



Annual Report of the IAWA Archivist covering November 1996 - August 1997

Board of Advisors Meeting:

September 6-7, 1997

International Archive of Women in Architecture

The International Archive of Women in Architecture had a banner year, one that saw the donation of a number of collections, many of them significant for their size and content. Also noteworthy was the large increase in reference questions, evidence that the IAWA is becoming more well-known throughout the world.

Acquisitions From November 1996 and August 1997 the archive grew with the donation of **nine new collections**, bringing the total number of IAWA collections to 159. Significant additions to three existing collections were also made this year. The physical dimensions of the **archive more than doubled**, growing from the 145 cubic feet of the previous year with the addition of approximately 177 additional cubic feet, to make the current archive 322 cubic feet.

130 cu ft in Basement; 80 cu ft at Storage; 112 cu ft in Special collections = 18.6% of 6000 cu ft of total manuscript collections

The most significant donations were those of the papers of Lois Davidson Gottlieb (4 cu. ft.) of San Francisco, California; Sigrid Lorenzen Rupp (94 cu. ft.) of Palo Alto, California; and Judith Edelman (0.4 cu. ft.) of New York City. Significant additions to existing collections were also made, including those to the Susana Torre papers (17 cu. ft.) and the Zelma Wilson papers (60 cu. ft.). Each of these collections give a broad and comprehensive perspective on the career and life of these architects.

Shipping costs: \$940 for Wilson materials; I'm assuming Torre and Rupp donated the shipping costs in addition to their materials since I have NOT received any bills.

Other donations this year include drawings for the Parc de la Villette competition from Allison Smithson of London, England; literature about women in architecture from Gertrude Galster of Denmark; drawings and other papers from Melita Rodeck of Washington, D.C.; an article written by Marilyn Rueschemeyer of Providence, Rhode Island; and photographs of designs and other literature by Lisbeth Sachs of Zurich, Switzerland. Abbye A. Gorin, an architectural writer of Metairie, Louisiana, donated a videotape (for which she wrote the text) about the demolition of The Rivergate, an exhibition center in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Special Collections Department of University Libraries, Virginia Tech, purchased, among other things, a videotape about Mary Jane Colter, the chief architect for the Fred Harvey Company. She designed hotels, gift shops, and viewing places throughout the southwestern desert in the United States in the early 1900s. The film, *Mary Jane Colter: The Desert View*, and was produced, written, and directed in 1996 by Jennifer Lee. It is available at the Libraries' **Media Center (Video 5508)**.

Manuscript processing The Judith Edelman and Lois Davidson Gottlieb collections were completely processed this year, and the inventories were mounted onto the Internet (see attached) for Worldwide Web access. An estimated forty hours in student assistant labor was expended to process these collections, plus the thirty-five hours the Manuscripts Curator spent creating, editing, and making the inventories accessible. Additional collections accessioned included Lisbeth Sachs papers, Gertrude Galster books, Marilyn Rueschemeyer papers, Mary Jane Colter videotape, and Abbye A. Gorin videotape.

Reference contacts

The Special Collections Department answered forty-nine reference questions via mail, telephone, e-mail, and in-person in the ten-month period (4.9 per month) between November 1996 and September 1997. This number represents a 96% increase over the thirty reference contacts experienced in the twelve-month period (2.5 per month) between November 1995 and November 1996. The contacts were overwhelmingly from researchers not affiliated with Virginia Tech. While several of these reference questions resulted in a quick response, many involved aiding the researcher by doing extensive investigation into the collections.

With increasing frequency the questions arrive over the Internet rather than traditional postal mail or other means. The questions range from requests for general, non-IAWA related information to very specific questions about materials within the IAWA collections. This accessibility better than almost any other indicator shows us that the IAWA is now seen as a source for information about women in architecture in general, and not just for information about the collections specific to the IAWA. Another indicator of the breadth of impact the Archive has through its Web page is the fact that over 50 Web sites have made links to the IAWA homepage. **[Printout of list of links is here.]**

Other

- ◇ Contacted potential donors, including Sigrid Lorenzen Rupp, Judith Edelman, and Rebecca Wilson (Zelma Wilson's daughter) about their papers. Met with Sigrid Rupp and Lois Gottlieb when they visited campus to discuss their donations.
- ◇ Maintained the IAWA address database on Microsoft Excel (260 entries). Printed labels and mailed minutes to the Board of Advisors for the IAWA Secretary/Treasurer. Added names of new donors and researchers as needed; added address list of members of Vermont Women in Architecture to the database as a result of soliciting that group; added a list of women's and other architectural organizations that was sent from an architect with the Seattle-based group Association of Women in Architecture.
- ◇ Received checks and recorded donations to the Friends of the IAWA from those who received the Fall 1996 *IAWA Newsletter* (see attached). Forwarded these donations to the IAWA Secretary/Treasurer. (\$190.00)
- ◇ Maintained Internet/Web copy of the guide with current information about all IAWA accessions (159 collections total). Kept current copies of the guide to the IAWA collections available at the Special Collections reference desk for distribution to on-site library patrons.
- ◇ Received and acknowledged submissions to the IAWA Biographical Database, updated this Web database and linked biographical data and manuscript collections when appropriate. (78 entries)
- ◇ Created an exhibit about Helene Koller-Buchwieser's papers for the November 1996 IAWA Board meeting and another highlighting the Rupp, Gottlieb, Smithson, and Edleman collections for the September 1997 meeting.
- ◇ Facilitated access to the collections by IAWA Board of Advisors members Anna Marshall-Baker and Milka Bliznakov in preparation for their March 1997 exhibit about women architects and their materials in the IAWA.
- ◇ **Selected graphic illustrations to digitize for Web access. 22 were scanned by professionals at PhotoGraphic Services for online access and archiving. During 1997/98 these will be linked to the online collections and in presented in an online exhibit.**

Respectfully submitted

September 4, 1997

Laura Katz Smith, Manuscripts Curator, Special Collections Department
Gail McMillan, Head, Special Collections and Scholarly Communications Department
Archivist, International Archive of Women in Architecture