

## **ARLIS/NA International Relations Committee**

### **2011 Study Tour**

#### **Mexico City/Puebla, August 20-26**

#### **Final Report**

The beautiful Museo Franz Meyer in Mexico City was the location for the IFLA Art section satellite meeting on August 21-22. The conference theme, Latin American Art Bibliography, was our entrée for a week-long tour to a wide variety of art museums, libraries, galleries and private collections. Our visits were coordinated by a local guide and our stellar organizing committee of Deborah Kempe, Clayton Kirking and Kristen Regina. Fifteen lucky attendees were treated to the wonders of climbing the pyramids of Teotihuacan to dinner at the home of a major collector of contemporary Mexican art. This study tour was a wonderful non-stop learning opportunity and a visual feast of art and architecture of many periods. Through the personal contacts of our committee and attendees, we had rare access to many library directors, artists, curators, collectors and dealers and discovered exciting artists, collections and archives. We enjoyed wonderful hospitality and the services of absolutely terrific tour guides. Our visit culminated in a day-trip to the historic city of Puebla on Friday, August 26 where we visited the Museo Amparo as well as the main historic sites of this beautiful colonial city. Hurricane Irene upset the return travel of many, but spending some extra time in Mexico did not prove to be a burden.

While it's fair to say that our pace on this study trip wasn't Mexican in nature, we definitely took advantage of all the time we had in order to see and enjoy the great art and architecture as well as cuisine of Mexico City and Puebla. We learned about incredible library resources and collections. We shared expertise and experiences amongst ourselves and with our foreign colleagues. Even before the official trip started, Kristen Regina, Clayton Kirking and Nicole Finzer participated in a live video presentation from the US Embassy's Benjamin Franklin Library in Mexico City which was viewed by over 130 people. This public library collects materials on American culture and would appreciate our donations. Contact information about the people we met, our final itinerary and donation information for the Benjamin Franklin Library will be posted on the IRC website.

The generosity and hospitality of our hosts and colleagues was outstanding and we hope to reciprocate in the future. Our ties were strengthened. A symposium is being planned for 2012 in New York on Latin American art bibliography to share some of what we learned on our trip and it is hoped that many of the people in Mexico we met will participate. We also anticipate naming an ex-officio member of the IRC to serve as a special liaison to Mexico, with the hopes of creating an official organizational role in the future. Finally, in terms of study trip planning, we created a Travel Release and Waiver form which will include emergency contact information to help in planning future trips.

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Katie Keller

Chair, International Relations Committee, ARLIS/NA

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