 1991- & Candida Fenton May 1998- University of Strathclyde.

Regrettably Jackie Addison from Napier University who was also a regular member has had to retire on grounds of ill-health. She will be missed.

As members of ARCLIB, especially the Committee, find it difficult to arrange meetings so SARCLIB suffers the same fate. It is rare that there is a full attendance at meetings.

Meetings are usually held twice a year on a Friday, though the intention is to try for a termly meeting. If Friday seems to be the preferred day. Over the years we have managed to visit each library at least once. Depending on the venue, the Friday meeting offers scope for staying in the area for the weekend and also offers an opportunity for members to visit not only the local RIAS (Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland = Scottish RIBA) bookshop but indulge their own passions, such as Jim's visit to the fabulous Italian delicatessen in Edinburgh and Iain's erstwhile visits to a well-known sartorial shirt-shop in Edinburgh!

In order to have time for everyone to reach the chosen School for the meeting and to return home afterwards, meetings usually commence around midday and finish mid-to late afternoon. Till now there have been refreshments - with a marvellous homemade cake at one previous meeting at the Robert Gordon University - followed by a tour of the host library. Various topical issues are then discussed. The group then repairs to a suitable restaurant to continue similar discussion or debate further business.

Past areas for discussion have included library computer systems, trade literature -print copy, CD-ROMS and on-line, CD-ROM indexing services, audio-visual materials -suppliers of materials and copyright issues, forthcoming conferences and topics specific to the host School. Often there are practical demonstrations of resources so other members can decide whether to acquire materials for their own libraries.

Various changes have occurred in recent years such as the merger of the Architecture Library at Edinburgh College of Art with the Planning & Housing Library to form the Environmental Studies Faculty Library in 1994, the establishment of an IT Centre in the expanded Library At Glasgow School of Art in 1997 and,

more recently, the building of a new library at the Robert Gordon University, with occupation in August 1998.

The next SARCLIB meeting is scheduled to be in Aberdeen, in order to view the new library but Jim's suggestions for sometime next term have been cruelly greeted with talk of snow-shoes, huskies and Eskimo-clothing! We are all looking forward to a date!

It looks as though the old chestnut of library computer systems (The Phantom Menace!) may be raised, as the Robert Gordon University and Glasgow School of Art have recently upgraded and Edinburgh College of Art is making plans. In Edinburgh the University, the National Library and the City Libraries are in the process of changing systems.

To celebrate Alice's election, Edinburgh may be the next venue for a meeting [Return to the[J]-Edi!]

As we become familiar with our own libraries, there may be room for visiting other university libraries in our different cities. Both Glasgow Caledonian University and University of Abertay, Dundee, have new library buildings. On the other hand a visit to the parent institution of those of our own libraries not fully merged may be interesting. There are also many specialist libraries in our subject areas which could be of equal interest.

The initial input from a Scottish School to the Committee began with Pam, was followed by David and this year Alice has taken over the role. SARCLIB also has both the international ARCLIB conferences to its credit with Pam and Alice having organised the first and David, Diane and Candida organising the second. At present Jim and Iain are building a deep shelter and making plans for long holidays around the time of a projected third conference!

It is encouraging that we all continue to find our meetings worthwhile and in the context of the changing role of libraries in a fast-moving educational revolution we like to feel supported but not eclipsed[!] by ARCLIB.

And what will SARCLIB be doing at the 13th conference?

Carrying GAELS to Newcastle!!

PIGs and CIIGs

PIG: The Property Information Group

Maggie Black, University of the West of England

As librarian for a Faculty of the Built Environment my interests have to extend beyond architecture. Fortunately there are professional groups where I can learn from others working in similar subject fields. One of these is the Property Information Group.

The Property Information Group (PIG) was set up in 1987 by librarians and

information officers working with property related information. Most of its members work for large property companies, or companies with property interests, but some are from professional bodies, such as the RICS, *Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors*, (where our current Chair, Cathy Linacre, is a librarian) and others from universities teaching property-related subjects.

