

ICCROM

NEWSLETTER

June 2006

32



Programmes

The articles in this newsletter reflect the range of programme activities carried out by ICCROM during 2005–2006. These activities take place worldwide and take on a variety of forms. They involve courses, meetings, seminars and publications on a wide range of topics, as well as technical advisory missions and other forms of support to Member States.

The ICCROM programmes that have been recommended by Council and approved by the General Assembly for the 2006-2007 Biennium are as follows:

ICCROM Forum
Preventive conservation
Sharing conservation decisions
CollAsia 2010 (for Southeast Asian collections)
Archives and libraries collections conservation
Built heritage
AFRICA 2009
ATHAR

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Cover images

Top left: A funerary monument in the Non-Catholic Cemetery of Rome.

Top right: The Old City of Nablus in April 2002 (© K. Bishara).

Bottom left: the library in Schloss Branitz, Cottbus, Germany (© Stiftung Fürst Pückler Museum Park und Schloß Branitz).

Bottom right: Participants of the ATHAR course examine mosaics.

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Reflections on ICCROM's 50th Anniversary

Mounir Bouchenaki



It is with even greater pleasure than usual that I contribute to this latest issue of the ICCROM Newsletter, since it is the 50th anniversary of the resolution taken in 1956 during the 9th session of UNESCO's General Conference held in New Delhi to create an international centre for the study of the conservation and restoration of cultural heritage, of which the headquarters would be in Rome.

This resolution was the result of discussions started in 1952 by the Swiss representative, who considered that given the state of cultural heritage, the international community did not require the creation of a fund, as had originally been suggested, but rather that of a specialised institution with the primary functions of coordinating research, contributing to the training of a body of conservation and restoration professionals, and creating appropriate documentation.

The first question that comes to mind, in my opinion, is the pertinence of that historic decision, followed naturally by the question of its validity after nearly half a century of ICCROM's existence. It brings us back to the middle of the twentieth century, only a decade since the creation of UNESCO and the end of one of the most murderous conflicts in the history of humanity.

As well as the innumerable casualties of this war, there was also the tragic loss of cultural heritage. These circumstances also, by the way, led the founding fathers of UNESCO to implement the first international treaty dedicated to the protection of cultural heritage and to ensure the adoption, by 1954, of the Hague Convention, as well as the first Protocol for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict. The fact that a second protocol to this convention was drafted, then adopted, at The Hague in 1999 goes to show, unfortunately, that armed conflicts are not on the wane, even though they have changed in nature. Their consequences are still just as disastrous to humans, their environment, and cultural and natural heritage.

Two years after this Convention was promulgated, the decision to create ICCROM was taken and Italy offered to provide a location for its headquarters. As rightly pointed out in the document published on the occasion of ICCROM's 40th anniversary

(ICCROM & Italia. Quarant'anni per la salvaguardia del patrimonio culturale):

in this climate of post-war ferment, a number of major international committees and institutions for the protection of cultural heritage were established, and it became necessary to hasten the commissioning of the first major operations to protect universally famous but seriously imperilled archaeological sites.

This situation highlighted the need to establish an intergovernmental technical agency to study and disseminate methods and research in the field of conservation and restoration.

Fifty years after the New Delhi resolution, we are now able to see the tremendous progress that has been accomplished in the restoration and conservation of cultural heritage and, notably thanks to ICCROM, in the training, in various regions around the world, of at least two generations of experts and professionals in the field. But at the same time, in order to respond to the urgent needs arising from damage to sites, historical monuments, museums, libraries and archives, caused not only by conflicts but also by natural disasters, one can safely claim with no risk of being contradicted that ICCROM, supported by and in partnership with other national institutions, is more necessary than ever.

This is true also of other institutions such as the Istituto Centrale del Restauro in Rome, ICCROM's immediate neighbour in its prestigious and well-known premises at the Via di San Michele. As the Director General of ICR, Catarina Bon Valsassina, noted in 2005 in her introduction to the English translation of Cesare Brandi's *Theory of Restoration*, 'requests for the ICR's presence abroad in the conservation field, involving manifold aspects of scientific advice, direct treatment, and training of conservator-restorers, has grown exponentially in the past ten years.'

Moreover, let us not forget that, at the General Conference that led to the birth of ICCROM, one of the first recommendations concerning a specific area of cultural heritage was adopted, namely how to deal with archaeological research and the



organization of excavations. In spite of the half-century that separates us from the drafting of this text, it has to be acknowledged that the issues it raises are still very much to the fore today.

There is no doubt that ICCROM Member States (which number 117 at the time of writing) are increasingly committed to ensuring the protection of their cultural heritage. One can take great satisfaction in noting two recent trends that confirm this. The first is the steady increase over the last three decades in the number of States that have ratified the 1972 UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, with the prospect of an almost universal acceptance of this international standard-setting instrument. This is highly unusual and worth taking note of. On three occasions ICCROM, as a specialised intergovernmental institution, together with two non-governmental organisations, ICOMOS and IUCN, is mentioned in the text of the 1972 Convention: in Article 8.3, in Article 13.7, and in Article 14.

Here is another reason that leads one to ask Member States, as well as those who are not yet members, to adhere to and thus reinforce ICCROM's role and position as a 'centre of excellence' for training, research and awareness-raising in the conservation of cultural heritage.

The second trend observed on the international level, in terms of the States' interest in cultural heritage, regards the speed with which the recent UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage, adopted in Paris in 2003, was ratified. Nearly fifty States are at present parties to this convention, which helped to provide a wider and more encompassing definition of the notion of cultural heritage, one that is no longer limited to its tangible aspects.

In his foreword to the *Apologie du périssable* (*Ode to the Perishable*), Pierre Nora noted that: the extension of the concept of heritage has been accompanied by astounding diversification. In the same manner, it has promoted an astounding principle of inflation... It is in fact a new form of managing our relationship with time and space which is being set, a vast outburst of our historical memory and a shift in its traditional supports of reference.

For his part, our colleague Jukka Jokilehto, in his work entitled *A History of Architectural Conservation* (Oxford, 1999), reminds us that 'modern conservation has been essentially related to new historical consciousness, but it has also been closely linked with evolving science and systematic research for knowledge about the past.'

It is a fact that we are witnessing, on the one hand, the widespread popularity of UNESCO's World Heritage List, and an ardent desire by States to put their cultural and natural heritage sites on that list. On the other hand, we are also witnessing to our regret the damage and destruction of sites that are considered less important, hence the danger of advocating a hierarchy of sites and of distinguishing between major and minor types of heritage. Similarly, the treatment of the various forms of intangible cultural heritage must not be perceived as merely a minor adjunct to tangible heritage.

It is worth mentioning, in this respect, the thoughts of the former President of ICCROM's General Assembly, Abdelaziz Daoulatli. During a conference held in Reggio Calabria in 2003, he raised the issue of the complementarity of the 1972 and 2003 Conventions, stating that 'both types of heritage constitute an indivisible whole, tangible heritage being in fact the material expression of intangible heritage. Under these conditions, is it not more prudent and



ICCROM's first premises in the Via Cavour, Rome.

judicious to synergize both components of cultural heritage, unifying the methods and means used to conserve them, and hence manage to give an even more humanistic meaning to the universal, putting greater emphasis on the notion of cultural diversity.'

Concerning this point, ICCROM's role will also be fundamental in assisting with the implementation of policies for the training of technical staff specialised in collecting, recording, listing, safeguarding, and conserving the tangible elements that generally provide the medium for the expressions and manifestations of mankind's intangible heritage.

Based on the experience acquired, and the legitimacy bestowed upon it by its Member States, ICCROM must continue, via its governing bodies of the General Assembly and the Council, to analyse the state of cultural heritage worldwide, and to evaluate the impact of its training and awareness-raising programmes. Thanks to the expertise accumulated by ICCROM's staff and experts, one can be sure that the new challenges facing the international community at the dawn of the third millennium with respect to the safeguarding its cultural and natural heritage can be met.

All experts agree on the fact that fragility is one of the characteristics of the complex reality that is cultural heritage. The disappearance of the latter, as underlined by French art historian André Chastel, represents a major loss. The strategies developed by my predecessors at ICCROM over the last few decades, especially in the elaboration and implementation of training courses in Rome and in various locations around the world, have contributed in a significant manner to the creation of laboratories, schools and institutes, of which some are already of international repute.

Among them, the Ecole du Patrimoine Africain in Cotonou (Benin) stands out. This school deserves a special mention because it serves as a model of good practice for the training of professional heritage workers. Furthermore, the recent decision taken in Cape Town, South Africa, in July 2005 by the World Heritage Committee to support the initiative aimed at creating an African fund in favour of cultural heritage, represents a decisive step in the reinforcement of the structures responsible for the protection and valorisation of the

continent's cultural heritage. The Nairobi meeting, which brought together African Ministers of Culture in November 2005, and the Summit of African Heads of State held in Khartoum in January 2006 added further weight to this decision. It thus offers a new challenge for ICCROM, which is already involved in a large-scale Africa-oriented training programme.

The recent meeting, held in Venice in December 2005 by the Italian Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Culture in cooperation with UNESCO Venice Office, on the theme of the cultural heritage of South Eastern Europe, was honoured by the participation of the President of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as all the Ministers of Culture and personnel in charge of heritage protection in the Balkans. This important meeting, presided over by the Italian Minister of Culture, follows the meeting held in Mostar, in July 2004, on the eve of the inauguration of the reconstruction and restoration work on the Mostar Bridge, held in the presence of the Heads of States of the region and the Director General of UNESCO, Mr Koïchiro Matsuura.

