

## President's Letter

*Molly Lambert*

I'm back from a second trip to the Middle East -- returning home to a host of questions with a common theme. Was it dangerous there? Did you feel threatened? Was it embarrassing to be an American? So I thought I would take a few spaces here to say no. It wasn't dangerous, and I didn't feel threatened. The part about being embarrassed I will leave up to your imagination. Mind you, Egypt has been called the Italy of the Middle East and, at least at the surface, may show more interest in a nice breeze, a hot cup of tea, and some good sheesha (fruit-oil soaked tobacco smoked in a tall water-pipe). While I would not recommend one go in the hot summer months, in my opinion, I think it is good to go. Good for the soul. It is a fascinating place with people getting on with their days in a fundamentally familiar way.

Meanwhile, as you get this Newsletter, WAAC will be experiencing its annual change of guard, and the 2004 Annual Meeting in Santa Fe will be under way or behind us. Many thanks to Pam Skiles, WAAC Secretary, for all of her thoughtful and diligent work that has gone into running the organization and annual meeting this year (and for not minding the nipping dog). Thanks also go to Santa Fe conservators Emily O'Brien and Angelyn Bass Rivera for giving valuable help whenever asked -- opinions, arrangements, and firewood -- you name it. Special thanks to the staff of the conservation lab of the Museums of New Mexico who bent over backwards to help with the meeting and its many events; we all owe them a very nice round of applause. Last but not least, you need to know that credit for the success of this meeting should go to Maureen Russell, without whom I would have been in big trouble. She is better than chocolate.

Your next President is Beverly Perkins, and you will be in good hands as she puts together the 2005 meeting in Cody, Wyoming. Also come October, a few new members of the Board will be taking their WAAC vows, and a new Vice President will be in place. It's all part of the evolutionary process -- one that we hope is as seamless for the membership as possible. WAAC is a remarkable group, and I know that every outgoing President says the same thing each year, but it has truly been a pleasure to serve on this Board of Directors. We are a well-run organization and a source of pride. What could be better?

### Contents

<b>President's Letter</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Annual Meeting News</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Regional News</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Technical Exchange</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Health and Safety</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Moisture Isotherms of Acrylic Emulsion Paints</b> <i>by Charles S. Tumosa and Marion F. Mecklenburg</i>	<b>12</b>
<b>Review: Research &amp; Technical Studies Session AIC, Portland</b> <i>by Jim Druzik</i>	<b>14</b>
<b>Membership</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>AYMHM</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Jobs / Calendar</b>	<b>20</b>

### Where we are as of 8/19/2004

Domestic members (511 total) western states in bold

<b>California</b> 223	<b>Oregon</b> 18	Ohio 7
New York 41	<b>Arizona</b> 15	Illinois 6
Massachusetts 28	Maryland 15	District of Columbia 5
<b>Texas</b> 24	<b>New Mexico</b> 12	Minnesota 5
<b>Washington</b> 22	<b>Hawaii</b> 12	Missouri 4
<b>Colorado</b> 20	Virginia 8	

3 - Connecticut, Delaware, Georgia, Maine, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Wisconsin  
 2 - **Alaska**, Florida, **Idaho**, **Montana**, Rhode Island, Tennessee  
 1 - Kansas, Louisiana, Michigan, North Carolina, Nebraska, New Hampshire, **Nevada**, South Carolina, **Utah**, West Virginia

International members (45 total):

Canada 22  
 3 - Australia, Switzerland, The Netherlands  
 2 - France, New Zealand, Norway, Spain  
 1 - Cyprus, England, Germany, Italy, Japan, Sweden

(plus 29 publication exchanges and copies sent to training programs)