

At its 'satellite meeting' which took place at Barcelona on August 18th-21st, immediately before the 1993 IFLA Conference, the IFLA Section of Art Libraries received what surely must constitute a record number of papers, thirty-five in all, copies of the texts of which were efficiently and handsomely gathered together by the organisers in an impressive volume 'destinat a l'ús exclusiu dels participants' ('intended for exclusive use by the participants').

It is the Section's intention to arrange for the papers to be published, in their entirety, in a separate volume in due course. With this in mind, the *Art Libraries Journal* will publish only a handful of the papers, including some which seem to have a special urgency or topicality. Three are included in this issue. Michel Melot describes the rapidly changing situation in France, where a new Bibliothèque nationale des arts, housed in premises vacated by the Bibliothèque Nationale, promises to provide a new focal point for French art libraries. The interest and excitement which this project has generated is reflected by a host of articles in the professional press, noted by M. Melot and represented elsewhere in this issue in this year's 'Annual Bibliography of Art Librarianship'. In another paper from Barcelona, John Kirby records the continuing tidal wave of change which has swept over Higher Education in the United Kingdom, obliging art librarians among others to somehow cope with many more students and library users without any appreciable or proportionate increase in funding. A third paper from Barcelona, on the documentation systems used by Britain's National Art Library at the Victoria & Albert Museum, had already been overtaken by change at the time of its presentation and has been updated since; we print the latest version.

Following the satellite meeting, and as an integral part of the IFLA Conference itself, the IFLA Section of Art Libraries organised a panel session on 'Education for Art Librarianship', moderated by Mary Williamson. Texts and reports from this session, edited by Mary Williamson, will be published in *Art Libraries Journal* vol. 19 no. 2, which is due to appear in May. This will be the second of a sequence of three 'special' issues. Vol. 19 no. 1 will comprise the proceedings of a panel session on 'Collective issues for Canadian art informa-

tion specialists' at a joint meeting of the two Canadian chapters of ARLIS/NA, ARLIS/MOQ and ARLIS/Ontario, which took place at the National Gallery of Canada in May 1993. This issue will be edited by Irena Zantovska Murray. And later in 1993, the 25th anniversary of ARLIS/UK & Ireland will be marked by a special issue of *Art Libraries Journal* guest-edited by Beth Houghton and Sonia French.

With three such special issues following one after the other, it may seem a long time before the next 'regular' issue is due. However, potential contributors should not be discouraged; *Art Libraries Journal* thrives on forward planning, and we would like to hear from you now, or in the not too distant future, as we turn our minds towards those issues which will take us to our 20th anniversary in 1996. In addition, if there is anyone out there who could take over responsibility for some of our regular columns, please get in touch: 'Bibliographies Update' and the 'Annual Bibliography of Art Librarianship' both offer opportunities to would-be compilers to keep up-to-date, while Alex Ross would be glad to hear from anyone interested in reviewing or in helping out with the reviews section.