ICCROM was invited to this meeting, and was able to evaluate the needs expressed for the training heritage professionals, so as to safeguard a heritage which was unfortunately seriously damaged by the recent conflict that tore the region apart.

This situation is characterised by urgent needs for the type of training ICCROM had already developed when it was confronted with a similar situation in post-war Iraq and Afghanistan and responded in a timely manner. The training needs are still enormous, and the support of donor countries is vital if one wishes, once again, to ensure some of humanity's treasures and part of its memory survive.

The point of this brief editorial is not to enumerate all the actions ICCROM could undertake. After all, there would also be much to say about other regions of the world such as Europe, Asia, North and South America, and even the Pacific and the Mediterranean basin.

The celebration of ICCROM's 50th anniversary will provide other opportunities to widen our scope of action and, particularly, to explore and develop potential partnerships to meet the new challenges that will lie ahead.

ICCROM News and Events

24th General Assembly of ICCROM

The 24th General Assembly of the Member States of ICCROM took place in Rome from 9 to 11 November 2005. The General Assembly approved ICCROM's proposed programme for the 2006-2007 Biennium. Long-term activities from the previous biennia will continue, but there are also new initiatives such as those focused on the conservation of sound and image archives and on the conservation of manuscript collections.

The General Assembly approved the appointment of Dr Mounir Bouchenaki as the new Director-General of ICCROM and congratulated the outgoing Director-General, Dr Nicholas Stanley-Price, on his achievements during his period of tenure (2000-2005). Delegates also elected thirteen new members of ICCROM's Council.

The ICCROM Award was presented to Dr Abdel-Aziz Daoulatli. The award is given to an individual for outstanding services in the field of conservation, protection and restoration of cultural heritage and for contributing to the development of ICCROM. Dr Daoulatli has made a major contribution to the conservation of the heritage of Tunisia in particular and North Africa in general. He has also been of long-standing service to ICCROM. From 1977 to 2001, he served almost continuously as a member of the ICCROM Council. He was also Vice-Chair (1994-1997) and Chair (2000-2001).

New Member States

The number of countries joining ICCROM continues to increase. Since June 2006, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, Senegal, and Togo have all become Member States, bringing the total to 117.

ICCROM staff

José Luiz Pedersoli Junior joined ICCROM in 2005 as Research Scientist in the Collections Unit. A citizen of Brazil, José Luis is a conservation scientist and a specialist in the application of scientific methods to the conservation of paper and paper-related materials. He was also course assistant for the ICCROM Scientific Principles of Conservation course held in Brazil in 1995, and in Rome in 1996.

Elena Incerti Medici has been appointed as Senior Administrative Assistant, Sites Unit. Elena is well known to ICCROM,

having worked as a consultant on the ITUC and Africa 2009 programmes as well as on activities relating to World Heritage.

On 27 May 2005, ICCROM held a reception to celebrate the remarkable service to the organization of Alejandro Alva Balderrama, Senior Adviser, Architectural Conservation, on the occasion of his retirement after twenty-six years at ICCROM. The Director-General stressed Alejandro's fundamental contribution to ICCROM's work over the years, in particular to the annual Architectural Conservation course (ARC), and to the promotion worldwide of the conservation of earthen architecture.

In 2006, Herb Stovel, former Unit Director of the Heritage Settlements Unit at ICCROM, was awarded the Medal of the Order for Merits to Lithuania for services to the protection and preservation of Lithuanian cultural heritage. His conservation work in Lithuania was carried out initially as a consultant for the Canadian Urban Institute and then as a staff member for ICCROM, particularly within the framework of the Integrated Territorial and Urban Conservation (ITUC) programme.

Fellows and interns

Toby Raphael held a five-month fellowship at ICCROM from May to September 2005. He is a senior conservator at the U.S. National Park Service (NPS) and works at its central exhibit facility where he serves as exhibition conservation coordinator for exhibits nationwide. During his time at ICCROM, he developed a set of practical standards to assist managers, exhibit specialists, and museum staff in general, in the safe exhibition of vulnerable museum collections. These will be published on the internet in 2006.

Dr Cao Lijuan held a three-month fellowship from September to November 2005. She recently completed her doctorate in Cultural Geography (National Parks and World Heritage Research) at Beijing University. During her stay at ICCROM Dr Lijuan investigated aspects of the conservation of historic gardens and cultural landscapes in Italy.

Dr Hicran Topçu was awarded a three-months fellowship from February to April 2006. Dr Topçu, who participated in ICCROM's International Course on Integrated Territorial and Urban Conservation in 2003, holds a



Dr Abdel-Aziz Daoulatli accepts the ICCROM Award for 2005.



José Luiz Pedersoli Junior joined ICCROM in 2005 as Research Scientist.

ICCRUM Courses December 2005–November 2005

Core Regional Course on Conservation of Archaeological Sites, Tripoli, Lebanon. 14 November–22 December 2005, 16–27 January 2006. Organized by ICCROM in collaboration with the Université Libanaise, UNESCO Beirut Office, DGA (General Directorate of Antiquities, Ministry of Culture, Lebanon), DGAM (General Directorate of Antiquities & Museums, Ministry of Culture, Syria), DGA (Department of Antiquities, Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities, Jordan).

Asian Academy for Heritage Management: 2005 Field School Conservation and Presentation of Archaeological Heritage in an Urban Context, Hanoi, Vietnam. 1–12 December 2005. Organized by ICCROM in collaboration with UNESCO Bangkok, Deakin University, Hanoi Architectural Research Institute and Hanoi Architectural University.

International Course: Conservation of Southeast Asian Collections in Storage, Manila, the Philippines. 8–31 May 2006. Organized by ICCROM in collaboration with SEAMEO-SPAFA, the National Museum of the Philippines and the University of Santo Tomas.

Third International Course on the Conservation of Modern Architecture (MARC 2006), Suburban developments of the Recent Past: Visions – Realities – Futures, Helsinki, Finland. 13 May–9 June 2006. Organized by the Alvar Aalto Academy, Finnish National Board of Antiquities, Tampere University of Technology, Helsinki University of Technology, Chalmers University of Technology and ICCROM.

12th International Course on Wood Conservation Technology (ICWCT 2006), Oslo, Norway. 29 May–7 July 2006. Organized by Riksantikvaren, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research, the Museum of Cultural History of Norway, and ICCROM.

4th Technical Course on the Conservation of Rock Art Heritage, Namibia. 17 July–10 August 2006. Organized by ICCROM in collaboration with National Museums of Namibia, the National Heritage Council of Namibia and the Southern African Rock Art Project.

Ph.D. in Architectural Restoration from the Middle East Technical University (METU) in Ankara. During her stay at ICCROM, she carried out research on 'Risk Management for Cultural Heritage in South East Anatolia - a pilot study for the cultural landscape of Hasankeyf'.

Dr Robert Waller was a Fellow from March to August 2006. He has a Ph.D. from Göteborg University Institute for Conservation and is currently Chief of Conservation at the Canadian Museum of Nature in Ottawa. During his fellowship, he investigated business sectors such as insurance and the protection of commercial properties to see how they could make a major contribution to improving the management and risk assessment of cultural heritage.

Professor Guo Xuan from the Faculty of Architecture and Urban Planning, Chingquin University, China, was awarded a two-month fellowship, from April to May 2006, to carry out research into 'Architectural conservation in cultural contexts: China. The regional interpretation of international principles'.

During the last twelve months, Sarath Chandra Boyapati, Sarah Cleary, Tsepang Shano and Ulla Visscher have all held internships at ICCROM. Sarath Chandra Boyapati was a member of the team that prepared the Management Plan for the Hampi World Heritage site in India, and has experience of working with the Indian National Trust for Arts and Culture. While at ICCROM, he assisted the Sites Unit in the development of the training workshop held in Thailand in November 2005 under the Living Heritage Sites programme.

Sarah Cleary held a three-month internship sponsored by us/ICOMOS and supported by a generous grant from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation. While at ICCROM, she collaborated on an evaluation of the conservation requirements of the Protestant Cemetery in Rome (see page 15).

Tsepang Shano assisted with the preparation of course material for the seventh 'Regional Course on Conservation and Management of Immovable Heritage' held in Mombasa (August–November 2005) under the Africa 2009 programme. She works on immovable heritage at the Ministry of Tourism and Culture in Lesotho.

Ulla Visscher of Vancouver is currently a graduate student at the School of Library, Archival and Information Studies (SLAIS),

University of British Columbia. While at ICCROM, she worked with the Documentation Service, Library and Archive to create a preservation and management plan for the ICCROM image archives.

Adopt a Mediterranean Heritage

ICCRUM is participating with the Euromed Heritage programme in a new initiative called 'Adopt a Mediterranean Heritage'. The programme brings together cultural agencies concerned with endangered Mediterranean heritage and potential international investors. (see www.euromedheritage.net)

Conservation Research Group

In 2005, the Conservation Research Group (CRG) was created within ICCROM with the aim of strengthening the organizations ability to fulfil one of its statutory functions of coordination, stimulation and dissemination of research. It is an interdisciplinary team, spanning archaeology, art history, conservation, conservation science and urban planning, reflecting the increasing complexity of conservation research.

The focus of research in conservation is necessarily linked to an 'object' within a specific cultural context; that 'object' can be as small and fragile as a textile fragment or as large and apparently solid as a temple in Angkor. But categories and typologies of 'objects' have been constantly expanding, due to research and increased awareness, and now include cultural landscapes, anthropological items, and ideas and beliefs linked to objects or places (many subsumed under the category of intangible heritage). With such expanded terms of reference, an interdisciplinary approach to conservation-restoration is a necessity: it must include communities and stakeholders, as well as different ways of looking and seeing the 'object' and its context, and different ways of researching and understanding.

