

President's Letter

Molly Lambert

So it's 2004 already. I value the past year but am also happy for the change (even though it may be a new year of mixed global promise). For me, the most memorable site visits of the year were to the Civil Rights Museum in Birmingham, Anne Frank's House in Amsterdam, the Pearl Harbor Monument and the Kalaupapa Settlement in Hawai'i. Coincidence? Who knows? In any event, may this be good year for us. Of course, by the time you get this letter 2004 will be under way but why not take some time to wish yourselves well anyway?

Of course we have people to thank for making another year of WAAC happen — Mitchell Bishop, for being President

and, together with Secretary Odile Madden, putting together the annual conference held in Honolulu (a particularly envious place to confer). The meeting was uniquely rich and our gratitude goes to those of you who presented papers, conducted tours and participated in discussions about the topics that compose our profession. As is somewhat traditional, you will find summaries of the Honolulu talks in this issue of the *Newsletter* and several of the papers will be published here over the course of this year as well. Admittedly, Hawai'i was a long way to travel. For those of you who could not make it, we hope to see you this year in New Mexico. Meanwhile, below is a photograph of those of us who were fortunate enough to attend Gretchen Voeks's tour of the Kalaupapa Settlement (commonly and formerly known as the late Father Damian's leper colony) on the island of Molokai.

Many thanks to Susan Sayre Battan, the Honolulu Academy of Art and our other Hawai'i colleagues for being gracious hosts and helping with local arrangements in uncountable ways. Once again, our annual gathering was in many ways a group effort — so often to the astonishment of others because we have no staff and are approximately 600 members strong. As you know, many of our fellow conservators and institutions maintain their WAAC membership for the *Newsletter* alone and another year has passed for which we are thankful to Carolyn Tallent for her critical but pleasant and dedicated work as Newsletter Editor.

New members of the Board of Directors are Beverly Perkins as Vice President, Maureen Russell as a member-at-Large, Pam Skiles as Secretary and Tania Caldas as Treasurer. Donna Williams, Chris Stavroudis, Nancy Odegaard and Walter Henry stay on as Members-at-Large. We thank past Members-at-Large Jane Hutchinson and Claire Dean; both were important voices on the Board that will be missed and deserve special recognition. Claire was responsible for coordinating the Packing & Shipping Works of Art workshop in Seattle, which was a big success. The workshop was conducted by Merv Richard of the National Gallery of Art and jointly sponsored by WAAC and the AIC (with generous funding by the AIC's Professional Development grants; thank you Eric Pourchot). WAAC will continue to offer workshops from time to time. We are currently thinking of offering the Packing & Shipping workshop in the Bay Area this spring or summer and may offer Nancy Odegaard and Scott Carlee's Spot Testing workshop prior to the Santa Fe meetings in the fall. We will keep you posted.

If you have not done so already, please take a look at the WAAC website. We have recently updated it but are always on the lookout for possible improvements, so don't be shy; let any member of the Board know if you have any suggestions. Thank you Walter Henry for advancing our presence in the web world.

Last but not least, the 2004 WAAC conference will be held in Santa Fe on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, October 1st, 2nd and 3rd. The Spot Testing workshop is currently scheduled for September 26th through 29th and if you want to attend the Feast of San Geronimo ceremonies at Taos Pueblo, which is on the 30th of September. All of these dates are provisional (except the Feast Day, presumably) so watch for confirmations in this Newsletter, your mailbox and on the WAAC website. Of course we will put out a call for papers before too long and you should know that we may modify the format of the conference a bit this year by adding poster sessions, short sessions and panel discussants. Stay tuned.

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