In 1997 PIG formed an association with the Society of Property Researchers (SPR) as a Special Interest Group (SIG), and as a result all PIG members became full members of SPR. PIG still aims to run a minimum of six events a year and events run by SPR, and its other Special Interest Groups are also open to PIG members. The PIG committee produce a quarterly newsletter and an annual salary survey. Recent PIG events have included a debate on 'securitisation' and a seminar on 'the impact of the internet on the property world' as well as more informal gatherings such as a guided walk around Westminster in the summer, and a meal in a London restaurant at Christmas. A recent speaker was very taken with the idea of spending the afternoon talking to a group of PIGs in central London.

PIG is very London-based, as the majority of its members work there, and being in the commercial world, often have to attend meetings in their own time and at their own expense. Some meetings are held in the evening, and there are often very useful half-day meetings, always with excellent refreshments. It is interesting to discover the differences between life in the commercial and academic worlds. In university libraries the emphasis is on showing students (and staff) how to find information for themselves; in property companies the librarian finds the information for the enquirer. As with CIIG and ARCLIB, PIG's members find that meeting with colleagues from different institutions, but with the same interests and problems, is extremely valuable. It offers opportunities to attend presentations of new information products and services, to exchange views on current issues and existing services, and the information providers value the views of PIG members.

For further details take a look at the PIG website at:-
<http://propertymall.com/spr/sig-pig.html>

CIIG: The Construction Industry Information Group

Joyce Forsythe, University of Ulster

CIIG is an organisation of interest to everyone who has connections with the construction industry. The membership represents local authorities, private practice, professional bodies, educational establishments and government departments. It brings together librarians, information officers, architects, engineers, surveyors and other construction professionals.

In 1962 twenty librarians who wanted to co-operate formed the Building Industry Libraries Group. The scope of the group widened and in 1967 it became CIIG. At present there are some 172 members.

The group aims to:
promote good practice in libraries and information services.

provide a forum for discussing common problems.

improve liaison between members so aiding the flow of information at national and local levels.

promote conferences, workshops, seminars etc. and also the publication of material on documentation in the construction industry.

CIIG members have the opportunity to meet regularly to discuss common issues and to make visits to relevant establishments or construction projects such as the British Library, British Airways Waterside Building and NBS. Members also have the opportunity to examine new systems and methods applicable to information provision. The assistance of CIIG is often sought by other bodies, when reviewing or changing procedures, a recent example being BSI.

CIIG conferences have been both residential and of one day duration. In 1998 and 1999 the conference was a feature of the Library and Information Show at the NEC in Birmingham.

Members of CIIG receive a monthly information sheet. This announces and reports on meetings and membership news. They also receive the CIIG Review, a regular publication on items of current interest.

At present the CIIG Internet site is being redesigned to provide non-members with access to past events, reports, hot news, topical items about the industry, a list of publications and perhaps links to affiliated websites. Non-members can come to two events before joining. Members will also have access to the full-text of publications and the directory of members.

CIIG provides a unique and valuable network for those involved in information provision connected to the construction industry. Membership is open to anyone interested in furthering the aims of the group and is at Individual, Corporate or Affiliate level.

Our Architectural Heritage

European Heritage Open Days - an information opportunity?

Karen Latimer, The Queen's University of Belfast



The concept of opening buildings not normally accessible to the public on one or two particular days a year was established in Europe some years ago. The worthy aim is to raise public awareness of the built heritage by enabling people to visit interesting buildings old and new, not normally open to the public and completely free of charge. Recent figures show that some thirteen million people visit over twenty six thousand monuments and buildings throughout Europe on these special weekends.

