

from the editors



by Eugene Dillenburg
Membership Chair
Guest Co-Editor
(or is that
Co-Guest Editor?)

It happens with alarming frequency. Everywhere I go—in darkened alleys on fog-shrouded nights; on wind-swept beaches kissed by the Autumn sun; in parking garages; in penthouses; in the aftermath of particularly unsuccessful parties—people pull me aside and ask: “Gene, what’s going on with the *Exhibitionist*?”

A little history will help explain where we find ourselves. NAME has published the *Exhibitionist* for over 20 years. At first, it was a simple newsletter, a single mimeographed sheet. (Remember mimeographs?) Over time, it grew and changed. NAME has been fortunate to have had some wonderful editors directing that growth.

In the '90s, Diana Cohen Altman turned the *Exhibitionist* into a magazine. She gave it a level of professionalism with full-length articles, special sections, and our first themed issues. In 1999, the torch passed to Jay Rounds. In his four years at the helm, Jay moved the *Exhibitionist* from “magazine” to “journal”. Themed issues became the norm; articles grew longer and more thoughtful; cyber-forums brought in new perspectives. Two years ago, Jane Bedno (one of NAME’s founding members) took the reins. Innovations under Jane’s tutelage included our first color photos; increased participation from students; and a new design.

Each advance made the *Exhibitionist* more valuable. When we surveyed members last year, they rated the *Exhibitionist* higher than anything else—both in terms of awareness, and of excellence. We received comments like “I wish it came out more frequently”...“great mix of articles”...“the information is very useful”...“awesome!”

Our little newsletter has grown up. The *Exhibitionist* is now the face of NAME, our most valuable and recognizable effort. So, when strategic planning began last January, the Board took a critical look at all our efforts. While each of our editors had contributed greatly to its success, the *Exhibitionist* has become too important to rely on continued good luck. We needed to set some direction to integrate the *Exhibitionist* into the direction NAME was heading. By lucky coincidence, Jane was taking a sabbatical and was looking to hand the next issue over to an assistant editor. It was an excellent opportunity for a fresh start, and the Board established a committee to set a new course for the journal. Of course, committees being what they are, the new direction has been a little slow in coming. Beth can fill you in on some of the details in her letter. In the meantime, this issue represents something of holding operation, as we wait for new guidelines.

So we thank Jane, Jay, and Diana, and everyone else who has helped make the *Exhibitionist* the valuable journal it is today. And we ask everyone to stay tuned, as even greater days lie ahead!



by Beth Redmond-Jones
Western Regional
Representative
Co-Guest Editor
(or is that
Guest Co-Editor?)

As we sat around the table at the NAME strategic planning session at AAM in New Orleans, it was clear to the Board that our members regard the *Exhibitionist* as a valuable part of their membership, a publication that must continue for years to come. Without the commitment and dedication of the past Editors, we would not have such a highly regarded publication. Thank you Diana, Jay and Jane for all your hard work over the years!

So, what’s next for the *Exhibitionist*? That is a good question (and one I am constantly asked). At the strategic planning session, the Board appointed an *Exhibitionist* Task Force which I am fortunate enough to head up. The Task Force began by reviewing past issues of the *Exhibitionist* from all of the previous Editors and put together a list of the items we felt had been successful (like the color cover which Jane introduced), and what was cost-effective for our publication budget. From there, we developed preliminary graphic standards for the publication, and defined the Board’s and the Editor’s roles for the *Exhibitionist*, all pending Board approval. Our next step is to identify and appoint a new Editor. Preliminary discussions have taken place with some individuals who are “mulling it over,” and we hope to have the new Editor in place within the next couple of months, just in time for the spring issue! Should you have an interest in stepping up to be the Editor, or want to know what’s involved, please email me (bethredmondjones@mac.com) and I’ll be happy to fill you in.

As you can see in this issue, we have combined various features that the Task Force felt were positive aspects of past issues. Once our new Editor is on-board, we will work with him/her to define the future look of the *Exhibitionist*. In the meantime, I hope the articles Gene and I have culled from a very talented group of museum professionals (thank you authors!), spark some interest, bring some new thoughts to mind, and give you some insight to the international world of exhibitions.

See you in Indianapolis!

P.S. On behalf of the Task Force and the NAME Board, we would like to thank Mulan Tarnas for stepping up and designing the *Exhibitionist* this time around. Her attention to detail and commitment to NAME is invaluable. Thanks Mulan!