Currently, the CRG is working on a history of ICCROM to celebrate the long 50th anniversary of ICCROM, from 1956, the year in which the creation of an international conservation and research centre was approved, to 1959 when the centre started functioning. This research project will not be a mere chronological succession of events, but rather an analysis and interdisciplinary story of the evolution of conservation-restoration, within ICCROM, and all the Member States involved in the numerous activities spanning its first fifty years.

ICCRUM website redesigned

The ICCROM website was redesigned in spring 2006 to take account of emerging new standards for website design. The redesign was carried out with the support of the Italian Working Group of the European Minerva Project, a network of Ministries from European Member States (www.minervaeurope.org). The objectives of the project were to create an agreed European common platform and standards for the digitisation of cultural and scientific content on the web, and to ensure long-term accessibility and preservation.

The Italian Working Group of the Minerva Project developed a prototype website based on prior identification of user needs, content analysis and specific quality criteria for web applications, for example taking into account different disabilities and avoiding the use of colours that can harm eyesight. ICCROM was invited to participate as a case study for the project and benefited from the expertise of the group and its methodological approach to web development.

Recent publications from ICCROM

During the last twelve months, ICCROM has published the following titles:

- *Traditional Conservation Practices in Africa* (ICCRUM Conservation Studies 2), edited by Thierry Joffroy;
- *Conservation of Living Religious Heritage* (ICCRUM Conservation Studies 3), edited by Herb Stovel, Nicholas Stanley-Price and Robert Killick;
- *The Preservation of Great Zimbabwe. Your Monument, Our Shrine* (ICCRUM Conservation Studies 4) by Webber Ndoro; and
- *Legal Frameworks for the Protection of Immovable Cultural Heritage in Africa* (ICCRUM Conservation Studies 5), edited by Webber Ndoro and Gilbert Pwiti.

All ICCROM publications, as well as a selection of those from other publishers, can now be purchased directly online from the ICCROM bookshop, using a secure credit card payment system.

Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites (CMAS)

The peer-reviewed journal *Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites* (CMAS), which is jointly published by Earthscan/James & James and ICCROM, is now accepting

submissions in French, Italian and Spanish in addition to English. If accepted for publication after review, the papers are then translated into English for their publication. Each article is accompanied by abstracts in English, French and Spanish. CMAS is the only journal covering both theoretical and practical issues in archaeological site conservation.

Obituaries

Dr Omotoso Eluyemi, Director of the National Commission of Museums and Monuments of Nigeria, died on 18 February 2006 at the age of 58. Dr Omotoso was a man of several titles: Chief of Ife, the Apena of Ife, and the Okaomee of Igboukwu among others. Most of his professional colleagues referred to him as Chief Omotoso. Chief Omotoso was Chairman of the AFRICA 2009 Steering Committee from 2004 to 2005. He was a distinguished scholar, writer and an accomplished orator. He was appointed to the post of Director General of the National Commission of Museums and Monuments in 2000 and was successful in securing the repatriation of Nigerian antiquities. He was also a Vice-Chair of the World Heritage Committee from 2003 to 2005.

Professor Roberto Di Stefano, architect and engineer, passed away on 16 June 2005. He was the pupil of (and successor to) Roberto Pane as Professor in Restoration at the University of Naples, one of the signatories of the Venice Charter, and a major contributor to the definition of modern restoration theory, often referred to as 'restauro critico'. Professor Di Stefano was an active member of ICOMOS and a long-time president of the Italian National Committee for ICOMOS. He had a long-standing and friendly relationship with ICCROM, and took part in many joint meetings and conferences.

Dr Téréba Togola died on 7 November 2005, at the age of 57. He was the National Director of Cultural Heritage of Mali. Dr Togola pursued a brilliant career as a researcher in the Human Sciences Institute in Mali and was subsequently appointed National Director for the Arts and Culture. He played a key role in promoting ICCROM in his home country, and also made an invaluable contribution as a member of the Steering Committee of AFRICA 2009.

ICCRUM Courses (cont'd)

Specialised Course on Documentation and Management of Heritage Sites in the Arab Region, Bosra, Syria and Umm Qais (Gedara), Jordan. 28 August-21 September 2006. Organized by ICCROM in collaboration with ALECSO (The Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization), DGAM (General Directorate of Antiquities & Museums, Ministry of Culture, Syria), DoA (Department of Antiquities, Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities, Jordan) and DGA (General Directorate of Antiquities, Ministry of Culture, Lebanon).

Regional Course on archaeological conservation in Southeast Europe 2006: Documentation, diagnosis and planning for conservation of archaeological heritage, Archaeological site of Sirmium, Serbia and Montenegro. 28 August-22 September 2006. Organized by ICCROM in collaboration with the Diana Centre for Preventive Conservation, National Museum, Belgrade.

8th Regional Course on Conservation & Management of Immovable Cultural Heritage in sub-Saharan Africa, Porto-Novo, Benin. 4 September-24 November 2006. Organized by ICCROM in collaboration with the Direction du Patrimoine Culturel of Benin.

International Course on Conservation of Japanese Paper, Tokyo, Japan. 11-30 September 2006. Organized by the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties and ICCROM.

Reducing Risks to Collections, Ottawa, Canada. 16-27 October 2006. Organized by the CCI (Canadian Conservation Institute) and ICCROM in collaboration with the ICN (Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage) and CMN (Canadian Museum of Nature).

International Course on Sharing Conservation Decisions, Rome, Italy. 16 October-10 November 2006. Organized by ICCROM together with the INP (Institut National du Patrimoine), ICR (Istituto Centrale per il Restauro) and OPD (Opificio delle Pietre Dure).

ICCROM FORUM 4-6 October 2005

Armed conflict and conservation: promoting cultural heritage in post-war recovery

Invited speakers

Sultan Barakat (Post-War Reconstruction and Development Unit, University of York, UK)
Post-conflict reconstruction and the recovery of cultural heritage.

Neal Ascherson (author and journalist for The Observer, UK)
Cultural destruction by war, and its impact on group identities.

Jon Calame (Minerva Partners Inc., New York, USA)
Divided cities and ethnic conflict in the urban domain.

Gary Yia Lee (anthropologist, NSW, Australia)
Hmong post-war identity production: heritage maintenance and cultural reinterpretation.

Hermann Graf von Pückler (Kuratorium of Branitz, Germany)
Recovering a family heritage: a personal experience in East Germany.

Suad Amiry and Khaldun Bshara (Riwaq Center for Architectural Conservation, Palestinian Territories)
Political conflict and recovery of cultural heritage in Palestine.

Valerie Magar (ICCROM)
Armed conflict and culture change in Chiapas, Mexico.

Gamini Wijesuriya (ICCROM)
The restoration of the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic in Sri Lanka: a post-conflict cultural response to loss of identity.

Boureima Tiékoroni Diamitani (West African Museums Programme, Senegal)
Armed conflicts, peace culture and protection of cultural heritage in West Africa.

Hortense Zagbayou (Musée des Civilisations de Côte d'Ivoire)
Promoting cultural heritage in a post-war environment: the Côte d'Ivoire.

Héctor Ismael Sermeño (Director Nacional de Patrimonio Cultural, El Salvador)
Promoting cultural heritage in post-war recovery: El Salvador.

The papers presented at the Forum will be published by ICCROM in the ICCROM Conservation Studies series.

Cultural Heritage in Post-Conflict Recovery

Nicholas Stanley-Price

In situations of armed conflict, buildings and places that are symbolic of the enemy's cultural heritage are sometimes the target of deliberate attacks. The tacit goal in destroying symbolically important objects or places is to sap enemy morale. As a strategy it has a long record in the history of war. The UNESCO Declaration (2003) concerning the intentional destruction of cultural heritage has been developed in response to this phenomenon.

But intentional targeting is only one symptom of the impact of armed conflict on cultural heritage. Less commonly reported are the long-term effects of armed conflict on a people's identity and sense of belonging to a place and, in turn, the people's response in ensuring the survival of its cultural heritage. In general, the role of cultural heritage in post-war recovery has received much less attention than it deserves.

It is all too easy to fall into the trap of conceiving of this role simply in terms of the restoration of war-damaged buildings. Restoration projects can often be beneficial both psychologically, in reviving the potency of familiar symbols, and practically in enabling the buildings to resume their previous functions. But the thesis concerning culture and recovery from war is much broader than that. As the anthropologist Valene Smith has written: 'Wars are without equal as the time-markers of society. Lives are so irrevocably changed that culture and behavior are marked by three phases: "before the war", "during the war", and "after the war"'. It is sobering to reflect how often these or similar phrases must be used around the world today.

The aim of the 2005 ICCROM Forum was to bring together experiences that demonstrate that cultural heritage does play an important role in recovery from situations of armed conflict (and, of course, of natural disasters). While humanitarian goals of adequate housing, food and health are supreme in the post-war period, these are most successfully accomplished when their cultural context is fully understood. Moreover, even in the midst of these basic human needs, in many post-war situations there is evidence of a popular concern for immediate restoration of war-damaged heritage and for the revival of obsolescent traditions. This concern seems to answer to a strong psychosocial need to re-establish the familiar and the cherished

following a phase of violent disruption of normal life. The crucial role of culture must be recognized and incorporated in the recovery process, for reasons both social and economic.

Culture in the recovery from conflict

Cultural heritage plays an essential role in maintaining a people's identity and armed conflict represents an extreme case where this is threatened. The many current situations of armed conflict in the world made the Forum especially timely. Nevertheless, the aim was to select cases for discussion for which it is possible already to have some historical perspective, rather than focusing on contemporary theatres of war.

