

ANSS currents

The Newsletter of the ACRL Anthropology & Sociology Section

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May 1986

Welcome to ANSS currents

This is the first issue of ANSS currents, the newsletter of the ACRL Anthropology and Sociology Section. The newsletter will be published two times each year, in May and again in November. The purpose of this publication is to provide a means of communication between members of this section. By informing the ANSS membership of the activities and accomplishments of this section, we also hope to encourage members to become more active in committees and programs. We also want to know what questions you might have about the section, how and where you would like to see the section grow and expand, and what type of information you would like to see included in this newsletter.

The newsletter will keep us all informed of the activities of the section, but we also want to be able to exchange news of recent publications of interest to information specialists in the fields of anthropology and sociology. We also would like to provide an outlet for information about extraordinary collections and information services developed in these fields. Any other directions which we might pursue are only limited by our imaginations.

For the newsletter to be useful and successful, we will need your help. If you have appropriate items submit them to the editors. We are also very interested in receiving comments, suggestions and ideas about this publication and also questions regarding the section. Hope to see you in New York!

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1986 ANSS Program: "Images and Views: Retrieving Information from Photographs"

ANSS will sponsor a panel discussion entitled: "Images and Views: Retrieving Information from Photographs" on Sunday, June 29, 2:00-4:00 p.m., in the Forum Room of the Omni Park Central Hotel in New York. Panelists will include: Fred Miller, curator of urban archives, Temple University, and co-author of the photographic essay Still Philadelphia; Debora Willis-Ryan, Special Collections, Schomburg Center, New York, and author of Black Photographers, 1840-1940: A Bio-Bibliography; and Richard Chalfen, associate professor of anthropology at Temple University and specialist in culture and communication and visual anthropology. They will discuss the following questions: What kinds of unique information are available in visual resources and how do you use them? How are visual resources such as photographs, slides and videotapes organized? How does the librarian help scholars locate and use these materials? What special problems do visual resources pose for the curator? The discussion will be followed by questions from the floor and a brief membership meeting.



Museums And Exhibits

New York City has a wealth of museums and exhibits of interest to anthropologists and sociologists, and the list has grown even longer with this summer's festivities in connection with the Statue of Liberty's 100th anniversary celebrations.

Here is a brief sampling of places and events to pique your interest. Call for directions and hours. All telephone numbers are in the 212 area code except where noted. All locations are in Manhattan except where noted.

Immigration Exhibits

Bronx County Historical Society (Central Park West at 77th St., 873-3400)

"The Ethnic Bronx: Study of Immigration Patterns" - opens 6/28

International Center of Photography (Fifth Ave. at 94th St., 860-1777)

"Liberty: The Statue and the American Dream" - immigrant photos

Jewish Museum (Fifth Ave. at 92nd St., 869-1888)

"The History of Jewish Immigration to America from Colonial Times to the Present Day"

Museum of the City of New York (Fifth Ave. at 103rd St., 534-1672)

"Beyond the Golden Door: 100 Years of Settlement Houses"

New York Historical Society (Central Park West at 77th St., 873-3400)

"Liberty's Legacy: Photographs of New York's Ethnic Festivals"

New York Public Library (Fifth Ave. at 42nd St., 869-8089)

"Ellis Island" - immigration manuscripts and photographs

1 World Trade Center Lobby (1 World Trade Center, 466-3583)

"Images of Liberty: One Hundred Years of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island" - opens 7/2



Museums and Galleries

African-American Institute (833 United Nations Plaza, First Ave. at 47th St., 949-5666)

American Museum of Natural History (Central Park West at 79th St., 873-4225)

The Hall of Asian Peoples is superb!

Asia House Gallery (112 East 64th St., between Lexington and Park Aves., 751-4210)

The Brooklyn Museum (188 Eastern Parkway at Washington Ave., Brooklyn, 718/638-5000)

Center for Inter-American Relations (680 Park Ave. at 68th St., 249-8950)

China House Gallery of the China Institute in America (125 East 65th St., between Lexington and Park Aves., 744-8181)

Gallery of Prehistoric Paintings (25-60 49th St., Astoria, 718/956-3333,
Open by appointment only.

