The past year has been exciting and productive for the Graduate Program and our students. However, friends and graduates will be deeply concerned to learn of the passing of two remarkable people deeply involved in our program. Laurie Crichton, a second-year student, died tragically in a car accident; she had come to us from Tufts University and three years at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts. She was Curatorial Fellow in the Williams College Museum, in the field of textiles, and she prepared an exhibition of American books from the turn of the century at the Chapin Library, with a handsome and important scholarly catalogue. Her professional competence and dedication were allied to a serenity and sense of humor that made her a joy to know.

Charles Cunningham, after a long and extremely distinguished career in the museum profession, came to Williamstown to be Chief Curator of the Clark Institute; he organized the museum studies course for our Program and taught it throughout his career here. It was he who set the very high standards for the study of museums, their history and practice, that gave focus to the students’ involvement in museum work. He had a vision of art as a civilizing and humanizing force that inspired all of us here in Williamstown.

These are two losses that diminish us all.
After four years as Director of the Program, Franklin Robinson is leaving Williams to be Director of the museum of the Rhode Island School of Design. Frank's vitality and vision are familiar to all who have known him and worked with him. The student exhibition program which developed so successfully under his leadership and, above all, the care and concern he felt for the professional future of our students are amply demonstrated in these Newsletters. He will be missed as teacher, adviser, and friend.

Student Exhibitions, Publications, Teaching and Museum Work

Graduate students of the Class of 1979 prepared the catalogues of six exhibitions this year; at the Clark, Laura Giles, Lily Milroy, and Wendy Owens prepared the important catalogue of the show, Master Drawings from the Held collection, which will be presented at a total of six museums in the coming year, and Wendy wrote another catalogue, Watercolors by Maurice Prendergast from New England Collections. We have already mentioned Laurie Crichton's Book Decoration in America, 1890-1910 at the Chapin Library, At the College Museum, Hiram Butler, Steve Eisenman, Laura Giles, and Frank Kelly, with three undergraduates, wrote a fully illustrated catalogue of modern American drawings from the collection of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen D. Paine. Documents, Drawings and Collages, which will also travel to the Toledo, Ringling and Fogg Museums. Cheryl Brickman wrote an introduction to a show of paintings by Alice Neel, and Steve Eisenman organized a festival of electronic music and contributed to a catalogue, The Prints of Arakawa. This year students in three seminars wrote the catalogues of travelling exhibitions that will appear in 1980, on the painting of Lorenzo Lotto, as well as the prints of Richard Anuszkiewicz, the art of India, from Masaccio to Courbet, as well as several artists who came to speak on their own work.

Curriculum

Clark Professors this past year were Albert Boime in nineteenth-century French painting, and Jaromír Šip, in eighteenth-century art. Next year, Dr. Šip will return in the Spring, to teach Northern Baroque painting, and Ellen Smart will be Clark Professor, teaching Oriental art, in the Fall. Other seminars will be taught by Gene Baro (twentieth-century art), David Brooke (museum studies), Rafael Fernandez (history of prints), George Hearst Hamilton (nineteenth-century French painting), Julius Held (connoisseurship), Thomas Krens (the graphic work of Robert Morris), E. J. Johnson (twentieth-century architecture), Michael Rinehart (Venetian painting), and Whitney Stoddard (Romanesque art). The January trip this last year was to Rome and Florence, under the leadership of Michael Rinehart.

There were nineteen visiting lecturers who spoke on subjects ranging from ancient Roman architecture to the art of India, from Masaccio to Courbet, as well as several artists who came to speak on their own work.

S. Lane Faison, Jr., served as Acting Director while Frank Robinson was on leave in the second semester. For the academic year, 1979-80, George Hamilton will be Acting Director of the Program for the Fall term, and Michael Rinehart will be Acting Director in the Spring term. Dorothy Reinke has been appointed Assistant to the Director.

NEWS OF ALUMNAE/ALUMNI WE HAVE HEARD FROM RECENTLY:

CLASS OF 1975


CLASS OF 1976


CLASS OF 1977

Beth Carver Wees, Asst. Curator, Clark Art Institute; Eileen Casey, studying law at University of Conn., 835 Grassy Hill Rd., Orange, Conn. 06477; Debi C. Ahearn, 16 West 74th St., New York, 10023; Henry Duffy, doctoral candidate at Rutgers, 75 Prospect St., Demarest, N.J. 07627; Michael Klein, Dir., Max Protetch Gallery, doctoral candidate, C.U.N.Y., 250 West 104th St., New York, 10025; Robert Mattison, doctoral candidate, Princeton, Old Bedford Rd., Greenwich, Conn. 06830; Susan Peters, Project Dir., International Museum of Photography, 45 Rutgers St., Rochester. 14607; John Stamper, consultant for National Trust properties in Indiana, 306 N. Victoria, Mishawaka, Ind. 46544; Judith Weiss, Cur. of Prints and Drawings, St. Louis Museum, 6300 Rosebury Ave., Apt. 25, St. Louis, Mo. 63105; Jonia Wissman, doctoral candidate at Yale, 551 Orange St., Apt. 2, New Haven, Conn. 06511

CLASS OF 1978


CLASS OF 1979

Hiram Butler, Print Room, Museum of Modern Art, New York; Stephen Eisenman, doctoral candidate at Princeton; Laura Giles, doctoral candidate at Harvard; Margaret Kaufman, 271 Hicks St., Brooklyn, N.Y.; Frank Kelly, doctoral candidate at Univ. of Delaware; Christopher London, 132 West 88th St., #3, New York, 10024; Elizabeth Milroy, doctoral candidate at Univ. of Pennsylvania; Gwendolyn Owens, Asst. Cur., Herbert F. Johnson Museum of Art, Cornell Univ. Sheryl Reis, doctoral candidate at Princeton; Mary Spivy, 6 Log Cabin Dr., St. Louis, Mo. 63124; Jennifer Wade is working at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 334 E. 76, Apt. 12, New York 10021.

We would like to start a file of alumnae/alumni publications after Williams. If you have extra copies of any articles, catalogues, monographs, etc., please send them to the Graduate Office, Box 8, Williamsport, Mass. 01267.