The first European Heritage Open Day to be held in Northern Ireland took place as recently as 1997 and proved extremely popular. The vision here was that the project would bring all kinds of interesting buildings to the public's attention and would also break down cultural barriers by providing free access to all. It was a great success with some sixteen and a half thousand visits being paid. Fire stations and lighthouses proved particularly fascinating to children and all over the province people visited churches, country houses, thatched cottages, town halls and tower houses. In the brochure that lists which properties are open, small buildings are set side by side with large buildings to demonstrate that buildings of both types are culturally important. One visitor commented afterwards that "the character of the hosts and hostesses blended with the atmosphere of the buildings to make it one of the most worthwhile weekend activities for years".

Events such as these do not organise themselves and the launching of European Heritage Open Days in Northern Ireland owed much to the enormous enthusiasm and dynamic determination of the Chairman of the Historic Buildings Council of Northern Ireland and her Council members. In the first year she estimated that approximately 4,000 hours of voluntary time went into organising the event. As a result of the success of that first event, however, it has become somewhat easier to raise funds and gain administrative assistance for future Open Days.

The European Heritage Open Day's programme in Northern Ireland has a strong multicultural and educational focus. Churches of all denominations are open and people who might feel unwilling to visit at other times, feel more comfortable when emphasis is on architecture. A special effort is made to make the days interesting to school children. This year, for example, a 'Time

Travel to the Millennium has been organised which will link the 1999 and 2000 Heritage Days. Events will take place every two months and will trace our architectural heritage from the prehistoric to the contemporary. The trail starts at a hill fort in Donegal and will end in the recently opened Waterfront Hall in Belfast next year.

All very fascinating, you cry, but what has this got to do with us? Obviously as the guardians of the nation's architectural information we should acclaim and support any endeavour which aims to promote a greater understanding of our architectural heritage. But perhaps more importantly, these Open Days present a great 'grey literature' opportunity for the eagle-eyed architecture librarian trying to build up a bank of information on local architecture.

In a recent article in the ARCLIB Bulletin Julia Barrett and I described the Planning and Architecture Database Ireland project. This is a resource heavily used by students doing projects on their local area, by researchers into Irish architecture and by architects and planners working on conservation or strategic planning projects. It is precisely the sort of information that is generated by European Open Heritage Days that such library users are looking for.

Many of the smaller, less famous buildings that are open on the designated weekend in September have no formal literature associated with them. However, most of the proud owners, or guides (and these are usually people with an interest in architecture history who have been dragooned into helping) or the local history/conservation societies provide some sort of leaflet to hand out to visitors. Such leaflets may only be short descriptions of the buildings but they are usually well researched and can often be the only cumulated source of information on that particular building and therefore a valuable starting point for others.

European Heritage Open Days always take place in September although the precise weekend might vary from locality to locality. So shake off autumnal sloth, and if there is an EOHD near you this year, go forth and seize any accompanying literature before (and this is the nature of such material) it disappears into the un-ISBNed ether, forever!

Life after the library: or Yorkie Walkie/Talkies

Keith Parker, Honorary Life Member



When they first heard that I was planning to retire, many friends and colleagues offered useful suggestions: "Make sure you have plenty of plans/interests/ hobbies to occupy you," or "Say 'No' to anybody else's suggestions for at least six months", And so I did, enjoying my swimming lessons, making a new garden layout in a leisurely fashion, reading books without considering whether they were needed for King's Manor Library, and reflecting, as I so often have since 1964, how fortunate we are to live in York.

All through my years at King's Manor, the coming of Spring was heralded by sticky-buds bursting on the conker trees at the gate, by swifts coming back to nest under the eaves, and by the voices of tourist guides drifting through the library's open windows. I was reminded of this shortly after my retirement, when the local evening paper published an article on the Association of Voluntary Guides of York.

