

HAWAII MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

NEWS OF THE HAWAII MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

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IN THIS ISSUE

SPRING MEETING

April 27, 28, 29 - page 1

MUSEUM NEWS

Latest happenings with
HMA members - page 2

VISITOR SURVEY

Who is our Visitor? The
Waioli Mission House Survey
by Barnes Riznik - page 3

FALL MEETING

Wrap up on meeting on
Museums and Schools - page 4

ELECTION OF HMA BOARD

Slate submitted by
Nominations Committee - page 6

The HAWAII MUSEUMS'
ASSOCIATION is a non-profit
organization dedicated to
the promotion of a continu-
ing awareness of the needs,
concerns, and responsibili-
ties of the Museum Profession
in Hawaii.



JIM MACK being "honored" at a HMA board meeting. He was presented with the finest linen Ronald McDonald bib, and a crack seed lei. Jim is the Advisory Officer for the Visual Arts to the Queen Elizabeth II Arts Council of New Zealand. A fine title!



VIRGINIA WIRTZ and ALBERTA SEBOLT ponder a problem in Museum education at the Maui workshop.

SPRING MEETING

Workshop on Exhibition Design, The Army Museum, Fort DeRussy

Mr. Theodore Cohen of the Oakland Museum is returning to Hawaii in April to co-direct another workshop in exhibition design. The April workshop will be a continuation of a presentation by Mr. Cohen and Arminta Neil during the fall of 1977. Participants at that workshop (held in Lihue) overwhelmingly approved of its uncompromising practicality, and indicated their desire for similar workshops in the future. Ever eager to please, the program committee has arranged for just that.

The April workshop is intended to provide both greater exposure to the principles of good design and very practical experiences in the application of these principles. A team of three consultants will lead the participants in a consideration of design theory as it applies to a particular local museum, in this case the Hawaii Army Museum which will be hosting the workshop. Then, the participants will be grouped into teams and asked to prepare an exhibition plan for adoption by the Hawaii Army Museum.

The premise underlying the program is that active participation in an actual planning venture serves as a stimulant to inquiry; the more immediate one's questions. Once specific problems are isolated, then theoretical principles become possible answers.

The team of consultants is available to provide evaluation and guidance to the participants whenever needed. Besides Mr. Cohen, the team includes Mr. David Kemble of the Bishop Museum, and Mr. Tom Klobe of the University of Hawaii Art Department Museum. Under their leadership, participants will evaluate their designs both for style and for the more mundane limitations of available funds, time, space and materials.

The two day program will conclude with a general evaluation by participants of each other's designs followed by a sharing of helpful hints.

The workshop is scheduled for April 26 and 27 (Thursday and Friday). All activities will be hosted by the U.S. Army Recreation Center at Fort DeRussy and by the Hawaii Army Museum Society, a civilian organization. Membership in the Hawaii Museums Association is not a prerequisite to admission; all will be charged equally the registration fee!

MUSEUM NEWS

HAWAII

Lyman House Memorial Museum

Emily Spargo-Guerrero, Registrar-Conservator at Lyman House Museum, has been cleaning telephones. She has been preparing a special exhibition of the telephone collection of Mr. Roy S. Blackshear. There are over 130 phones in this collection, including many of the "firsts" in communication history.

KAUAI

Kauai Museum

The NANCY MEE PRINT SHOW is the current exhibit at the Kauai Museum. Also, plans are underway to publish a sequel to Early Kauai Hospitality, by Dora Jane Isenberg Cole and Juliet Rice. All best sellers of the 70's have come out in "twos": Jaws, Airport, etc. Nice to know that Museums are having similar success in their publishing.

Kokee Museum

Kokee Museum is bringing Arminta Neal out in early September to work on their exhibits. Ms. Neal was in Hawaii for the HMA meeting in the fall of 1977. She gave a workshop on exhibit construction.

Kokee Museum has a new coat of paint. Their new director, Frank Hays, is planning new exhibits on the Kokee area.