During the three days of the Forum, specific cases were preceded by more general discussions of the place of cultural heritage in the post-conflict reconstruction of society and the impact of war on identities (see list of presented papers). Cross-cultural comparisons were also useful in providing insights into understanding the nexus between ethnic/religious affiliations and space in divided cities, such as Beirut, Belfast, Mostar, Nicosia and Jerusalem.

The case-studies came from the Americas, Asia and Africa in addition to Europe. Their very diversity might have weighed against any easy generalisations about cultural heritage and armed conflict. However, accepting that each situation deserves to be assessed within its own context, there were themes that constantly recurred in the discussions.

In fact, they suggest a number of important tentative conclusions:

- Attention to cultural heritage is indeed essential in the post-war recovery process, most importantly for its role in maintaining feelings of continuity but also for its economic potential for employment and income-generation in the immediate post-war period.
- Intentional targeting tends to be counter-productive, reinforcing the will to resist rather than sapping morale.
- Physical separation barriers, as found in divided cities such as Nicosia and Belfast, are a symptom of severe social breakdown between communities and tend only to exacerbate prejudices in the long-term.
- A popular urge to restore damaged public buildings can manifest itself

immediately after the cessation of hostilities, testifying to the power of visible cultural symbols in the recovery process (for example, Coventry Cathedral in 1945, Dubrovnik in 1993, the Temple of the Sacred Tooth Relic in Sri Lanka in 1998).

- Craft revival and maintenance of cultural traditions post-conflict can be strong unifying factors even after massive displacement of populations (e.g. among the Hmong community dispersed worldwide after the Lao civil war (1953–1973) and for the Salvadoreños, of whom some 2.7 million are estimated to have emigrated during the twelve years of the civil war that broke out in 1980).
- The drive to recover one’s family’s heritage can be powerful even in the face of formidable official obstacles, exemplified by the Pückler estate of Branitz in former East Germany.
- The value of cultural heritage is well known to those who would exploit it in times of lawlessness but insufficiently to people in general, a scenario in which museums have a leading role to play (e.g. in West Africa).
- Cultural identities may be transformed as a result of armed conflict (for instance, among the Hmong and also in Chiapas under the Zapatistas) but a sense of place and belonging remains fundamental to human experience.

What role for the professionals?

The Forum concluded with an uncomfortable question: whereas, as we had concluded, it is possible to document the importance of culture in the recovery process, how active a role are cultural heritage professionals playing in post-conflict situations? It is one thing to argue for incorporating culture in the recovery process but to what extent are the political authorities and humanitarian organizations convinced of the same? Unless convinced to the contrary, they would argue that other priorities take precedence and ‘culture must wait’.

So, there is a case that has to be made — this was the premise of the Forum. Who is best placed to make it and how can it be made most effectively? Here the professionals, especially those representing international organizations, can find themselves in a



quandary. As Jon Calame observed at the Forum with reference to divided cities, ‘a dilemma is unavoidable: to participate is inevitably perceived as being partisan, while inaction squanders opportunities to assist traumatized communities. Neither option presents clear prospects for satisfaction and success. The neutrality and objectivity that are so much part of the professional’s ordinary mind-set cannot be sustained. Professionals attempting to avoid taking sides often find that a political affiliation has been assigned to them, since noncommittal behaviour can be viewed by both rivals and critics of the state as a tacit affirmation of the status quo...’.

It is important to acknowledge these realities of conflict situations without allowing them to diminish the urgency of making the case for cultural heritage. The participants in the Forum agreed that we need to be more visible in post-conflict situations and to demonstrate why. In a world riven by armed conflicts, there has never been a greater need for advocates of cultural heritage to contribute actively to reconstruction and reconciliation goals.

Top: the Pückler estate of Branitz in former East Germany.

Bottom left: A Jain Temple in Lahore, Pakistan, collapses after being attacked by Muslim protesters in December 1992.

Bottom right: Hmong embroidery used as decoration for women’s traditional costumes.

Nicholas Stanley-Price was Director-General of ICCROM from 2000 to 2005.

TIEM

TIEM has been organized within the framework of the MEP (Museums Emergency Programme) education initiative. MEP is a response to the needs expressed by museum professionals all over the world to develop expertise in the areas of emergency preparedness and response.

Partners

ICCROM
The International Council of Museums (ICOM)
The Getty Conservation Institute (GCI)

Participants

National Museum of Cambodia, Phnom Penh, Cambodia
National Museum of Man, Bhopal, India
National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan
National Museum of Korea, Seoul, Republic of Korea
National Museum of the Philippines, Manila, Philippines
Colombo National Museum, Sri Lanka
National Museum, Bangkok, Thailand
Vietnam Museum of Ethnology, Hanoi, Vietnam

Additional participants include: representatives of Graduate Programmes in Museology of Hanoi University of Culture, Vietnam, and of the University of Philippines, Manila; Art Gallery of Hamilton, Ontario; and Canadian Conservation Institute, Ottawa, Canada.

Kathleen Dardes is Senior Project Specialist, Education, at The Getty Conservation Institute.



Post-disaster recovery training exercise at Vietnam Museum of Ethnology, Hanoi.

Teamwork for Integrated Emergency Management (TIEM)

Kathleen Dardes (GCI) and Aparna Tandon (ICCROM)

Emergency preparedness is a topic that most museums believe to be important but often find difficult to allocate time and resources to. Emergencies, after all, do not happen everyday, and it is easy to postpone taking action to put into effect even basic preparedness and mitigation measures. For the TIEM partners, it was important not simply to give a course but to help institutions initiate the long process of risk assessment and emergency preparedness. That meant creating an education model that would extend the experience of a course workshop into the institutional contexts in which the participants worked, and give trainers/mentors an opportunity to provide ongoing support and encouragement.

To serve this goal, Teamwork for Integrated Emergency Management was developed as a three-phase course spread over a period of eight months: a two-week introductory workshop (15–26 August, 2005) in Bangkok, Thailand; a seven-month distance-mentoring phase (September 2005–March 2006), and a review phase (June 2006).

According to Evelyn Esguerra and Roberto Balarbar from the National Museum of Philippines in Manila:

Distance mentoring was able to bridge the gap between the trainers/mentors and participants despite differences in time and locations. The trainers/mentors were able to guide the participants as well as check the assigned tasks given to them. Each monthly progress report submitted by participants had a corresponding response and evaluation from the mentors. It was very useful for the participants to know whether they were doing the right things and were on the right path in the opinion of their mentors and trainers.

During the distance-mentoring phase, participants worked in their own institutions on a programme—determined by themselves and their institutional colleagues—which took them through the processes of a museum risk assessment and the basic steps of an emergency plan. A limited-access course website was set up to facilitate communication during this phase.

Ongoing support and exchange of information via distance mentoring helped to maintain a forward momentum and, in some cases, brought a change in thinking at the

institutional level. For example, at the Vietnam Museum of Ethnology, Hanoi, conservation staff, with approval from the Board of Directors, changed the title of the 'Fire Prevention and Fighting Team' to 'Disaster Prevention Team'. This reflected a change of institutional thinking as well as a role change within the team, enabling it to focus on the wider area of disaster management.

Nguyen Thi Hong Mai and Le Anh Hoa, participants from Vietnam commented:

There is now a new emphasis on the skills and knowledge required to prevent and manage various risks specifically hazardous to the museum and its collection, including natural and man-made disasters as well as relatively slower risks such as pest infestations.

While the team in Colombo National Museum, Sri Lanka has initiated a nationwide campaign for increasing awareness on emergency preparedness for museum collections, their fellow participants in the National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan have created an incidents register to inform their risk management programme. All monthly progress updates and mentors' responses imbued a sense of teamwork and shared accomplishment.

The course was conceived as an experiment to determine whether it was possible to create an education model to provide information and support to participants beyond the boundaries of a traditional course or workshop. The experience revealed to participants, instructors and the partners the benefits of building a 'community of practice' that draws upon collective experience to achieve change.

This can be best summed up in the words of the team from the National Museum of Philippines:

This type of communication is like an 'open learning process' where free exchange of information is possible. Since all the information gained from the first phase has been applied to the second phase in the TIEM course, it has been possible to observe and analyze results. Although, inevitably, there are some technological problems beyond our control, we believe that distance mentoring in the areas of professional development and training is a mode of learning well worth pursuing.

Travel Operators: New Partners in Protecting Cultural Heritage

Catherine Antomarchi (ICCRUM) and Monica Ardemagni

The World Tourism Organization forecasts that the number of tourists travelling from one country to another will increase from 700 million today to 1.5 billion in 2020. Cultural heritage is a strong motive for people to travel and, therefore, a key factor in developing tourism. Despite a growing awareness of the need to protect cultural heritage, it is vital to take into account the potential destruction to the natural and cultural environment caused by mass tourism. But rather than censuring tourism, which constitutes an indispensable resource for many countries, heritage organizations should, together with tourism professionals, implement a joint action plan to make travellers more aware of the vulnerability of cultural heritage and of the need to protect it.

ICCRUM's first initiative in this area was a workshop on the use of travel guidebooks to raise awareness about heritage conservation (see ICCROM Newsletter 30 (2004): 8). Results arising from this workshop include the printing of messages on the fragility of cultural heritage in the latest editions or reprints of the Lonely Planet (French edition), Michelin (French and Italian editions) and Touring Club guidebooks.