Founded in 1951 at the time of the Festival of Britain and the York Festival, the Association now offers a daily walking tour round part of York (and 2 or 3 times a day from Easter to Autumn). Additional volunteers are always welcome, the article said, and I found myself thinking, "Why don't I join, and share my delight in this city with some of the visitors?" It's so easy to wander around without really seeing very much, and to miss the little signs of how a place has grown. Even from a selfish point of view, such a pastime could sharpen my own perceptions of my adopted city,

So it was that I found myself sitting in the Guildhall with a small group of would-be guides for a term of evening meetings on the history of York, particularly as shown by the sites on the recommended route.

For it is only a recommended route: guides can and do vary (according to interests (their own or the visitors') or to include some new development. It's intriguing to see, however, that it has changed very little overall since the original list of sites was drawn up: the founders did their planning well.

The idea behind the walk is to give, during a two-hour stroll (which is much shorter than it sounds) a picture of York's growth from the camp of the Ninth legion in 71 A.D. to the city of today, with a look at a range of typical sites

from the periods between. We were all reminded, though, that it is meant to be a pleasurable experience for our visitors, not just an outdoor history lecture, so a lighter touch is appreciated. I try!

Hence the inclusion, not just of the broad outline of York's past, but also of the little snippets, like the stained glass window of 1471 with a beautiful portrait of the parish priest who installed it, or the reason why the re-erected column of the Roman Headquarters looks so odd (*not* because it's upside-down, despite the popular story!)

The lighter touch, while appreciated, is also of course, supposed to remain factual: acting and story-telling are the province of the plethora of 'Ghost Walks' that have sprung up over recent years. But then, with people like the house-owner who put studs on the floor to ensure that furniture always remained at *exactly* the right spot, do we need to invent? Other equally odd facts can be gleaned from the Association's collection on York and its characters, as well as from the Public library's local collection, of course.

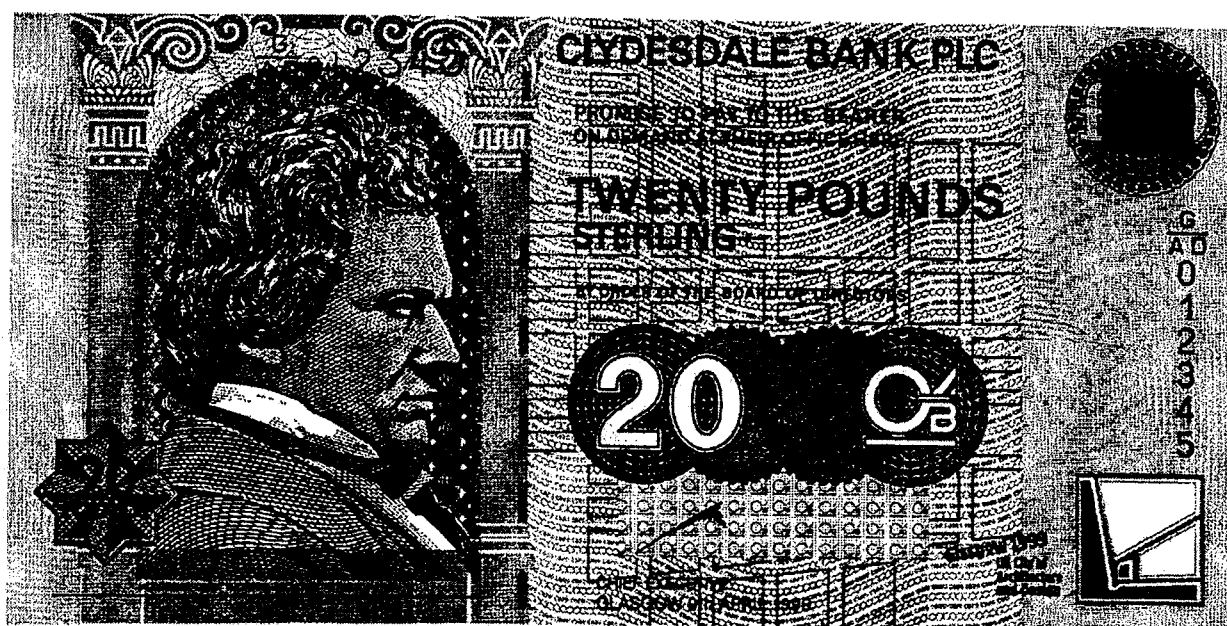
In a way, the Association is a curious group because we rarely meet our colleagues, each tour being guided by one individual. To remedy this, as well as some social occasions there are monthly meetings: talks in the winter, excursions in the summer. Two of this summer's visits were to engineering achievements in York: the 20th century flood barrier, where the River Foss meets the Ouse, and the Minster's ball-chambers and the Chapter House roof - an amazing tour-de-force of medieval carpentry.