Waioli Mission House

Waioli Mission made the cover of Sunset's January issue. Also, be sure to read the article by Barnes Riznik on the visitor survey conducted there.

OAHU

Honolulu Academy of Arts

The first section of the Academy's new gallery for the Traditional Arts of the

Pacific, Africa and the Americas is open. The installation, now open, covers the arts of Hawaii including kapa and kapa making equipment, decorated gourd containers, wooden bowls and other items of daily use. It includes many objects that have not been on view. Work is progressing on the other sections.

Speaking of progress: The floor has been removed from the Contemporary Arts Gallery in the Clare Boothe Luce wing. It will be replaced and installation completed by mid April.

HONOLULU PRINTMAKERS 50th ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION AND PRINTS BY S.W. HAYTER: A RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION, will open at the Academy on Friday, May 16.

Moanalua Gardens Foundation

Lorin T. Gill is the new education coordinator for Moanalua Gardens Foundation. In addition to guiding educational tours into Moanalua Valley and assisting with slide-show presentations in the classroom, Gill hopes to develop and implement environmental education programs which use Moanalua's unique historic Hawaiian environment as well as other local resources.

Hawaiian Historical Society

At the Historical Society's March membership meeting, Dr. Helen Geracimos Chapin spoke on the Greek immigrants to Hawaii. The first Greeks arrived in the late 1870's, and Dr. Chapin's uncle, the first member of her family to emigrate to Hawaii came in 1889.

Friends of Iolani Palace

Iolani Palace is a popular attraction. It is often hard to get in on their reservation line for tours early in the morning. The inside dope is: call after 10:30 A.M. Also, there are often last minute cancellations and it is sometimes possible to slip in at the last minute.

The Landscaping Committee is working on a plan for the restoration and landscaping of the grounds, and is interested in photographs of the mauka area of the grounds.

Daughters of Hawaii

Ellin Burkland was recently installed as the regent of the Daughters of Hawaii.

Bishop Museum

CONTEMPORARY REFLECTION OF THE PAST, a special exhibit featuring the art of Hale Naua III will be at the Museum through May 31. Hale Naua III is a hui of native Hawaiian artists formed to perpetuate the culture and arts of ancient Hawaii and to make these arts a vital living entity. The first Hale Naua was established by High Chief Haho to identify the Alii class. The organization of Hale Naua II in the 1880's under Kalaukua was an attempt to preserve and perpetuate remaining kahuna knowledge and skills.

The Atherton Family Foundation made a gift of \$200,000 to the Bishop Museum for the construction of a halau on the Museum grounds. The halau will be available for different groups that meet at the museum, and will be used for the orientation of school groups, for lecture series, seminars, slide presentations, conferences and scientific association meetings.

Bishop Museum Festival will be held Sunday, April 1, 10 am to 5 pm. There will be continuous entertainment, good food (a Tongan plate lunch!), and a special sale of surplus stuffs. There will be a \$3.00 admission fee.

WHO IS OUR VISITOR? THE WAIOLI MISSION HOUSE SURVEY

By Barnes Riznik

The more we know about individual visitors to museums and historic sites, the better our opportunity for an exchange of significant information and ideas through interpretive exhibits, publications, and staff-guided tours of the museum or site.

As an aid in preparing and evaluating our interpretive tours at Waioli Mission House in Hanalei, Kauai, we organized a short visitor survey two years ago. We have gathered and studied information on a once-a-week basis, and the resulting sample represents 15% of all adult visitors between January 1, 1977 and December 31, 1978. The survey is being continued to provide regular up-to-date data on our museum audience. The questionnaire takes less than ten minutes to complete, and is filled out by all visitors after they have finished touring our museum.

The Waioli survey produces objective information about 1.) frequency of visits to museums and historic sites; 2.) personal data, including age, education, occupation, and home location; and 3.) visitor evaluation of our interpretation.

