



AMICO Executive Committee Meeting

July 29, 1999

The Frick Collection, New York

Chair

Harry Parker, Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco

In Attendance

Nancy Allen representing Malcolm Rogers, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston
Max Anderson, Whitney Museum of American Art
Vishakha Desai, Asia Society (represented for part of the meeting by Helen Abbott)
Sam Sachs, The Frick Collection and Art Reference Library

Staff:

Jennifer Trant, AMICO Executive Director
David Bearman, AMICO Director Strategy and Research

Regrets

Hugh Davies, Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego

Call to Order

Harry Parker convened the meeting at 10:10 am. The Agenda was reviewed, and a call was made for Other Items of Business; none were proposed.

Parker remarked on the sad absence of Robert Bergman, whose sudden death earlier this spring shook the museum community. The committee unanimously voted their gratitude for his contribution to the founding of AMICO.

Minutes of the Previous Meeting

Max Anderson moved to approve the minutes of the previous meeting; Sam Sachs seconded; unanimously approved.

Executive Directors Report

Jennifer Trant reported on progress since the last meeting. Activities are detailed in monthly reports, circulated with the Agenda.

1) The University Testbed

This project was completed with the joint Testbed/Members meeting held at Carnegie Mellon University in June.. (See the Program and Reports circulated with the Agenda). Members discussed outcomes. True success can be judged by the uptake of 1999-2000 subscriptions by all testbed participants. We have learned a great deal about uses, and have made a number of strong links with users of the AMICO Library. Nancy Allen reported first hand on the excitement of the wrap-up Conference and its importance for setting AMICO's agenda for the coming year.

2) Evaluation

Evaluation reports from the CAA and VRA Focus Groups and from the Cornell Online Survey were summarized. (See reports circulated with Agenda).

In the discussion that followed, Harry Parker expressed surprise at limited use of AMICO within classroom environment, and was encouraged by the possible development of tools to facilitate this. Max Anderson emphasized need to get more than just tombstone data from members, and to enhance the Library to make it easier to retrieve and understand the works it contains. Parker indicated that 'being found' can be a great motivator, and encouraged the

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additional indexing and Editorial Work that would facilitate this. All agreed that until the Library grows to a comprehensive size, it will be important to identify the pockets of material that enable specialized uses.

It was agreed that all Board members be sent copies of the University Testbed and Evaluation reports.

3) Membership Status

It was noted that we are not meeting our membership targets. There seems to be a lot of interest in AMICO and our activities, but we don't seem to be able to 'close' on new Members.

Max reported on a presentation about AMICO that he gave at a recent museum meeting in Berlin. There was strong interest in the concept from many European institutions. After discussion of pros and cons it was unanimously agreed that AMICO should pursue foreign members, beginning with the UK and that if at least four such members apply, the AMICO should accept them. After that, AMICO could recruit the Jerusalem Museum, Australian Museums, and some Dutch museums. Max Anderson agreed to take on the UK recruitment with support from the AMICO office.

In addition, a short list of major North American museums that have not yet joined AMICO was drawn up: individual Members of the Executive Committee agreed to contact them, as follows:

- Dallas Museum of Art- Harry
- Houston Museum of Art - Harry
- Brooklyn Museum of Art - Sam & Max
- St. Louis - Nancy and Max
- Detroit Institute of Arts- Sam if needed
- Huntington Museum and Library - Max
- Wadsworth Atheneum - Sam and Max
- Royal Ontario Museum - Max
- National Gallery of Art - follow up by Sam
- Museum of Modern Art - Nancy Allen
- San Diego Museum of Art - Hugh Davies

Nancy proposed that AMICO should consider a package of support, perhaps offered at a price, for new members. Max noted that some staff of AMICO institutions could provide assistance when going on courier trips etc. We might want to consider a 'buddy system', of existing and new members. Jennifer agreed to explore an explicit way to formalize the available support in a "new members package".

4) The AMICO Library 1999-2000

AMICO Members were on target for growth, however the Library is still small enough that it was not meaningful to talk about projects to fill gaps. Members still need to be encouraged to make significant contributions.

5) New License Agreements

The Executive Committee reviewed and approved the terms of the new licenses, for Public Libraries, K-12 students and the Short University License recommended by University Testbed Participants.