Hispanic Society of America (155th St. & Broadway, 926-2234)

Jacques Marchais Center for Tibetan Art (338 Lighthouse Ave., Staten Island, 718/987-3478)

Japan House Gallery (333 East 47th St., between First and Second Aves., 832-1155)

Metropolitan Museum of Art (Fifth Ave. at 82nd St., 535-7710)

The Islamic Galleries are gorgeous, and the Egyptian Galleries unsurpassed.

El Museo del Barrio (1230 Fifth Ave. at 107th St., 831-7272)

Museum of American Folk Art (49 West 53rd St., between Fifth and Sixth Aves., 581-2474)

Museum of Broadcasting (1 East 53rd St., between Fifth and Madison Aves., 752-7684)

Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture/ New York Public Library (515 Lenox Ave. at 135th St., 862-4000)

Staten Island Institute of Arts and Sciences (75

Stuyvesant Pl., Staten Island, 718/987-3478)

Studio Museum in Harlem (144 West 125th St., 864-4500)

Ukranian Institute (2 East 79th St. and Fifth Ave., 288-8660)

The Ukranian Museum (203 Second Ave., between 12th and 13th Sts., 228-0110)

Yeshiva University Museum (2520 Amsterdam Ave. at 185th St., 960-5390)

Janet Steins
SUNY, Stony Brook



Current ANSS Officers and Committee Chairs

Officers 1985-86:

Chair: Jean Adelman

Vice Chair / Chair Elect: Gregory Finnegan

Past Chair: Bonnie Nelson

Secretary: Shari Grove

Members-at-Large: Chris Ferguson, Lynne Schmelz-Keil

Committee Chairs:

Bibliography: Lynne Schmelz-Keil

Conference Program Planning 1986: Jean Adelman

Nominating: Jean Adelman

Review and Planning: Lynne Schmelz-Keil

Officers 1986-87:

Chair: Gregory Finnegan

Vice Chair / Chair Elect:

Past Chair: Jean Adelman

Secretary: Shari Grove

Members-at-Large: Lynne Schmelz-Keil

Committee Chairs:

Bibliography: James Williams

Conference Program Planning 1987: Stephen MacLeod
Nominating: Robert Ridiger
Review and Planning:



1985 Annual Program Report

Over 75 people attended the Section's Program at the 1985 ALA Annual Meeting in Chicago. The panel, held at the Palmer House on Sunday, July 7, was on "Machine-Readable Data Files for Social Science: the Librarian's Role." Four panelists each addressed four questions: the value of numeric databases for social science in general and anthropology and sociology in particular, types of users (real or potential), whether such databases and support staff should be housed in libraries, and what the implications of changing computer technologies are for database access by end users -- would libraries and librarians continue to play a role?

Two panel members represented social science database vendors: Larry Carbaugh of the Data User Services Division of the Bureau of the Census, and Carolyn Geda of the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) at the University of Michigan. The other two panelists were librarians from universities where libraries play a central role in providing access to those and other numeric databases: Bliss Siman from Baruch College of the City University of New York and Barbara Wittkopf of the University of Florida. The panel was organized by the ANSS Chicago Program Planning Committee: Virginia Moreland of the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, Fred Peal of New York University, and Co-Chairs Janet Steins of SUNY, Stony Brook and Gregory Finnegan of Roosevelt University. Finnegan moderated the panel's discussion.

The panelists devoted most of their time to a discussion of the range of services provided by their organizations and the contributions that librarians make to those services. ICPSR communicates to members of the Consortium

through a network of official representatives from each member institution. While recognizing that libraries and librarians should have a central and visible role in the provision of access to data by scholars, it is more typical that the various official representatives are members of the faculty of an academic department. The University of Florida's service has evolved from handling machine-readable Census data in the Reference Department to becoming a central access point to a great variety of data from on-campus and off-campus sources, including ICPSR.

The issues of who should use MRDF and whether libraries should provide access were considered secondary by the panel. In a larger context, no one disputed the advantages libraries have in providing access to all mediums of information. Vendors and librarians alike also had a strong sense of the utilization of MRDF at all levels of teaching as well as research.