On the surface, York doesn't seem to change much - but then, it's not the surface which makes York what it is. What's underneath can be exposed at any time, and indeed at the beginning of September 1999 that's just what happened. Channel Four's Time Team descended on us for a weekend, as some of you may have seen, to excavate three sites: Roman, Viking and Medieval. What effect this might have on York's tourist industry in the future isn't clear as yet, of course. But the medieval site, St. Leonard's Hospital, is next to the Roman tower where our tours begin, so perhaps we can expect some comments or recognition at least. This dig also unearthed the steps of a World War II air-raid shelter: a curious feeling, to see a relic from my own childhood years being greeted as a potential ancient monument. Perhaps it was time for me to retire ...

Committee News

The ARCLIB Treasurer's post

Norman Ashfield describes a year in the life of the ARCLIB Treasurer.



Alexander 'Greek' Thompson is featured on the £20 note issued by Clydesdale Bank to mark Glasgow's Year of Architecture and Design

When I was first voted onto the ARCLIB Committee I knew that the job involves keeping our small organisation safely afloat, and because I had been an acquisitions librarian for five years, I knew the importance of insisting on invoices and paperwork to match all expenditure. Even though I didn't notice money changing hands at committee meetings or conferences, I did think Ian Mayfield looked fully in control, and I found I received prompt and friendly receipts when I paid any ARCLIB bills.

Nothing financial ever seemed to be a surprise to Ian at meetings, but I was aware how everybody held their breath when he was asked if he would be standing down, and there was always a sigh of relief when he agreed to carry on for another year. Here was a job not everyone wanted, it seemed! Eventually the dreaded day came when Ian did decide it was time to go, and somehow without my realising it, he had subtly groomed me to put on his rather daunting mantle.

Except in May, the task of looking after the funds isn't usually so alarming as I expected, just so long as everything remains under control. In some societies the treasurer can be a simple book-keeper who is trained to look gloomy at the thought of expense, but who otherwise is fairly powerless. In our group I have found the person who fills this role has a higher profile and needs to be something of an anchor-man, as I had always suspected Ian to be. It is flattering to be asked for so much advice, and the person organising the annual conference of the year particularly needs reassurance and support, as I discovered when trying to put together the Birmingham conference of 1997. Ian would always counsel you not to worry, that everything would work out in the end. And he would be right.

Luckily, though I disliked school geometry and algebra, I always got along with arithmetic and statistics; but the ARCLIB job is undoubtedly made immeasurably easier with the current availability of computer spreadsheets, which can give you an immediate current running total of where the group stands and spare you from getting a different total every time you add up.

For six months of the year the ARCLIB account hibernates peacefully, apart from the odd late or early transaction, and the regular monthly bank statements. At present we keep the original bank account I an established, though I must say it was tempting to relocate when trying, with some difficulty, to change signatories to the account! The red-tape involved was amazing. When the detail of the annual conference is decided, and the literature sent out, it is time to dust down the stationery and write invoices in response to booking forms and promises of sponsorship.

