

From the President's desk

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by Carla Bossi-Comelli, WFFM President

December 2008

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Words from the WFFM President highlighting the main activities developed throughout 2008 and the future perspectives for this year.

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Dear Friends,

We have come to the conclusion of a very fruitful 2008. This year was dedicated mostly to the organisation of the XIII International Congress in Jerusalem but we also held, as we do every year, our Council Meeting and General Assembly in Paris.

For the first time in our history a WFFM Congress was hosted by a Museum, the Israel Museum of Jerusalem. The International Council of the Israel Museum organized the event with a special appointed team chaired by its Vice-President for International Relationships Daniel Ben-Natan.

Daniel Ben-Natan, who is also the WFFM Treasurer, dedicated considerable time and effort to present and promote the event in order to attract people from different backgrounds and cultures throughout the world.

The objective was to bring together friends, volunteers and Museum professionals for a stimulating and practical debate on the subject chosen for the Congress: "The Relationships between Museums, Friends and Volunteers". The programme resulted in a success both in terms of the themes proposed for discussion as well as of the large attendance from 28 different countries.

I am very proud to say that the four-day sessions were filled with interesting matters of discussion and enjoyed the full participation during the workshops. In particular, the "market place" of the last session ended in a passionate debate on the roles and activities of friends and volunteers, demonstrating the awareness and concern of participants on the subject.

In conclusion the XIII World Congress showed the vitality, strength and central importance of the World Federation for Museums, friends and volunteers. In its international context, the WFFM seeks to further improve communication and understanding between friends, volunteers and Museums, based upon a relationship among "equals" working together on behalf of the Museum they represent.

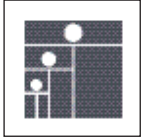
I am sure that the Congress held in Jerusalem provided a special impulse, pushing us with renewed strength towards the accomplishment of our projects and ideals, reinforcing our relationship with professionals working in Museums and ultimately leading us towards a better knowledge and safeguard of our universal heritage.

This past year the WFFM Council Meeting and General Assembly was held in Paris from the 24th to the 27th of April. The Meeting, organized by the "Fédération Française des Sociétés d'Amis de Musées" was a great event, with a high attendance from our members. The success of the event was due to the accurate job of FFSAM President and WFFM Vice-President for Europe Jean-Michel Raingard, who was able to improve the exchange of ideas and information between WFFM members in the Region.

I am very satisfied to notice that WFFM members in Europe increased their participation to the several Regional Meetings also promoted by its Vice-President.

The last regional meeting held in Paris was full of interesting suggestions and projects that will need the commitment of the European representatives to be developed.

The next WFFM Council and General Assembly Meeting will be held in Glasgow starting Thursday, April 30th through Sunday, May 3rd 2009. It will be hosted by the British Association of Friends of Museums and organized by the Friends of Glasgow Museums. The organising team



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has already circulated the program and the necessary information for all our members who wish to attend the event.

I strongly recommend you to attend this key appointment of the World Federation of Friends of Museums, given that during this meeting the WFFM officers' elections will take place .

Your presence will be fundamental in order to face together our Organisation's future challenges.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Carla Bossi-Comelli, WFFM President  
Mexico City, Mexico – December 2008