

Elizabeth Antrim  
VRA Distinguished Service Award, 2000  
Presentation Remarks by Margaret N. Webster

Arguably the most pleasurable event of a Visual Resources Association annual conference is the presentation of the Distinguished Service Award at the Members' Reception. This is a time when we as a profession acknowledge, reflect upon, and celebrate the outstanding accomplishments of one of our members. In the normal course of events, Jo Schaffer, the chair of the 1999-2000 Distinguished Services Award committee would officiate; however, because Jo is unable to be here this evening I was asked to present the award in her stead. It is a privilege to stand before you now to introduce our newest honoree; please join me as we celebrate.

Tonight the Visual Resources Association is pleased to honor Elizabeth Antrim for her long term service to the field of visual resources as well as her contributions to affiliated organizations, institutions, and the educational community. Betty who retired at the beginning of January served as a visual resources professional for more than a quarter of a century--first at the University of Colorado and then at San Jose State University. She has a long association with the VRA both on the national and local levels. She was a guiding member of the steering committee to form the Northern California Regional Chapter, and then served as its first secretary. Currently, she is chair of the VRA Membership Committee and Co-chair of the Local Arrangements Committee for this spectacular conference here in San Francisco. She has been a member of ARLIS/NA and its Visual Resources Division since 1985 and served both as president and secretary/treasurer of the Northern California Chapter.

Sharing has always been at the heart of Betty's professional activity. I first met her many years ago in Boston at one of the first VRA conferences I attended; after the

business meeting adjourned we all gathered at the “members’ reception” where she strategically placed herself at the entrance to better greet new members and to introduce them one to another. She mentored countless Northern California colleagues before establishing the Mentor-Protégé program at this year’s annual conference as well as organizing the First Time Attendees’ Breakfast.

The sharing of resources is a particular passion of Betty’s. Working closely with Dr. Kathleen Cohen on the 1993-1995 DELTA project involved Betty early on in the digital imaging revolution which is re-shaping our profession. She quickly became an advocate for collaborative efforts to build shared digital image collections. Project DELTA and a second, later CSU grant project produced 5,000 copyright-compliant digital images which were distributed on CD-ROM to all 22 CSU campuses for use by faculty and students. Betty continued this interest as a member of the steering committee and one of the most active contributors to CIELO, an on-going project to produce a Web-distributed shared image collection for teaching art and architectural history courses. She paved the way for the rest of us of us who are only now beginning to understand the true power of inter and intra-institutional collaboration.

Not only was Betty deeply involved in these early groundbreaking projects, but she was also exceptionally generous in sharing the knowledge she gained. One of Betty’s famous lines, “I don’t know anything about this, but...,” always seems to precede the sharing of amazing information about cutting-edge tools. She widely circulated the instruction manuals, cataloging rules, and controlled vocabularies she developed for those projects and organized workshops in various parts of California. At these gatherings, California curators received some of the earliest instruction available in digital imaging techniques and digital image collection management, including training in ImageAXS™, EmbARK™, and Excel™. She is also sensitive to the needs of low budget slide collections making sure that they are included in the process of implementing digital technology. The California State University visual resources curators attest that Betty is involved in all their collaborative efforts and can usually be

discovered to be the driving force behind them.

It is particularly appropriate at this Visual Resources Association annual meeting in San Francisco--that is in Betty's home territory--to honor her with the 2000 VRA Distinguished Service Award. On behalf of the VRA, I am honored to present Betty Antrim with the 2000 VRA Distinguished service award. Betty, you are a true *grand dame* of visual resources.

And now a very well kept secret:

Not only are we celebrating Betty's professional career, but this is also a birthday celebration. Happy Birthday, Betty!

Margaret N. Webster

Member, VRA Distinguished Service Award Committee

Cornell University

### Membership Meeting Report:

I am presenting this report this morning on behalf of Jo Schaffer, the chair of the Distinguished Service Award Committee, who is unable to attend this conference.

Jo reports:

“It is my pleasure to report that the VRA Distinguished Service Award Committee has selected, without dissent, Elizabeth (Betty) Antrim to the 1999-2000 winner of the VRA Distinguished Service Award.

On behalf of the Committee I conducted a well-publicized appeal for nominations and solicited complete dossiers in support of nominated VRA members. I conducted a review by the committee members of the nominee and obtained their vote which was without dissent...

I need not repeat the substance of the well written letter of nomination for Ms Antrim. The letter speaks for itself and can stand as an exemplar for all future nominees. The letter describes in detail how Ms Antrim has met all the requirements for the award: an outstanding contribution to the profession, leadership, research, development and management of particular visual resource projects. It should be noted that the letter is signed by three noted California colleagues and is followed by a list of 17 absentia signatories, including a letter from Lauraine Tansey attesting to the quality of the nominee.”

On Jo’s behalf I thank my fellow committee members—Marcia Focht and Bill Broome—for their help with this endeavor.