Indigenous Arts & Culture Round Table Business Meeting
Minutes
March 19, 2000
Art Libraries Society of North America 28th Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA

Attending:
Robert Beebe, Moderator (San Antonio Public Library)
Paula Baxter (New York Public Library); Janet Stanley (National Museum of African Art Library); Mary Graham (Arizona State Museum Library); Ross Day (Metropolitan Museum of Art); Joan Benedetti (Los Angeles County Museum of Art Library); Caroline Beebe (no relation) (University of North Carolina?)

Robert offered to continue his role as moderator for the coming year, which was met with applause.

In light of the Strategic Plan activities and the rumors of possible streamlining and reorganization of the membership based groups, Ross and Mary discussed the state of the Strategic Plan to date and suggested the role round tables may play in the plan. Janet questioned whether the round table's membership reflected the major institutions (and libraries) in our respective fields. The groups suggested that the Indigenous list in the roster be checked. It was also suggested that an email list of the group's members could be generated for all correspondence, since modest attendance at the conference business meetings couldn't be taken as representative.

Joan presented a session proposal for the Los Angeles 2001 Conference entitled "Native American Art Now: Reflecting Contemporary Realities." The session, co-moderated by Joan and Dr. Marilyn Russell-Bogle (Fine Arts Librarian, University of Minnesota-Duluth), would bring together contemporary native American artists and curators "to shake up the audience's idea of what constitutes contemporary Indian art". "The panelists," the proposal continues, "will talk about, show slides of, and actively demonstrate the broad diversity and complexity of Indian art today." Among the possible speakers mentioned were Sarah Bates, Paul Apodaca, James Luna, George Morrison, Miriam Madedo, and a representative from the California Indian Basketmakers Association.

A lively discussion followed, centering on several issues: Was ARLIS/NA able and willing to underwrite through honoraria attendance by so many noteworthy participants? Mary suggested additional possible speakers, such as Lorraine Ray of the University of Texas-Austin, or a participant from the Institute of Museum and Library Service (IMLS) Five-State Library and Archives Project, based in Tucson. Was there sufficient "bibliographic" content to appeal to the conference planning committee? Could the group sponsor, alone or in co-sponsorship, a parallel bibliographic workshop on native American contemporary art or a similar topic? If a workshop is developed, could it be held the following year (2002) in Saint Louis?

In the end it was agreed that the discussions, while lively and creative, were more wide ranging than the topic at hand, to wit, the program proposal. Joan was asked how, based on the comments she had heard, she might consider paring down the presentation to fit within Society-imposed time and money constraints. She agreed to incorporate, if possible, some of the suggestions she had received and submit the proposal to Robert for possible sponsorship by the round table.