Previously I sent out membership invoices early in the year, but in practice not many people responded and it nearly doubled the postage bill. This year I sent membership and conference invoices together, which seems to have worked very well, as regards response rate and reducing writing and postage costs. After the conference bookings are all received, it is time to mail the remaining institutions, whose representatives are not attending the conference, with friendly overtures to consider membership renewal. The feeling of pressure rises in May, when e-mail messages and queries build up, more and more invoices need sending out, and people change their booking requirements, needing refunds and so forth. It's uncanny how it's always the person who has been efficient and paid early who needs to change their commitment! This is the time when you need to go home, and spreading all the paperwork over the lounge floor, get the family to join in with a book-keeping, writing, filing and envelope-stuffing evening.

Once this control point is crossed, life begins to feel more relaxed again, except that you have to prepare all the previous year's finances for the auditor to see and approve, and silly though it seems, you feel under scrutiny for a week or so until the paperwork returns with a signature! We have a very friendly and helpful auditor whom I have known for about twenty years, but for some reason, finding his home address each year always seems a difficulty at the time.



The Ashfields at the Glasgow Conference Dinner

It is important, for smooth running, if for no other reason, to attend the annual conference, where it is a privilege to meet some of the people with whom you have been holding long e-mail conversations, and a novelty to write out cheques for over a thousand pounds to restaurants providing ARCLIB with an evening out! Regrettably, the process of sending out receipts in the Autumn is often delayed by pressure of work for the new term. From May to September the post is swollen with cheques pouring in, and it is necessary to visit the bank branches pretty regularly to ensure the safety of the money and to ensure that there is sufficient in the kitty to settle the major accommodation invoices. This year I paid in cheques at branches in Preston (en route to the conference), in Glasgow a few days later, then Birmingham, Portsmouth and St. Helier all in the space of a week! Such globe-trotting looks impressive on the monthly statement, though it doesn't cut any ice with the bank.

Up until now we have always relied on the treasurer liaising with the secretary to produce up-to-date membership lists, but this need is reduced now that ARCLIB has its own home page, and close liaison with our web expert is more important instead.

It is good that Ian showed us all in ARCLIB how to do things on a very modest budget, and I feel honoured that you now trust me with the finances. The family say it's made me a mean and skinty treasurer at home, too; the other thing which strikes me is I wish I could similarly write out invoices to institutions whenever our family funds are low, and receive back such a magnificent response! This year, with David's splendid international conference we have had a turnover in excess of £10,000.



Glasgow Conference Dinner at the House for an Art Lover



After the Dinner at 'Bargo'

Visit to the BRE

ARCLIB Chair Joan Drage, University of Luton, reports on a visit to the Environmental Building at BRE in April, 1999.

On a warm, pleasant day at the end of April, a small group of us met at the Building Research Establishment at Garston, near Watford. The suggestion of a visit had arisen at the 1998 Conference in Bristol when we were given a talk about the new Environmental Building which had been built at BRE. I undertook to organise an afternoon visit, which would include a look at the Library as well as a conducted tour of this innovative building.

The Building Research Establishment is the United Kingdom's centre of research into building and construction, and the prevention and control of fire. It employs around 350 professional and research consulting staff who are mostly attached to one of the four divisions: Construction, Environmental Best

Practice, Indoor Environment, and Fire and it operates from three locations: Garston, Cardington near Bedford, and East Kilbride.

We were welcomed at BRE by Jaya Skandamoorthy, Marketing Co-ordinator in the Construction Division, who took us across the site to the original BRE building (where, incidentally, there was an interesting display of different examples of pargetting, a decorative form which is quite common in parts of Hertfordshire and Essex). Indulged with coffee and chocolate biscuits we were then given a short presentation by Jaya on the background to the BRE and its relatively recent privatisation. It is now owned by the Foundation for the Built Environment, which was created to safeguard BRE's impartiality as a research organisation.

After answering questions, Jaya then took us to the Library to meet Patricia Lawton who, in addition to her role as Librarian at BRE, also happens to be the current Chair of CIIG. The Library is physically much smaller than it was a few years ago and its book stock is much reduced since more than 12,000 books have been rehoused at Cardington, in the former airship hangers which are now used by BRE for test work on full scale buildings.

