

Decorative Arts SIG Meeting  
May 2, 2014  
Submitted by Jessica Shaykett

## Selection of a chair

Emily Guthrie, Winterthur Museum & Country Estate, Winterthur, Delaware, and Jessica Shaykett, American Craft Council, Minneapolis, MN, will serve as co-coordinators for the group

## Prospects for collaboration on digitization of marks books

*Note: "Ceramics marks book" was one of the top hits on the Smithsonian website's Internet Archive*

The BIG questions:

1. How should the marks resources exist?  
Options:
  - As a LibGuide on the ARLIS website
  - As part of HathiTrust Digital Library
  - As a special collection within the Internet Archive
  - Getty Portal
2. What is the Smithsonian planning to do with their collection of marks materials?
3. How do we create a bibliography without overlap?
4. Is there any possibility of creating a database of images to match marks to?
5. Should we email to listserv about marks books to gauge interest?

Who could help:

- Kathleen Salomon with the FAB Initiative at the Getty
- Chris Mees from designinform

*Notes on marks books from 2013:*

- Identify critical books
- Create a bibliography
- We can use the list to influence in-house digitization projects
- Collate and list websites that provide free access guides to makers marks
- We agreed to start compiling our own "Guide to Marks" including resources available online

Stage 1

- Formulate a charge
- By the end of summer (Labor Day) get a summary started

## Stage 2

- Survey collections and make a list of reference books
- Decide which ones are important or worthy of becoming part of a bibliography of important "marks" books
- Create subject categories OR have a tab for each collection (who has what)
- Create citations

## Questions:

- What do we want in a citation? Basic author, title, year of publication; not a full bibliographic description (just enough to search)
- Are we duplicating Arntzen & Rainwater\*? Digital Library for American Culture? <http://decorativearts.library.wisc.edu/>
- Add online resources in Stage 1? Do we add those with commercial interests?
- Where do we collect the information?
  - o Excel document
  - o Google doc
- What are the boundaries?
  - o Not material culture
  - o Not agricultural implements
  - o Is it marks up to today?
  - o Concentrate on what is published
- What is online already? How reliable is it?

## Stage 3:

- Books with hallmarks at the back
- European sources (ARLIS/UK)
- Possibly we could submit the information to the Getty Research Portal

## Other Topics of Interest

### *FROM 2014 AND 2013:*

Who is doing what now? How do we communicate within our group?

- Informal wiki
- Web presence
- Blog

### World's Fairs – possible session in Seattle 2016?

- The literature is so extensive. Where are the strong collections?
- Consider creating a LibGuide to track strong collections focusing on seminal fairs to share information (RISS has a repository of fine arts LibGuides)
- Chris offered to host our information on his website
- Can we call on the listserv to contribute details about their projects?

### *FROM 2013:*

Designers - Primary source materials

- Who collects primary source material on designers (industrial, graphic, interior, etc.)- create a guide?
- Plan a session on the idiosyncrasies of dealing with this kind of material?

## Finding stuff

- Need an international directory of decorative arts resources (another way of dealing with "who collects...")
- Do we need reference guides/pathfinders (etc.) on other topics?