Subsequently, in 2005, ICCROM and UNESCO decided to target other sectors of the tourist industry that were capable of reaching large numbers of travellers. A second workshop, 'Developing Tourism and Protecting Cultural Heritage: a Challenge for the Twenty-First Century', was held which focused on national tourism boards and tour operator associations already aware of the issue of responsible tourism.

The aim of the workshop was to gather the various points of view and personal experiences of travel professionals, and to explore ways in which their clients could be made aware of the need to collaborate on heritage conservation.

During the workshop, the speakers presented lively and thought-provoking accounts of their research and experiences. In particular, Eileen Brennan, from *I Viaggi del Ventaglio*, discussed the results of a study on the changing profile of the average tourist over the last twenty-five years. The study revealed that today's tourist is less materialistic than previously, and is not focused exclusively on the pursuit of personal pleasure. The new tourists wish to understand the country they are going

to visit before they depart, and to prepare accordingly. They want more enriching experiences, and are ready to give up certain comforts on condition that they find the sites relatively unspoilt. Based on this new trend, businesses have created a new type of 'environmental' guide and offer popular travel packages that include, apart from the usual features, nature conservation activities in which tourists can participate with the local communities.

In his presentation, Andreas Mueseler, of LTU Touristik, highlighted the close link between cultural heritage and the tourist industry. According to one study, 79% of people surveyed believed that the integrity of the natural environment is an essential factor in the choice of a destination; 70% would like to receive qualified information on cultural heritage in their own language; and 81% consider the natural environment as important as the cultural and social environments. Such results will play an important role in determining the future strategies of the tourist industry.

Other organizations are also working on awareness initiatives. A group of tour operators have created a network, Tour Operators Initiatives (TOI), which is supported by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNESCO, and the World Tourism Organization (WTO). The aim of the network is to develop responsible tourism and diffuse material for awareness-raising campaigns. UNEP has created a series of tools (brochures, leaflets, posters, CD-ROMs and 'passports') to protect coral reefs, which have been disseminated throughout the network.

Clearly, tourism professionals are already involved in protecting the natural environment. It should not be difficult, therefore, to convince them to integrate material on cultural heritage into their programmes. The ICCROM experience shows that there is a willingness on the part of the tourism industry to listen, and respond to, the need to promote awareness among tourists about the fragility of cultural heritage.

Yet, while they are willing to work with the cultural heritage sector, the lack of clear, reliable information is seen as a major stumbling block. It is up to us, as professionals in heritage preservation, to reach out and remedy this shortcoming.

Developing Tourism and Protecting Cultural Heritage: a Challenge for the Twenty-First Century

Workshop, 5 - 6 September 2005

The workshop was attended by twenty-two representatives of national tourism boards, embassies in Rome, national and international tour operators' associations and national as well as international institutions dealing with conservation and/or cultural tourism.

Partner

UNESCO

Update, March 2006

Following the workshop, the Turkish Minister of Culture and Tourism has decided to include a message on raising awareness on the fragility of cultural heritage in promotional material for tourists.



Tourists visiting the Roman Forum (May 2006).

Monica Ardemagni was a member of the ICCROM staff and worked on advocacy issues prior to her retirement in 2004.

UN Millennium Development Goals

- 1 Eradicate extreme poverty by 2015
- 2 Achieve universal primary education
- 3 Promote gender equality and empower women
- 4 Reduce child mortality
- 5 Improve maternal health
- 6 Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
- 7 Ensure environmental sustainability
- 8 Develop a global partnership for development

Millennium Development Goals and Cultural Heritage

Webber Ndoro and Maria Teresa Jaquinta (ICCRROM)

In 2000 the United Nations proposed eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to promote concrete actions for the world to address extreme poverty in its many dimensions: income poverty, hunger, disease, lack of adequate shelter, and exclusion. With a target date of 2015, the MDGs are a first attempt to subject the development process to the discipline of showing that it can improve lives on a large scale within an agreed time-frame. When they were made public, however, many heritage professionals must have wondered why there was no reference to cultural heritage and the role that it can play in achieving the MDGs.

One of the most important aspect of the MDGs is the focus not only on lack of income, but also on accompanying problems such as lack of education, gender inequality, infectious disease, and feelings of hopelessness, loss of identity, and lack of self-esteem. The effects of poverty go beyond the individual, impacting on whole communities and nations, affecting their ability to sustain themselves and their ways of life, including their cultural heritage and historic environment.

Yet cultural heritage and the historic environment help reinforce meaning and identity in individuals, and cohesion in communities. It follows, therefore, that the conservation of historic buildings, towns, landscapes, and collections should have an important role to play in any meaningful poverty reduction programme leading to sustainable economic development.

This sort of development is only possible through the empowerment and involvement of local communities in the decision-making process. An example is related in a book published by the World Bank (M. Palmer (2003), *Faith in Conservation: new approaches to religions and the environment*). The government of Mongolia galvanized support for national development through the rebuilding of one of the countries most important cultural heritage assets, a bronze statue which was destroyed in the early part of the twentieth century. Rebuilding the statue after the collapse of the communist regime united Mongolians and made them proud of their own culture. By focusing first on this important symbol of their heritage, the government paved the way for a more healthy development process.

But conservation projects can also have a more direct effect on development goals. Heritage professionals should try, where possible, to link development objectives to

conservation work. An example of this type of link can be found in a site project which took place in Kokologho, Burkina Faso, as part of the AFRICA 2009 programme. The project was carried out in partnership with the National Direction of Culture Heritage and the local chief and residents of the eight villages which make up Kokologho. The project called for the promotion and reinforcement of traditional conservation practices to ensure the ongoing protection of the chief's palace. To aid in the conservation work at the site, a solar lighting system was installed and a borehole drilled. This infrastructure, necessary for the conservation work, now supplies electricity and water to the surrounding communities. In addition, the project brought the communities together and encouraged their participation in a way which reinforced the value of their heritage. Thus, both conservation and development objectives were achieved within one project.

AFRICA 2009 has also incorporated other aspects of the MDGs into the implementation of the programme activities, such as discussions of HIV/AIDS and the role that heritage professionals can play in its prevention, and building the capacity of women as heritage managers. In fact, most of the ICCROM regional programmes, including CollAsia 2010, ATHAR, and Living Heritage Sites, place community involvement and the role that heritage can play in the life and development of the community at the centre of their strategies for better conservation of the cultural heritage.

The international community is now becoming more aware of the importance of cultural heritage. The UN General Assembly 2005 World Summit affirmed that all cultures and civilizations contribute to the enrichment of humankind, and recognised the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world.

The cultural heritage can provide an enabling environment within which the MDGs can address development objectives. However, cultural heritage managers must recognize that in order for society to appreciate the potential of cultural heritage, it will be necessary to put forward the necessary arguments and case studies to convince both policy-makers and local communities. By promoting this enlightened perspective towards all human needs, cultural heritage will be able to make its true contribution to improving the well-being of humanity in the future.



The local community of Kokologho at a stakeholder meeting.

If you would like to comment on the issues raised in this article, please write to mtj@iccrom.org.

COLLASIA 2010: Professionals on the Move

Katriina Similä (ICCROM)

The solid and rooted atmosphere of museums often makes us forget how far many of the objects in the collections have travelled. The history of material culture is also a history of movement: things have been sent, shipped, sold or lost, ending up sometimes in very surprising locations. Without forgetting the deep tragedy of looted heritage, which has left serious scars on the cultural identity of peoples around the world, the richness of the stories embedded in the travels of material culture is a deep resource.

The CollAsia 2010 programme is also putting the professionals involved in conserving this heritage on the move. Since 2002, five activities have mobilized over one hundred professionals within the Southeast Asian countries and beyond. Workshops and other activities have provided opportunities for groups of up to twenty-five colleagues to discuss issues relevant to shaping sound and sustainable conservation actions. While there are many regional mechanisms of international collaboration in Southeast Asia, so far very few of them have engaged the conservation professionals. The CollAsia 2010 workshops, organized in different countries in collaboration with local heritage institutions, offer precious opportunities for professionals to learn more about the material culture in its different forms and in varied contexts.

Today, there is still very little published literature on conservation of Southeast Asian movable heritage. This makes the experience that individual professionals have gained by working with collections in their institutions a crucial resource for building the knowledge base of the profession in the region. The didactic approach of the workshops, focusing on problem solving and an interactive learning environment, has highlighted the potential of professional exchange as a key element for shaping a shared understanding of the specificity of Southeast Asian collections.

In August 2005, the CollAsia 2010 workshop on 'Conservation of textiles in Southeast Asian collections' took place in Leiden, Netherlands. The Dutch National Museum of Ethnography houses extremely important collections from Asia. For colleagues working on the preservation of this heritage, both in Leiden and in Southeast Asia, the workshop offered an important opportunity to discuss approaches

to meeting the challenges they face in their work. Furthermore, the Netherlands was also the host for the Triennial meeting of the ICOM-CC (International Council of Museums – Committee for Conservation) in 2005. The CollAsia workshop was timed to culminate in the whole group participating in the ICOM-CC meeting in The Hague.

Twenty-two of the twenty-five ICOM-CC conference participants from Southeast Asia took part in the event thanks to the professional development component of the CollAsia 2010 programme. While this is still too few to represent a region of 600 million people in a gathering of over 900 professionals, such participation was an important step forward in integrating Southeast Asian professionals with the international community of colleagues. Taking part in the specialized working groups of the ICOM-CC, which cover subjects ranging from 'Theory and history of restoration' to 'Wet organic and archaeological materials', is a concrete way of contributing to the development of the profession in Southeast Asia.

