

President's Letter

Mitchell Hearn Bishop

Recently I was at the Top of the Mark, that is the 19th floor of the Mark Hopkins Hotel on Nob Hill in San Francisco, enjoying a drink with friends and admiring the view of the city. During my father's war, it was where you went to toast the Golden Gate before shipping out to the war in the Pacific. It was generally believed that this would insure a safe return.

I don't think my mother joined the women in the "Weeper's Corner," the northwest corner of the room to watch his ship sail out the Golden Gate, but many did.

More than half a century later, the only reminder of the bar's wartime popularity is a framed black and white photo of a Flying Fortress with a nude woman in a martini glass painted on the side and the motto "Top of the Mark" beneath. I wonder if the "Top of the Mark" and its crew made it home.

We continued our evening by visiting the Tonga Room and Hurricane Bar at the Fairmont across the street. For those of you who have not had the pleasure, it is a Polynesian themed restaurant with an indoor pool with a boat floating in the middle. At 8 pm the band climbs aboard and plays from the middle of the pool. Periodically faux thunder and lightning herald a faux rainstorm that pours into the pool. I swear that the pace and duration of the storm has increased since my last visit years ago or maybe I'm just older?

The Tonga Room was created shortly after the Second World War presumably to provide those lucky enough to have made the toast at the Top of the Mark to the Golden Gate to take friends and loved ones to a bar where they could enjoy the "South Seas" ambiance they had recently enjoyed themselves. A disappointed warrior, my father's only comment on his naval service during the war was that the most difficult challenge he had faced was concocting club soda for the officers' clubs he had set up for rest and recreation in the wake of the American advance across the Pacific. He informed us that this could be accomplished by bubbling cylinders of compressed carbon dioxide through ordinary water. Apparently this ultimately produced a nicely carbonated effect. I've never tried this myself, having easy access to carbonated water, but I have no reason to doubt his word. My godfather had a different war, spending time on the Burma Road with a British unit. Such was the varied experience of the veterans of the "Good War." Many years and some wars later I found myself thinking how the South Pacific had woven itself into my life culminating in the fact that I was the President of WAAC and planning a conference in Hawai'i.

So, moving from faux Polynesia to the real thing, it's time to remind you that our Annual Meeting will be this October 9-11 at the Honolulu Academy of Arts (<http://www.honoluluacademy.org/>), a very beautiful museum in the heart of Honolulu. The new director of the museum, Dr. Stephen Little, has graciously agreed to honor us with a keynote address.

The first day of talks will be devoted to a spectrum of presentations about conservation in the Hawaiian islands and the special concerns that accompany conservation in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Hawai'i has a great deal to conserve, running the gamut from archaeological sites to contemporary art and architecture. On page 3 of this issue of the *Newsletter* you'll find the call for papers for the conference. I hope many of you will submit papers. Ideally, if you have a topic relating to the Pacific or Asia, that would be great, but by all means please submit any talk you would like to give.

We are working on a variety of events for members attending the conference including a Banquet at Indigo Restaurant's "Opium Den" in Honolulu's historic

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Volume 25 Number 2
WAAC Newsletter

President's letter, continued

Chinatown, right around the corner from the Hubba Hubba Club (sadly now abandoned) beloved by wartime servicemen and their younger counterparts well into the 50's and 60's. Chinatown today is home to a number of very good restaurants like Indigo and Duc's Bistro. As well, it is the best place to buy traditional leis and an amazing array of fish and produce, making Hawai'i one of the best places to cook on the planet (<http://www.chinatownhi.com/index.asp>). Close to Chinatown on the waterfront is the Aloha Tower where the Matson Line ships used to dock. The area is now a very pleasant mall and home to the Maritime Museum. You can still climb the Aloha Tower and take a look at the harbor. We are also planning a couple of receptions at various locations that will allow us to visit some of the other museums in Honolulu.

I would encourage you all to book your hotel and airfare early since this will lock in cheaper rates. We are not going to have a conference hotel but will be suggesting one of several hotels in case you would like to stay with friends and share transportation. Please watch the WAAC web site (<http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/waac/>) for more conference information which we will post as we have it. There is a bus system in Honolulu, but I would recommend renting a car or taking cabs. The distance from Waikiki to the Honolulu Academy of Arts is short but not really walkable except for the very fit and those with plenty of time.

We will also be having a silent auction at the banquet to benefit Ka'ala Farm. For details, see Claire Dean's description in this newsletter on the next page. Claire and Beverly Perkins will be coordinating the silent auction and soliciting items. We hope to match the success of last year's event at Portland. It was both a lot of fun and made a nice chunk of money for Arts Alive.

Conference events will also include a cocktail party on the first day of the conference, and we are working on a couple of tours after the conference. More details will be posted on the web site as soon as we have firm arrangements.

The mid-year board meeting for WAAC was held at the Getty Center on March 13th. Among the items discussed was the location of the next annual meeting. Molly Lambert will preside and has chosen Santa Fe, New Mexico as the site.