In 1978, for example, 66% of our visitors reported that they had visited three or more museums in the past year. Every museum staff is greatly encouraged in its programming when it learns that more than half of its visitors are regular museum-goers. However, the same data also reveals that at least 15% of visitors were relatively unfamiliar with museum settings (did not visit a museum or historic site in the last year), alerting guide staff to the importance of flexibility in approach towards interpretation.

Two-thirds of our Waioli visitors were first-time visitors to the island of Kauai and more than half (54%) were first-time visitors to the state of Hawaii. Twelve percent of our adult visitors lived in the state of Hawaii.

We also learned, in a supplementary six-month survey, that fewer than 20% of Waioli visitors have visited other Hawaiian Missionary historic houses, the Bishop Museum or the Kauai Museum. Findings like these suggest the need to provide most Mainland visitors, if possible, with a general Hawaiian background as part of a tour. That's quite a challenge.

When compared with other Mainland "visitor profile" studies by the Hawaii Visitors Bureau, Waioli visitors differ in at least one important way: all of our Mainland visitors are independent travelers, where the statewide tourism figure has been 50% in tour groups and 50% independent travelers (1976), though the number of independent visitors is increasing.

The survey asks visitors "What did you find most informative and interesting about your tour of Waioli?" That open-ended question produced a highly valuable list of responses which show 1.) visitor interests, and 2.) effectiveness of communicating the content of an individual tour. Here are the results of the question.

What Did You Find Most Informative?

History (Missionary, Family, Hawaiian)	58%
Artifacts (furnishings, books, china, etc.)	39%
Guides and tour	37%
Trees, plants, setting	26%
House, rooms and their uses	14%
Authenticity, preservation, restoration, upkeep	11%
Construction and architecture	9%
Everything	9%
Other	9%

FALL MEETING

Bonnie Pitman-Gelles and Alberta Sebolt gave a dynamic presentation on Museums and Schools at the fall HMA meeting in Hilo. Fifty-eight people attended the meeting. It was followed by workshops with participants from the Department of Education on the Big Island (16 participants), Kauai (60 participants), Maui (60 participants) and Oahu (53 participants).

The Hawaii Museums Association Occasional Paper No. 3 will be on the Museum-School meeting. This publication will be available at the spring meeting.

Funding for the workshops came in part from the American Association for State and Local History, the Atherton Family Foundation, and Hawaiian Trust Co., Ltd.

Comments on the Fall Meeting:

Ed Creutz, Director, Bishop Museum. "Congratulations to Hawai'i Museums Association for putting together an outstanding conference on Museums and Schools. It was particularly satisfying that the varied and well-planned activities helped participants to recognize that each institution, large or small, is a treasure in itself, and at the same time can develop school partnerships to enhance the quality of education here in Hawai'i."

Emiko Kudo, Deputy Superintendent of Education, DOE. "I know our staff will continue to provide any assistance within their areas of expertise. I hope you can continue your efforts toward making the museums in Hawaii a vital part of the learning experiences for many of our students."

Roger Dell, Curator, Gallery Education Program, Honolulu Academy of Arts. "The Gallery Education staff enjoyed the exchange of ideas with the two specialists in museum education which the HMA brought to its fall meeting ... Mrs. Bonnie Pitman-Gelles spent approximately two hours with the staff in a 'brainstorming' session covering a wide range of art museum education concerns."

Patricia Edmondson, Docent Coordinator, Education Department, Bishop Museum. "The quality of professionalism shown by both Alberta Sebolt and Bonnie Pitman-Gelles and their ability to relate to our needs was most impressive. Their willingness to share their expertise with us on a continuing basis is very gratifying. The end result will most assuredly be a closer working relationship between the Department of Education curriculum specialists, classroom teachers, and museum educational personal. We are now more aware of each other's needs in order to reach our common educational goals concerning the youth in Hawai'i."

GENERAL NEWS

Art and Law

Sponsored by the University of Hawaii Law School and the Department of Art and the Honolulu Legal Auxiliary, Professor of Art History, Albert Elsen, of Stanford, lectured on "Art and Law". His impressive agenda included illegal traffic in works of art, growing pressures for National Patrimonial Acts, censorship, the limits of artistic freedom, the artist's rights, and problems facing museums and their trustees.