It is to be hoped that in the years to come the heritage institutions in Southeast Asia will make the most of such professional meetings to further the development of their staff: they are important occasions for affirming the presence and relevance of Southeast Asian museums to international discussions on the future of conservation actions.

In this world of things that do not stay in one place, the international gathering in the Netherlands provided valuable contacts with colleagues from those countries which produced some of the objects that have ended up in collections in even the remotest corners of Southeast Asia. Taking care of this material culture wherever it finds itself today is a shared challenge of the heritage professionals worldwide.

Movable heritage has travelled back and forth between regions of the world, taking stories and messages of the cultures of origin with it, expressing in multiple ways the richness of diversity. It is to be hoped that the community of conservation is one more platform for meaningful and helpful dialogue between cultures and people. In pursuing its aim of improving the conditions for the conservation of collections in Southeast Asia, the CollAsia 2010 programme is committed to contributing to this process.

CollAsia 2010

CollAsia 2010 is a seven-year programme aimed at improving the conservation conditions of Southeast Asian heritage collections. The countries in the programme are Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. The programme is jointly implemented by ICCROM and SPAFA (SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts), based in Bangkok, Thailand.

The CollAsia 2010 programme's objectives are:

- increased awareness and knowledge about objects in Asian collections (materials, construction methods, sensitivity, and conservation);
- increased capacity of institutions and increased resources for professionals to implement conservation strategies, including local preventive conservation initiatives;
- functional tools to support the dynamic development and interaction of regional networks of institutions and professionals.

The third CollAsia 2010 course took place in Manila in May, 2006. Its topic was the crucial issue of storage in museums, libraries and archives.



Course participants examine a traditional puppet in the Dutch National Museum of Ethnography.

International Course on Science and Conservation of Archival Collections

11 - 29 July 2005, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The core objective of this course was to strengthen the participants' scientific and archival literacy, thereby improving their understanding of the application of science and technology to archival collections. It addressed the needs to build a common language between science and preservation, and to encourage integrated planning of preservation strategies within a truly interdisciplinary environment.

Partners

Instituut Collectie Nederland (ICN)
Centre de Recherches sur la Conservation des Documents Graphiques (CRCDG), France

Science and Archives: the Advantages of Reciprocity

José Luiz Pedersoli Junior (ICCROM)

Archives are the repositories of humanity's documentary heritage. In fulfilling their mission, archival institutions are confronted with the steep challenge of having to preserve the physical integrity of a large variety of past and present records, and to provide access to the recorded information.

The spectrum of materials and formats that has been used to create archival records is amazingly broad, ranging, for example, from iron-gall inks on parchment to laser-modified photosensitive dyes on metallized and lacquer-coated polycarbonate supports of CD-Rs. There is still a great deal to learn about the material behaviour of these records to ensure their optimum preservation and accessibility. This is especially true for the more recent and widely diversified media, some of which have worryingly short lifetimes, such as certain types of colour photographs, cellulose nitrate and acetate films, and magnetic tapes and disks.

Significant knowledge gaps exist also beyond the tangible aspects of archival records, including issues of gathering, manipulation, classification, storage and retrieval of recorded information, both analogue and especially digital. They acquire a disturbing dimension when one considers the already overwhelming and fast-growing body of recorded information produced in the current Information Age.

Science can offer a sound contribution by advancing the state of knowledge necessary to meet archival preservation and access challenges. Such a contribution encompasses the better understanding and improvement of the material aspects of records and of their environment by the Natural Sciences, as well as the application of information and content-oriented

technologies deriving from the Information and Computer Sciences. In this context, close and continuous collaboration and exchange between scientists and archival preservation professionals is very important to ensure an accurate characterization of needs, to prioritize research initiatives, and therefore to increase the practical relevance of scientific outputs. The

benefits of building a common language between science and preservation, as well as of the integrated planning of preservation strategies in a truly interdisciplinary environment should be thoroughly explored.

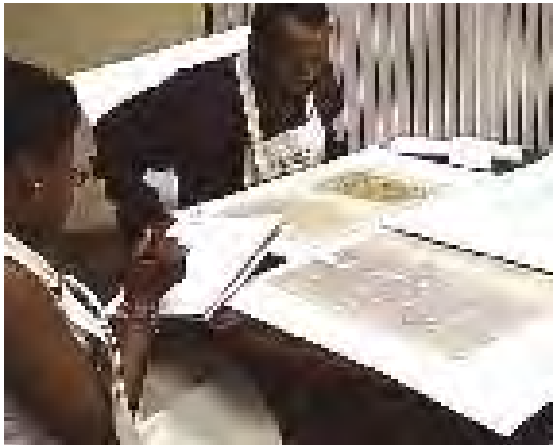
Non-scientist professionals will gain significant benefits from improving their scientific literacy. It will enable them to evaluate critically, contribute to, and actively participate in the application of science, and of the technology deriving from it, to the preservation of archival collections. Scientific literacy includes the understanding of relevant scientific concepts and principles, as well as of the methodology of scientific inquiry and experimentation; the ability to communicate reciprocally and fluently with scientists; and the capacity to interpret correctly the tables and graphs of scientific literature.

Scientific literacy is a key competence for preservation professionals. Conversely, scientists like myself have a great deal to learn about the specificities of archival preservation so that we can contribute to the creation of better archives through interdisciplinary teamwork. Those specificities include issues such as the very nature and dimensions of archival collections, authenticity, value, mass-scale approaches, terminology, conservation treatments, and access requirements.

A particularly challenging aspect in the archival preservation context is the rapidly mutating nature of our documentary heritage. The current degree of change resulting from the shift from analogue to digital technologies has been such that digital literacy is becoming a requisite for all professionals dealing with the preservation of archival collections. A more digitally literate profession will also be better prepared to face future threats and opportunities in the field.

Bridging the gaps between science and preservation is definitely a step towards the better safeguarding and fruition of our cultural heritage. The cross-fertilization of science and cultural heritage preservation sought and achieved across ICCROM's activities remains a key mechanism for contributing to the preservation of culture and the promotion of diversity worldwide.

Course participants discuss scientific approaches to the problem of iron-gall ink corrosion.



The Non-Catholic Cemetery in Rome

Sarah Cleary and Sophie Hsu-Ming Lizeray

During the summer of 2005, ICCROM undertook a three-month study of the Non-Catholic Cemetery, located immediately inside the walls of historic Rome and adjacent to the well-known Pyramid of Caius Cestius (dating from approximately 12 BC). After a request from the manager of the cemetery, and following its inclusion on the World Monuments Watch List of the 100 Most Endangered Sites, ICCROM offered to undertake a study of the cemetery for the Committee of Ambassadors responsible for its management. This committee comprises ambassadors of fourteen of the countries whose citizens are buried at the cemetery.

The study was carried out by an interdisciplinary group including architectural and archaeological conservators, a landscape architect, an urban planner, and a financial management specialist. A horticultural expert was also consulted. The objectives of the study were to analyse issues related to the overall management of the site, including the conservation of the cemetery's landscape, stone monuments and markers. The study made recommendations for its long-term, sustainable management and conservation.

The cemetery, which remains in use today, has a marked uniqueness derived from its history, location and landscape. The site was first used for burials in 1738, with the majority of those interred representing non-Catholic foreigners who visited or lived in Rome. Today, it is a place of pilgrimage: visitors come from around the world to pay their respects to the important historical figures buried there. Among those whose graves can be found at the cemetery are the British poets, John Keats and Percy Bysshe Shelley, the American poet, Gregory Corso, the German architect, Gottfried Semper, and the Italian philosopher, Antonio Gramsci. Family members too regularly visit the graves of relatives.

The cemetery, approximately two hectares in size, is divided into two distinct areas. The oldest part (*la Parte Antica*) is a low-density flat area, with grave monuments spread out across a lawn shadowed by the adjacent pine trees and the pyramid. The second, larger area has more densely packed rows of graves aligned on a slope with diagonal, transversal, and longitudinal pathways which allow the visitor to walk between the monuments and the colourful shrubbery. There are more than 2,500 funerary monuments, with varying



The Non-Catholic Cemetery in Rome.

sizes, shapes, materials, and artistic values. The cemetery is comparable to an outdoor sculpture garden.

The study found that the main problems with respect to the landscape include ground subsidence, poor design and use of space, and the need to improve the working practices of the gardening staff. The condition of the monuments was also a concern, with over 75% in need of conservation treatments, 27% of which were considered urgent. Causes of conservation problems include moisture, pollution, and other environmental factors. It was also found that a lack of sufficient funds was an issue both for the conservation and for the general management of the site. The study identified areas where improvements could be made to conservation practices, landscape care and maintenance, and to overall site management and fund-raising. The inclusion on the World Monuments Watch List may provide an opportunity to acquire the funds necessary for the proper upkeep of the cemetery.

By improving the policies and day-to-day operations of the cemetery, along with a successful fund-raising campaign, the site will become more sustainable over time, in order to remain in use both as an active cemetery and a destination for tourists and other visitors. The Non-Catholic Cemetery is a remarkable place that has inspired visitors over the past centuries. With proper care, it will be able to continue to do so long into the future.

Sarah Cleary was an intern at ICCROM in 2005, working with the Sites Unit on the conservation requirements of the Non-Catholic cemetery.

Sophie Hsu-Ming Lizeray was also an intern at ICCROM and now works as a landscape architecture consultant

For more information or to make a donation to the cemetery, please contact: mail@protestantcemetery.it

Preventive Conservation: Reducing Risk to Collections

6 - 24 June 2005, Rome

Partners

CCI (Canadian Conservation Institute)

In collaboration with CNM (Canadian Museum of Nature) and ICN (Netherlands Institute for Cultural Heritage).