Despite this change, the Library remains a very rich source of information on construction and fire control and contains more than 250,000 research reports, monographs and pamphlets, and over 400 journal titles. The collection includes the full set of BRE and FRS (Fire Research Station) publications going back to the 1920s. Reprints of out-of-print BRE documents may be obtained for which there is a charge. The library offers an enquiry service to external users of up to five minutes free of charge but after that charges are incurred: £75 plus VAT for up to two hours work or up to 100 references. Approximately half of the 400 enquiries received per month are from external enquirers. I was reassured to know that, despite privatisation, students may still visit the Library but it is advisable to telephone first as required journals may be at other sites.

Then it was on to the Environmental Building where much of the talk (by one of the architects at BRE) was carried out standing in the hot sun and looking at the external features of the building. It was a relief to enter the building where the temperature was much more comfortable. The original aim in designing this building was to provide a working office with low energy consumption which could also be used as an experiment for trying out innovative technologies. It was the first building to use the Performance Specification drawn up by the Energy Efficient Office of the Future (EOF) Group. This document specifies performance targets for energy consumption and CO₂ emissions amounting to a 30% improvement on current practice.

The 'green' credentials of BRE's building include the use of reclaimed materials –bricks, aggregate and parquet flooring; timber from sustainable resources and low flush toilets. It aims to make optimum use of daylight in

order to minimise the use of artificial lighting and employs moveable external louvres on the south side of the building to control glare. Lighting automatically adjusts according to daylight levels and local occupancy. Staff can also override the automatic control of lighting, louvres and windows. Natural ventilation minimises the use of fans and there is no air-conditioning. A photovoltaic display on the south facing wall provides electricity direct to the building.

The visit to BRE lasted two hours and Jaya stayed with us throughout to ensure that it went smoothly at every stage. I personally found it very interesting and would like to think that more such visits could take place for ARCLIB members. However, short visits such as this will only be taken up by those members who can attend without involving much travelling or cost and it may be that future visits may have to be centred on a London location to facilitate travelling. I should be interested to know of any suggestions other members have. The likely time of year would be around March/April.

ARCLIB Web Site News

ARCLIB Web Master, Joan Shaw, Liverpool John Moores University, reports on <http://cwis.livjm.ac.uk/lea/misc/arcweb.htm>.

At the annual conference, it was heartening to hear how much the ARCLIB website is valued by colleagues - both in the UK and abroad. One comment I cannot resist mentioning, came from Chris Smeenk (Delft University of Technology) who complimented ARC LIB on its "beautiful website"!

The website URL underwent a subtle change this year when 'www' was replaced by 'cwis' - this alteration was necessitated by the introduction of new servers at the host institution (Liverpool John Moores University) in the Autumn of 1998. The change in URL was advertised via the ARCLIB e-mail list at the time but readers are urged to check that any links or bookmarks have been amended.

The inconvenience of changing the URL has been more than offset by the fact that the new server arrangements allow direct editing access to the 'live' web files -previously all amendments had to go through a central 'web master'. This direct access obviously means that changes in content and form can be made more speedily - personal workload permitting!

As a response to comments from colleagues, this year saw the addition to the site of a small section on the ARCLIB-L e-mail list. It is obvious from other comments that both the Directory of Members and the Refereed Journals Pages continue to be well-used resources. In order to ensure the accuracy and currency of the information provided, readers are reminded to contact me

with news of address changes or suggestions for the removal or addition of refereed journal titles.

As always, any suggestions with regard to the content or style of the website itself are welcomed - let's continue to keep it "beautiful"!