A great deal of discussion was devoted to finding a replacement, make that replacements, for Chris Stavroudis. We concluded that we will be looking for several positions. A Treasurer, a Membership Secretary, and a Fulfillments person to handle the shipping of publications and back issues of the newsletter. Since the meeting, Tania Collas has agreed to become our new Treasurer. Tania will be working with Chris until the Honolulu meeting and will then take over the job afterwards. We are very pleased to have Tania as our new Treasurer! We still need a Membership Secretary and someone to handle Fulfillments. If you are interested, please contact me or any other member of the board.

At the meeting we also welcomed Walter Henry as our new Web Editor on the board. With Walter's help we hope to mount more information for our members on the WAAC web site. The Hawai'i meeting will be the first time we will attempt to use our web site in an expanded way for this purpose. We are also looking at ways to automate the record keeping practices of WAAC to improve oversight and make it possible for the board to work more effectively.

I think this year will be an excellent time for us to hold our annual meeting in Hawai'i. The Hawaiian Islands are without a doubt one of the most beautiful places on earth and one of the most culturally varied. In conservation terms, all the most interesting issues confronting conservators can be found in Hawai'i. I hope you will join us in Honolulu in the fall and either get to know Hawai'i or become reacquainted.

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Deadline

Contributions for the September Newsletter should be received by the Editor before **July 30, 2003**.

Western Association for Art Conservation

The Western Association for Art Conservation (formerly, the Western Association of Art Conservators), also known as **WAAC**, was founded in 1974 to bring together conservators practicing in the western United States to exchange ideas, information, and regional news, and to discuss national and international matters of common interest.

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Internet

Articles and most columns from past issues of WAAC Newsletter are available on-line at the WAAC Website, a part of CoOL (Conservation OnLine) hosted by Stanford University Libraries. WAAC's URL is: <http://palimpsest.stanford.edu/waac/>.

Call for Papers

This year's annual meeting is in Honolulu, Hawai'i, October 9th - 11th. If you would like to present a paper, please complete the Abstract Form (located on the back inside cover) and return it to Mitchell Hearn Bishop. You may also email the information. Please submit your abstract as soon as possible, but no later than August 1st. This year, we will have a focus on Hawaiian and Pacific-Asian topics but please feel free to submit a talk on any conservation topic. There is no limit to the length of abstracts, and presenters are encouraged to provide a comprehensive summary of their paper, as these will be printed in the *Newsletter* as postprints. Remember, for members unable to attend the meeting, this abstract will be the only account of your paper they will receive. If you need more space, please attach additional sheets of paper. All presenters must be registered as meeting attendees to be included in the final program. We are also asking you to provide a brief biography so that we can compile introductions for each speaker ahead of time. Lastly, do not forget to indicate what audio-visual equipment you will need for your presentation.

Mitchell Hearn Bishop

Second Annual SILENT AUCTION

We are delighted to tell you about the organization chosen to receive the funds generated by this year's Silent Auction in Hawai'i.

Ka'ala Farm, Inc.'s Cultural Learning Center lies in the upper Wai'anae Valley beneath the tallest mountain on Oahu, Mauna Ka'ala. Beginning more than 25 years ago, a group of Native Hawaiians decided to clear this historic, overgrown, and off limits area. They revealed terraced rock walls built hundreds of years ago for the purpose of cultivating kalo (taro) to feed the ancient coastal community.

Ka'ala Farm has since dedicated itself to teach the values and practices of the Hawaiian people of old. They provide Native Hawaiian cultural education and environmental conservation programs to schoolchildren, young adults, and elders. Programs include the growing of kalo and the making of poi, the making of kapa (Hawaiian bark cloth) and kapa beaters, and the growing of native plants for reintroduction to their natural habitat as well for the establishment of native plant gardens throughout the community.

Other programs include the restoration of natural water systems, ancient Hawaiian methods of navigation, paddle making, stone carving, as well as mapping and documentation of archaeological sites. Master canoe builders recently participated in teaching children the art of carving an 'opelu fishing canoe from a 27 foot koa log. In March it was blessed and entered the ocean for the first time. It will be used to teach the old ways of fishing and how to sustain rather than deplete the fish population of the ocean. Ka'ala Farm, Inc.'s endeavors continue to grow as they establish partnerships with other institutions and individuals throughout the local and larger community. The Learning Center's multifaceted approach to cultural education and the preservation of traditional ways of life fits perfectly into the vision we had when setting up the first auction last year.

It is now up to us to provide "the goods." As with last year, we hope that you will bring items with you to the meeting. If you will not be attending the meeting but would like to contribute either an auction item or a monetary donation, or if you have any other questions, please contact either J. Claire Dean (clairedean@aol.com or 503-331-1972) or Beverly Perkins (Perkins.b@attbi.com or 909-698-1520). Lastly, thanks to Downey Manoukian for providing the information on Ka'ala Farm.