With the support of the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Development Cooperation.



Course participants evaluating packing and transport risks

Building a Risk Management Learning Community

Isabelle Verger and Catherine Antomarchi (ICCROM)

In June 2003, ICCROM and CCI (the Canadian Conservation Institute) organized jointly an international course on recent advances in preventive conservation. In the ensuing course evaluation, participants indicated that the most innovative part of the course was that dedicated to 'Risk management'. Responding to this, a course on 'Reducing Risk to Collections' was organized and held two years later in 2005; it was heavily oversubscribed, with 122 applications from sixteen countries competing for the nineteen places on the course.

Why the interest? Although thinking and practice in preventive conservation has been widely disseminated in the last 30 years, professionals are still looking for a reliable approach to making the best preservation decisions for their collections, one that involves and can be easily communicated to all parties, in particular to the national authorities and partners which provide the necessary resources to the heritage institutions. Risk management provides such an approach; its genesis lies in the worlds of finance, health, safety, and others, where prediction is essential to inform highly complex and critical decisions.

When applied to cultural heritage, risk management is not only concerned with the management of disasters and emergencies, such as floods or fires, but also with much slower, more frequent and smaller risks, such as the steady development of a pest infestation on a precious collection of books or regular shocks suffered by a major artwork in transit. In a generation or two, those slower or smaller risks can have a disastrous impact on the value of a collection.

The appealing aspect of this approach is that it is centred on estimating the loss in values of the cultural heritage, which is of common concern to professionals, politicians and the public. It is also a method that allows comparison of very different risks, thus providing a reliable tool to establish priorities, allocate resources and design strategies.

Nevertheless, to be fully operational, this approach requires more research, more practice and more diffusion. The available information, in the field of conservation and beyond, needs to be investigated and translated into usable data; research gaps must be addressed by the scientific community; practice must be encouraged in heritage institutions to refine methods of values estimation and to gather institutional

and individual memories on specific risks; and there is a need to build a learning community of professionals conversant with the approach, willing to apply it in their specific context, and to share results and challenges.

The participants and course team of the 2005 course were perhaps the first members of this community. The course methodology was specifically crafted to create a peer relationship between everyone and to stimulate an interactive spirit. Before and during the course, participants had opportunities to plan risk management activities or projects that they could carry out on their return to their workplaces. Eight months after the course, 79% of the group had succeeded in their plans.

Fifteen participants subsequently carried out a risk assessment of specific collections. More than twenty museum and archive collections were involved (for example, artefacts from the Naval Reserve in Quebec, storage and display areas in the National Museum of Lithuania, two regional libraries in Slovenia, the visual arts collection from the Museum of Arts and Sciences in the Philippines, and collections in the Nikola Tesla Museum in Belgrade).

Fourteen participants focused their efforts on disseminating the approach, reporting to their institutions and publishing in specialized newsletters. Examples include a workshop for twenty museum professionals in South Africa, training courses for communities taking care of religious objects in Mexico, an article in the *Barbados Museum Journal*, and a report in the newsletter of the Municipal Museums of Antwerp. Six participants, also involved in education, integrated risk management in course curricula (e.g. courses of the National Archives in Slovenia, the Museum Studies Graduate Program in Turkey, and the Museum of Texas Tech University in USA).

Two participants designed research activities on the application of risk management to immovable heritage in order to promote its wider practice. Most recently, one of the course participants created a website dedicated to the advancement of risk management for collections. The website will become the main working and communication tool for this young community.

These results are exciting. They show how participants on a single course can have a multiplier effect, rippling out through their own institutions and countries to promote a new approach to preventive conservation.

Further reading:

C. Antomarchi, A. Brokerhof, S. Michalski, I. Verger, and R.R. Waller, 'Teaching Risk Management Internationally' in *Collections: A journal for Museums and Archives professionals*, Vol. 2.2 (November 2005), 117-140.

Isabelle Verger is a conservator and currently Secretary of the ICOM - Conservation Committee.

ICCROM and the Conservation of Built Heritage

Joe King (ICCROM)

In November 2005, the ICCROM General Assembly approved a new programme called Conservation of the Built Heritage. The programme reflects ICCROM's extensive experience in capacity building in this area, including the long running Architectural Conservation Course (ARC), the courses on conservation of wood, stone, and modern architecture, and the ITUC, TERRA, AFRICA 2009, and ATHĀR programmes.

Following external evaluations of both the ARC and the Venice Stone courses, the ICCROM secretariat undertook an examination of current needs in the field, using a wide variety of sources. A working group of the ICCROM Council looked at the future of architectural conservation at ICCROM. A proposed programme was then developed by ICCROM staff, and discussed and refined at a meeting, in June 2005, of twenty-five experts from various regions and specialities.

The resulting Conservation of the Built Heritage programme is designed to strengthen the application of integrated approaches to the practice of conservation of the built heritage. Emphasis is placed on a concern for balancing managerial and technical concerns, promoting traditional construction and management systems, and stressing preventive conservation approaches including risk preparedness. Links between conservation practice for immovable and movable, and tangible and intangible heritage, will also be strengthened.

The programme is anchored by a new course on Conservation of the Built Heritage to be held every two years in Rome. This eight-week course is aimed at giving participants a better understanding of integrated approaches to conservation of the built heritage, looking at the larger planning and management context as well as technical conservation concerns. The first course is scheduled to take place from 1 February to 30 March 2007.

The programme also foresees the continuation of activities such as the International Course on the Conservation of Modern Architecture (most recently held in Helsinki, Finland from 13 May to 9 June 2006), the International Course on Wood Conservation Technology (most recently held in Oslo, Norway from 29 May to 7 July 2006), the International Course on Architectural Records, Inventories, and Information Systems for Conservation (to

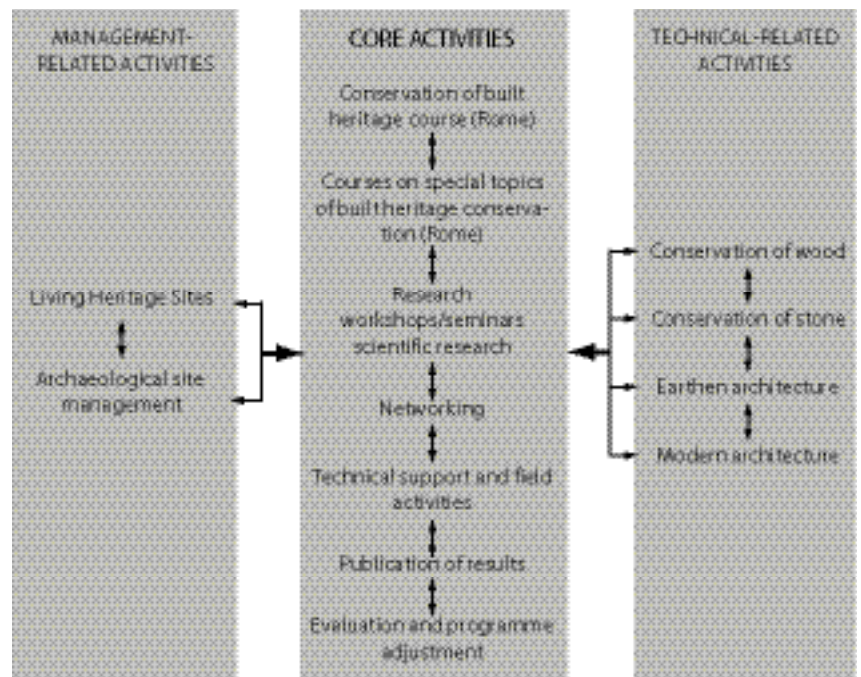
be held in Rome, Italy in 2007), and the International Course on the Technology of Stone Conservation (to be held in Venice, Italy in 2007).

The programme also embraces ICCROM's Living Heritage Sites and Conservation of Archaeological Sites sub-programmes, and a range of activities which includes research projects, technical support, field activities. As the programme matures, other themes will be developed.

The strength of the new Conservation of the Built Heritage Programme will be in its programmatic approach. As with other ICCROM programmes developed over the past fifteen years, the objective of the programme — to strengthen an integrated approach to built heritage conservation — was defined and then a range of activities support each other and work together to produce the desired outcomes. By using the programmatic approach, ICCROM ensures that the combined results will be much stronger than those produced by any single activity. The programmatic approach also allows for easier evaluation and monitoring of progress, with the possibility of adjustments over time to ensure that the objective of the programme is achieved.



Participants in the Architectural Records, Inventories, and Information Systems course (ARIS), 2005.



Conservation of Built Heritage programme 2006-2015.

RELATED ICCROM PROGRAMMES: AFRICA 2009 (Africa)
ATHĀR (Arab region)
New regional programmes

Training workshop: Living Heritage - Empowering the Community

Phrae, Thailand.
November 2005

The objective of the workshop was to improve the management of historic sites in the Mekong River Region, taking into consideration their living aspects and values.

Partners

SPAFA (SEAMEO Regional Centre for Archaeology and Fine Arts)
Fine Arts Department, Ministry of Education, Thailand
Children of Phrae Group (CoP/LMP)

Living Heritage Sites Programme

The 'Living Heritage' approach can help a well-organized, focused and committed community group to make significant gains in protecting its own heritage. Through its Living Heritage Sites programme, ICCROM aspires to provide both communities and heritage organizations with new tools to achieve this.

Vanishing traditions from Phrae.