Major emphasis was also placed on the impact of new technologies. Librarians have just begun to assimilate MRDF into the mainstream of their collections and services, and yet new means of distribution of data such as diskettes and optical disks promise to put data directly into the hands of end-users in the near future. While panelists were sensitive to this development, they generally felt that in the realm of large data sets the limited storage capacity of diskettes meant that publication per se in that medium was not a great step forward. An example of this limitation is the recently released diskette version of the "City and County Databook", which occupies 33 floppy disks. The existence of a variety of microcomputer operating systems compounds this problem. What the panelists did see as a great step forward was the potential to customized datasets for individual users by downloading from large, tape-based sets. This in turn means that librarians remain as brokers between masses of data (in all media) and the patron's specific needs. On the last point, Barbara Wittkopf responded to a question about librarians' statistical competencies by noting that machine-readable research retains the equivalent of "reading the book" -- we provide access to information, not finished reports.

The program was tape-recorded, and is available from ALA.

Gregory Finnegan
Dartmouth College

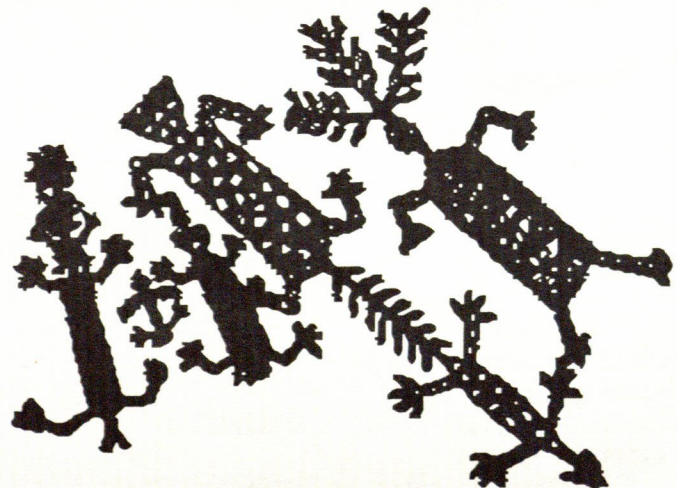


Executive Committee at ALA Midwinter Meetings

The following is a brief report on the activities of the ANSS Executive Committee at the ALA Midwinter meetings in Chicago last January:

The Committee adopted the resolution that the Asian and African Section and the Anthropology and Sociology Section congratulate Hans Panofsky on his recent award. The Committee agreed to request that the Board of the Association of College and Research Libraries similarly offer its congratulations. The resolution read as follows:

"WHEREAS Hans E. Panofsky, Curator, Herskovits Library of African Studies, Northwestern University, has a distinguished record of service to the American Library Association and the Association of College and Research Libraries including serving as Chair of

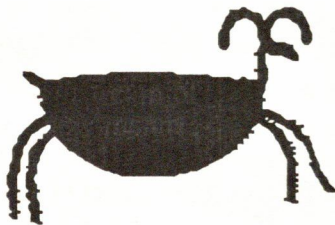


both the Asian and African Section and the Anthropology and Sociology Section;

WHEREAS Hans E. Panofsky in November 1985 at the annual meeting of the African Studies Association received the first Distinguished Service to African Studies Award;

BE IT RESOLVED That the Asian and African Section and the Anthropology and Sociology Section congratulate Hans and request that the Board of the Association of College and Research Libraries similarly offer its congratulations."

The Executive Committee congratulated Janet Steins for the outstanding job she did in preparing and writing the ANSS Manual for Officers, Committee Members and Committee Chairs.



Plans for the ANSS Program at the ALA Annual in New York were discussed. Susan Williamson reported that she has scheduled two speakers for the visual resources program; they are Debbie Willis-Ryan and Fred Miller. Earlier plans to sponsor a tour of the Ellis Island Museum have been dropped because the museum will not be open. It was suggested that a visit to the Heye Foundation Museum and Library (Museum of the American Indian) be scheduled. Janet Steins and Jean Adelman are working on this possible tour.

The committee discussed the first issue of the newsletter and agreed that Janet Steins and Steve MacLeod would be co-editors.