6) IUPUI Project

The IUPUI management of our collaborative project has taken an independent turn, and does not appear to be interested in collaboration with AMICO. They are demanding changes in our license terms (which were known at the planning phase of the project), and have neither consulted with AMICO nor reported on their activities. A discussion of the project led to the conclusion that AMICO should not invest significantly in trying to change the direction of this project, as it would likely be unsuccessful. Given the current direction, the results appear to be of limited value. However, we will honor our commitment, and won't withdraw.

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- 7) **ARS Agreement**
AMICO has reached an agreement with the Artists Rights Society to clear rights broadly for works under copyright that they represent, under favorable terms, as approved by the Board. Sam Sachs moved and the Ex.Com. agreed by acclamation, that the ARS Agreement was a good thing for AMICO and that the staff should be congratulated for having brought it to a successful conclusion.
- 8) **Related Initiatives**
The College Art Association has launched a project called the Academic Image Exchange, that will facilitate faculty sharing of images. The Executive Committee asked that the CAA Board be made aware that AMICO is open and supportive and willing to cooperate in any way we can and asked Trant to write a letter to Susan Ball (CAA Executive Director) to this effect.
- 9) **Distributors**
Subscriptions to the AMICO Library through RLG are growing. We also have reached an agreement with OhioLINK to distribute the Library for Ohio. Max reported that the AMN (a not-for-profit now owned by the Whitney) still hopes to distribute the AMICO Library. Harry requested that all parties be careful to avoid the appearance of self-dealing here. The Committee agreed, though that AMN distribution was one of the models which AMICO originally decided to test. AMICO has also sent a proposal to the Joint Information systems Committee of the UK, to become a distributor of the AMICO Library for UK Higher Education. Trant will copy this proposal to the Executive Committee.
- 10) **Fundraising**
We have submitted a collaborative proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities Preservation and Access program for the development of *Guidelines for the Application of Art Documentation*. Partners are the Art Libraries Society of North America, the Research Libraries Group, the Research Institute of the J. Paul Getty Trust and the Visual Resources Association. We are also in on-going discussions with the J. Paul Getty Trust about the Vocabulary Programs and about other ways of collaboration/support. Other possible funding sources were mentioned, but no concrete steps taken. Max raised the question of AMICO participating in an online art journal, being discussed by a number of AMICO Members. No concrete decisions were taken.

Financial Report and Staffing Plans

The Treasurer presented the FY 1998/99 actual budget, and a proposal for an FY 1999/2000 budget. (Both were circulated with the Agenda). It was proposed that no payments against deferred billings be made this year. A&MI also presented a Management Contract Proposal and Staffing Plan (Circulated with the Agenda).

The Executive Committee moved into an Executive Session to discuss the budget proposal and the A&MI contract. After discussion, they reported the following:

- AMICO extends its appreciation to Archives & Museum Informatics, the Art Museum Network and Michael Shapiro for believing in the mission of AMICO and supporting its start-up expenses. AMICO hopes that at end of the FY 1999/2000 Fiscal Year to make a repayment against those debts.
- The Executive Committee resolves that no membership dues decrease will be enacted until full repayment has been made. Moved by Samuel Sachs, Seconded by Max Anderson. Passed Unanimously.
- The Executive Committee offers to help staff when AMICO members are being troublesome and asks to be notified when it can be of assistance.
- The Executive Committee approved the budget as proposed on a motion by Harry Parker, seconded by Vishakha Desai. It is understood that AMICO's management are not to commit funds beyond what is available.

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- The Executive Committee accepted the management proposal from Archives & Museum Informatics, to provide services through June 2002.

Buckler & McKinney have been contracted to prepare an audited financial statement for AMICO's first fiscal year, FY 1998/99. This will be presented to the Board when it next meets.

Executive Committee and Officers

A new Executive Committee slate should be put before the Board at its next meeting (in conjunction with the AAMD meeting in Phoenix at the end of January 2000). Harry Parker appointed the Ex.Com to serve as a nominating committee and asked that they present candidates for elections to all AMICO. It will try to include some large/small; AAMD and non-AAMD, and geographically dispersed nominees.

Continuity in representation at AMICO Meetings is important. It was unanimously agreed that participation by a Deputy should be encouraged if a Director cannot come; a Director could name a deputy to participate as permanent representative for an AMICO Member.

Adjournment

Sam Sachs was thanked for providing most comfortable facilities for our meeting, and for hosting our lunch. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 pm.