Oral History Conference

Hawaii's first oral History Conference, sponsored by the Hawaii Multi-Cultural Center, took place Saturday and Sunday, February 17 and 18. The keynote speakers were Ms. Willa Baum, author of Oral History for the Local Historical Society, and Mr. William Moss, author of the Oral History Manual. Many local people participated in panels on video projects, Hawaii ethnic history, Asian, Polynesian, European, and Puerto Rican community history.

American Studies Conference

Put the American Studies conference on your calendar: April 20-22, at the Kahi O Hohala, Hawaii Institute for Management and Analysis in Government, 3860 Pali Road. The conference will offer a chance for people from many walks of life who are interested in the study of American culture, particularly American culture in Hawaii, to meet each other, discuss common interests, hear lectures, take tours, attend plays and performances, all centered around the chosen conference theme, "Hawaii as American Experience".

Of People

Dick Clack, board member of the Army Museum Society, will be on the HMA board for the rest of the year (till the spring meeting). He is filling in the vacancy left by Jim Mack.

Welcome To Our New Members

Individual

Louise B. Isherwood	Joyce Davis
Frances Hasegawa	Karen Lun
Margaret Furukawa	Mitsue Okimoto
Frank O. Hay	Robert Bush
Ruth Kraft	Diana D. Smart
Christina Lothian	Pat Hamman
Mabel Meyers	Pamela J. Nemecheck
Ronald Lockwood	Zita Ann Cup Choy
Marion Kelly	Corrine L. L. Chun
Barbara Hunt	Gordon M. Nishita

Institutional

Historic Preservation Office
Institute for Polynesian Studies,
Brigham Young University

Election of Board Members

Elections for the HMA board will be held at the spring meeting. There will be five positions to be filled. They include: president; 3 Oahu representatives, for 2-year terms; 1 Oahu representative for 1-year term (to complete Jim Mack's term); 1 Hawaii representative for a 2-year term. The following people will remain on the board: Ruth Tamura, Barnes Riznik, Lynn Davis, and Virginia Wirtz.

The nominations committee has prepared a slate for the election. Please remember that nominations are welcome from the floor during the general meeting that will be held Saturday, April 29. The nomination committee is certainly not infallible. Your input is vital.

The following slate has been recommended by the nomination committee:

President

Barnes Riznik

Oahu Representatives (2-year term, 3 to be elected;
1-year term, 1 to be elected)

Pat Edmondson Debra Pope
James Jenson Larry Scrivani
Tom Klobe Susan Shaner

Hawaii Representative (2-year term, 1 to be elected)

Marni Herkes
Emily Spargo-Guerrero

Environmental Education Project

Sue Hampson, a member of the Environmental Education Project with the University of Hawaii, is interested in environmental education resources the members of HMA might have to offer. She is concerned primarily with those materials which are appropriate for the use at an elementary school level. If you have anything to offer, get in touch with Ms. Hampson or Holly Fiocca at 948-7910.

Nu Hou

This issue of Nu Hou is particularly exciting because of the contribution of so many HMA members. We would like to continue to publish articles, like Barnes' article on the visitor survey. Let's share our experiences with each other. Nu Hou is a perfect vehicle for doing that. We now have a bulk mailing permit, and have the advantages of mailing at the non-profit rate.

This issue of Nu Hou would not have been possible without the contributions and encouragement of many HMA members and friends. Special thanks to Virginia Cartwright for typing labels, Will Moos, the enquiring reports, Gardner Young who "cleans up" my grammar and spelling, Harriet Miura, the typist, Larry Scrivani, who handles xeroxing, folding and stapling. MAHALO!

Anyone who would like to work on future issues of Nu Hou is most welcome. I have especially enjoyed using rubber cement on photographs.

Lynn Davis, March Nu Hou Editor

3-79

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