Greg Finnegan and Steve MacLeod reported on ALA San Francisco in 1987. The overall theme of the conference is "Diversity: A Challenge to American Libraries." Suggestions for possible programs are being studied by the committee.

Shari Grove
Boston College

Bibliography Committee Report

The Bibliography Committee was given standing committee status in June, 1982. At that time, the Committee was charged with identifying organizations interested in the bibliographic control of publications in anthropology, sociology, and the social sciences generally. Once identified, the Committee was to review the list and recommend whether ANSS should seek formal or informal ties with these organizations, and, if so, how this will be done.

The Committee is also to review and analyze the current state of bibliographic control of publications in anthropology and sociology. Based on this analysis it will identify specific areas in need of improved bibliographic control and will recommend how to effect such improvements.

The Committee has over the last several years generated a number of lists relevant to their charge: a list of associations in anthropology, sociology, and the social sciences in general; a list of the publications from those associations; a list of publishers in these fields; a list of relevant libraries with published catalogs; a list of newsletters of interest; and a list of the indexes, abstracts and databases in these fields. A good deal of effort during the past year has involved the writing of critical evaluations of indexes, abstracts and databases. The Committee has communicated to publishers of these various bibliographic tools their suggestions for improvements in those products. Many of these efforts have been successful in establishing a dialog between publishers and librarians. And several times representatives from specific publishers have attended Bibliography Committee meetings.

Another project of this committee has been directed to building effective communication channels with scholarly associations in sociology, anthropology and other social sciences. The committee has sent letters to approximately twenty associations, and has received several responses. A number of cooperative projects are possible and will eventually help to further improve the bibliographic state of the social sciences. Jim Williams will be the new Chair in June 1986.

Stephen MacLeod
U.C., Irvine

Recent Publications

New publications of interest to members of the Anthropology and Sociology Section will occasionally be listed in ANSS Currents. If you would like to list a publication in this column or submit a brief review please contact the editors:

Cantrell, Karen and Denise Wallen. Funding for Anthropological Research. Phoenix, AZ: Oryx Press, 1986.

(to be published in May or June, this publication compiles funding information from a wide variety of sources -- a task which otherwise can be difficult)

Selection of Library Materials in the Humanities, Social Sciences, and Sciences. Edited by Patricia A. McClung. Chicago: American Library Association, 1985.

(includes chapters on selection for "Sociology" by Beth Shapiro, "Machine-Readable Data Files" by Karin Wittenborg, and "Anthropology" by Stephen MacLeod)

Sources of Information in the Social Sciences.

3rd edition. Edited by William H. Webb. Chicago: American Library Association, 1986.

(a completely revised edition of the classic guide by Carl M. White -- to be published in May or June 1986)

Sproat, Kezla; Helene Churchill and Carol Sheets. The National Longitudinal Surveys of Labor Market Experience: An Annotated Bibliography of Research. Lexington, MA: Lexington Books, 1985.

Weeks, John M. Middle American Indians: A Guide to the Manuscript Collection at Tozzer Library, Harvard University. New York: Garland, 1985. (Garland Reference Library of Social Science; v. 332).

Databases

Two of the most important data centers in the world have recently made available for general use information retrieval systems which will be very useful for researchers attempting to locate machine-readable data.

ICPSR (Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research) has developed four new databases. "Three of these computer-based resources describe ICPSR data holdings and will

aid in identifying data needed for particular research, instruction and other applications. The fourth includes bibliographic references to published and unpublished materials bearing upon survey research methodology." The four databases are (1) ICPSR Guide On-Line, (2) Variables, (3) Congressional Roll Calls, and (4) Survey Methodology Information System (SMIS). Access to these systems is available via a variety of telephone networks and searched in SPIRES. The databases are also available for acquisition, either entirely or as subsets. For further information contact the ICPSR Member Services staff at the University of Michigan at (313) 763-5010.