Joan Shaw and colleagues at the University of Strathclyde

Thanks to: *David Buri*

I first met David at the ARCLIB conference organised by Ian Mayfield at Portsmouth, in September 1992. My university felt we should be supporting the work of ARCLIB, and seizing the chance to learn more about the new technologies involving BRIX, QUANTARC, BARBOUR, and TECHNICAL INDEXES that were just coming on stream, I duly took the train down to Reading and the South coast. In those days we didn't really have a *Conference* - the event was called an *Annual Seminar*, and there was quite a deal of debate over whether it should be for one day or two days, eventually settled on, at a cost of £40, accommodation included.

I quickly found David to be great company, with a very dry sense of humour, and looked forward to chatting with him at subsequent ARCLIB gatherings. Typically modest and unassuming, David always felt that apart from giving papers about his work with *ADAM* and *GLASGOW ON CD-ROM*, he had little to contribute, until we managed to convince him otherwise in Autumn 1996, aware that in 1999 his city was likely to be the City of Architecture and we would like to hold the conference there in celebration.



*ARCLIB Chair Joan Drage and conference organiser David Buri
at the Glasgow Conference*

Since then he has been very good about regularly attending committee meetings, even though they usually involved commuting a long distance; and now that electronic communications have really opened up, I had the chance to be in touch with him on e-mail and over the telephone at an ever-increasing pace, with the frantic preparation for the Glasgow conference which he went to enormous lengths to organise effectively for us. His ability to obtain sponsorship from so many benevolent bodies has amazed the rest of us, who find this a difficult exercise!

Understandably this has taken its toll of him, and he has expressed the desire to stand down after his three-year term of office, much to our regret. As he has several years left before retirement, (contrary to his feelings in July), I am sure we haven't seen the last of him yet, and we may need to recall him in the future. Thank you for all you've done for us, David!

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chair:

Joan Drage

Research Librarian, learning Resources Centre, University of Luton,
Park Square

Luton LU 1 3JU

Tel: 01582 489213 Fax: 01582 489325 joan.drage@luton.ac.uk

Secretary:

Margaret Gregory

Built Environment Librarian

Aldham Roberts Learning Resource Centre, Liverpool John Moores
University,

Mount Pleasant,

Liverpool L3 5UZ

Tel: 0151231 3105 Fax: 01517071307 m.gregory@livjm.ac.uk

Treasurer:

Norman Ashfield
Built Environment librarian
University of Central England in Birmingham
Edge Resources Room,
Perry Barr
Birmingham B42 2SU
Tel: 0121 331 6238 Fax: 0121 356 2875 norman.ashfield@uce.ac.uk

Margaret Black

Librarian for the Faculty of the Built Environment, Bolland library
University of the West of England Frenchay
Coldharbour lane
Bristol BS 16 1 QY
Tel: 0117 965 6261 ext.2409
Fax: 0117 976 3846 margaret. black@uwe.ac.uk

Madeleine Brown

Librarian
Faculty of Architecture and History of Art
University of Cambridge
1, Scroope Terrace
Cambridge CB2 1 PX
Tel: 01223 332953 Fax: 01223 332960 arc1@ula.cam.ac.uk

Alice Crossland

Architecture Librarian
Department of Architecture University of Edinburgh,
20 Chambers Street
Edinburgh EH1 1JZ
Tel: 0132 6502310 Fax: 0131 6508019
alice@caad.ed.ac.uk

The ARCLIB Bulletin**Editors: Madeleine Brown and Janet Owers**

The ARCLIB Bulletin depends upon your support. Please send copy for articles or letters for future issues to either Madeleine or Janet at the addresses given below. Text should be sent in Word 98 or below, or as an ASCII file. Photographs will be welcome.

Madeleine Brown, Librarian Faculty of Architecture and History of Art
1, ScroopeTerrace,
Cambridge, CB2 1 PX
Tel: 01223 332953
Fax: 01223 332960

e-mail: arc1@ula.cam.ac.uk

Janet Owers, Publications Officer, The Martin Centre
6, Chaucer Road
Cambridge, CB2 2EB
Tel: 01223331703
Fax: 01223331701
e-mail: jro20@cam.ac.uk