The Roper Center for Public Opinion Research has recently made available the "Public Opinion Location Library (POLL)." POLL is a question-level computerized retrieval system, which allows users to locate public opinion questions and responses from the numerous polls which the Roper Center archives. Users can define the topic for which they are seeking polling information, and may further specify the time span for which they want information. POLL, as of February 1, 1986, includes 44,000 questions and responses. The Roper staff are continually adding new material and also retrospective data. For further information about POLL contact Marilyn Potter, Assistant Director for User Services and Administration, Roper Center, University of Connecticut, P.O. Box 440, Storrs, CT 06268. Telephone: (203) 486-4440.

Stephen MacLeod
U.C., Irvine



Graphics

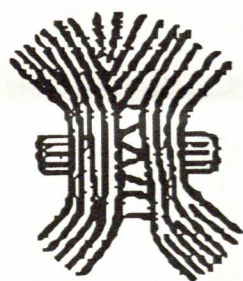
The graphics in the first issue of this newsletter are re-drawn from several illustrations in various publications by the writer and illustrator Campbell Grant. The newsletter will include graphic work from many areas of the world in future issues. Each issue will feature graphic designs from one particular area of the world. Your suggestions for future issues are welcome.



An Invitation To Tour The Incomparable Museum Of The American Indian With ANSS

If you have ever joined ANSS for one of our Museum tours, you know how fascinating our "back stage" visits are. This year's tour is definitely a not-to-be-missed event!

A chartered bus will pick up fifty lucky people at 12 noon on Tuesday, July 1, and take them uptown to Audubon Terrace, home of the Museum of the American Indian. It houses the largest collection in the world relating to the ethnology and archaeology of the Indians of North, Central and South America and the West Indies. Public exhibitions at the Audubon Terrace building are arranged by region on three floors. The Museum's main objective is to promote a better understanding of the Indians of the Americas by the collection and preservation of cultural material.



The Museum of the American Indian was founded by George C. Heye and was opened to the public in 1922. His collections form the nucleus of the museum, which today houses some one million specimens. Mr. Heye was an avid promoter of fieldwork, having sponsored archaeological expeditions to many parts of Central America as early as 1904. Ethnological expeditions were undertaken among the Menomini, Penobscot, Havasopai, Crow,

Blackfoot, Shoshoni, Arapaho and the tribes of Puget Sound and the Mackenzie River Delta.

Our group will reboard the bus at 2:30pm for the drive to Westchester Square in the Bronx, location of the museum's research collections and library. Mary Davis, Librarian, will show us highlights of a specialized collection of some 50 thousand volumes. We will partake of some wine and cheese before returning to Manhattan by 6:00pm.

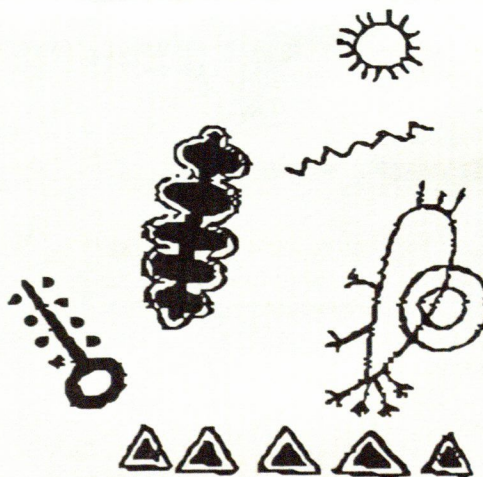
Price for tour participants is \$10.50, and includes transportation, admission to the Museum and refreshments. Send your check made payable to "Janet Steins" to:

Janet Steins
Chemistry Library
State University of New York
Stony Brook, NY 11794-3425
phone: (516) 246-5664

Space is limited, so make your reservations early.

ANSS members may also wish to visit the Robert Goldwater Library at the Metropolitan Museum of Art at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday evening. The Goldwater Library specializes in primitive art, and has a picture collection in addition to monographic and periodical holdings. The museum and its restaurant will be open that evening. If you plan to visit the library contact Janet Steins (address above).

Janet Steins
SUNY, Stony Brook



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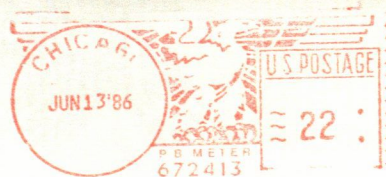
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R A4 LETTER

R A5 HALF LETTER

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FIRST CLASS



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