Living Heritage Sites Workshop: Empowering the Community

Gamini Wijesuriya, Kazuhiko Nishi and Joe King (ICCROM)

Living heritage implies a focus on people both past and present and their cultural products both tangible and intangible. The living heritage approach is an interactive one that respects people's voices, pride, self-esteem, and sense of ownership in heritage management. It emphasizes the importance of flexibility and sustainability in a cultural framework rather than universality in conservation decision-making. The main goal of the Living Heritage programme is to promote awareness of the living heritage approach and to create tools necessary for heritage professionals to engage successfully communities in conservation.

To develop and strengthen appropriate tools for this approach, a pilot research project is being conducted in Phrae province in Thailand. The results draw attention to the challenges of involving local communities in heritage management, particularly in a fast changing society whose youth is abandoning the familiar environments for better opportunities, and where development pressures are intense.

A subsequent workshop on 'Empowering the Community' focused on some of the key concepts: living heritage (what is it and where is it?), community (why is it important? how do we define it?), conservation (how to protect living heritage). Their interrelationships were discussed and the main points to emerge are summarized below.

Expanding and clarifying the context

Living Heritage is considered as the sum of all expressions resulting from the interaction between people and nature; it stresses the need to understand heritage in relation to the ecological context within which we focus our conservation efforts. The notion of continuity dominated the discussions. People are connected to their myths, beliefs, society and environment in a variety of ways that have resulted in the creation of numerous tangible and intangible expressions. They constantly draw benefit from these expressions, which have gone through a dynamic process of evolution, reinterpretation and modification, reflecting changes occurring in society. In the process, it is possible that the connections between people and heritage become lost. Efforts to re-establish them subsequently may result either in the re-emergence of the original values or in the creation of novel ones.

Defining the community

People are, and have been, connected through various means (geographically, socially, religious, resource-exploitation) forming groups of diverse nature and magnitude (e.g. fishing villages, communities continuing with their traditional lifestyles, those who migrated to a locality for economic benefits). Today, there are also communities living together with diverse beliefs, faiths and aspirations. These communities may be driven by different motivations but can act collectively in pursuit of a common goal. In some instances, a legal act such as the Conservation Act of New Zealand defines communities for the purpose of heritage conservation.

Communities reflect different interests and levels of understanding, and are influenced by many factors (such as a rural and urban location). Under these circumstances, the definition of a community is heavily influenced by the context, the issue(s) under consideration, the heritage conservation goals, and associated tasks.

Community based heritage conservation

Communities should be a part of the conservation process and offered options for different interventions (not only minimal), while recognizing the dynamic nature of heritage (tangible and intangible), accommodating appropriate changes as required, and providing for new interpretations where needed. Conservation should not prevent pre-existing uses of heritage, be they spiritual, economic or social. It should aim at the re-establishment of the lost connections with heritage.

Conservation should empower communities and assure continuity of heritage, which is understood and defined through a rigorous process of study, consultation, and consensus. Empowerment is necessary for communities to protect their own heritage, to understand what it is they value, and to elaborate their conservation goals. It also provides the means for the community to start an initial dialogue, to achieve consensus where necessary, and to work with authorities and the professional community to establish common ground for heritage conservation activities. Where appropriate (or necessary) the backing of legal protocols and frameworks and resources of conservation institutions should form part of the process of empowerment.

Conservation Training in the Arab Region: Regional Context and International Trends

Zaki Aslan (ICCROM)

The first regional course of the ATHĀR programme, on the conservation of archaeological sites, took place from 14 November 2005 to 28 January 2006 in Tripoli, Lebanon. The course, which focused on the countries of Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, aimed at building the capacities of professionals to become more involved in the management and decision-making process related to conservation projects in their countries. The course also began the process of establishing a regional network of professionals and developing appropriate interdisciplinary training in conservation at universities and training institutions in the region. The partners in the course were the Lebanese University, the UNESCO Office in Beirut, and the directorates of antiquities of the three countries concerned.

With any regional programme such as ATHĀR, there is a need to find a balance between international principles and values in conservation and those that are relative to the system and cultural context of the heritage to be conserved. For a course devoted to conservation of cultural heritage in the Arab region, this means addressing the fundamental issues relevant to regional conservation approaches that are rooted in the Arab historical context as well as contemporary international trends in the field. For example, the *Waqf* (an endowment founded on the idea of producing charity in perpetuity from a set of fixed assets) can be considered as a regional mechanism for the conservation of historic structures from the ninth century until the political and social transformations of the twentieth century. Recent research by A. El Habashi has shown that the principles for treating buildings within the historical context of *Waqf* are, to some extent, similar to modern international conservation principles. While it may not be possible to revive these principles as part of today's *Waqf* system, their reintegration into modern practice was considered during the course as an important constituent of some Arab-Islamic philosophical roots towards preservation.

In addition, the course introduced some recent research work (e.g. by H. Mahdi) that focused on the development of western-influenced conservation approaches in the Middle East in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. These approaches are associated with emerging conservation institutions



Left: Participants examine the impact of reburial on mosaic pavements at the site of Byblos.

Right: Participants assess the condition of wall paintings.

such as the Comité de Conservation des Monuments de l'Art Arabe in Egypt (which actively conserved and restored the 'Islamic' monuments of Egypt from 1882 until 1954), and the emerging directorates of antiquities in the region enforcing western-led legislative measures for the conservation of 'monuments'. This part of the course highlighted the various philosophical approaches these institutions adopted during several decades of activities, with implications on approaches and social attitudes towards heritage conservation in the Arab world.

The course also focused on a number of important conservation processes including heritage management and planning, documentation and research, diagnosis of causes of deterioration, site presentation, and conservation techniques for some common types of heritage in the region. Classroom activities were reinforced by field work at the World Heritage site of Byblos, where participants were able to apply many of the concepts discussed.

As a result of the course, participants were able to recognize the need to match intervention strategies with the appropriate contexts and meanings, resulting from investigation techniques which take into account multiple perspectives. Participants were also able to appreciate the need for public involvement and the need to ensure that the heritage remains a living part of the community, not 'museumized' or segregated from its present cultural and social contexts. Finally, participants were able to better understand and apply necessary scientific and planning methods to improve decision-making and ensure that the cultural heritage of the region can be passed down to future generations.

Course on Conservation of Archaeological Heritage

Tripoli and Byblos, Lebanon 14 November 2005 - 27 January 2006.

Partners

General Directorate of Antiquities,
Ministry of Culture, Lebanon
General Directorate of Antiquities
& Museums, Ministry of Culture,
Syria
Department of Antiquities,
Ministry of Tourism & Antiquities,
Jordan)
UNESCO Regional Office in Beirut
Université Libanaise

The support of the Directorate
General of Development
Co-operation, Italian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs, for ATHĀR
programme activities is gratefully
acknowledged.

Course on Archaeological Conservation

Diana-Karatas, Serbia and Montenegro
18 August - 7 September 2005

Partner
Diana Department for Preventive Conservation, National Museum, Belgrade

Training in Archaeological Conservation in Southeast Europe

Valerie Magar (ICCROM)

It is a commonly accepted truth that conservation should play an important role for the field of archaeology, at least in theory. For a long time now, international resolutions, charters and a significant number of national laws have emphasized the need to include conservation within archaeological research. However, implementation of these norms at most archaeological sites, and with their collections, is often far from being a reality, hence the continuous requirements for training in this field.

Dealing with archaeological heritage is undoubtedly a complex task, requiring attention to technical, economic, aesthetic and symbolic aspects. Of all these, economic factors are most commonly cited as the major constraint upon the implementation of conservation measures. Given limited resources, as is often the case in the cultural sector, conservation is perceived as a luxury, with painfully slow processes that require expensive techniques and materials. Conservation is thus often seen as limiting advances in the knowledge of the past. Without denying scarcity in resources and the consequent limitations, a more serious threat is posed by a lack of understanding and cooperation among professionals involved with the archaeological heritage.

It is not sufficient to implement separate conservation and archaeological activities, either site- or collections-oriented. Hence, archaeologists and conservators need to learn about each other's professions, within the context of a joint curriculum. In this manner, each profession would not be learning about 'the other' from a distance, but would be sharing the learning process and, through this, creating a common language—the key to real future cooperation. This means not working in a parallel manner, with often frustrating results, but creating a harmonious balance between archaeological research and conservation needs. This cooperation implies having a real understanding of the requirements and ethics of both disciplines, encouraging a broad perspective to solve problems and to produce results in a synergistic manner. A fine balance would mean that the archaeologist would not 'explore everything at any cost' and the conservator would not 'save everything at any cost'. It also foresees a joint planning effort and continuity, from the beginning of the planning of a project through the excavation

process, to the management of the collections and the long-term conservation of the sites.

Courses offered at ICCROM, in close collaboration with partner institutions, provide the opportunity and the challenge to bring together professionals with different cultural backgrounds and training in theoretical and practical activities, with the aim of improving knowledge and skills, and perhaps most importantly of changing attitudes and providing an opportunity to create this needed common language.

One of the regions where ICCROM is currently collaborating in the development of training activities is Southeastern Europe. Because of recent armed and social conflict in this part of the world, both facilities and training in conservation have been limited. Working with partner institutions in Serbia and Montenegro, new courses have been designed to meet the needs within this regional context. Two courses have already taken place, a short initial introductory course held in Belgrade in 2004, which offered an overview of conservation and management practices, and a longer three-week course in 2005 at the Roman archaeological site of Diana-Karatas, in eastern Serbia and Montenegro.

Without overlooking the management context and the significance of the site, the courses focused on strengthening the capacities of the participants in the use of both deductive and inductive reasoning to comprehend conservation needs within an archaeological site. Through an understanding of the nature of the materials and their environment, and a systematic approach, a complex site can be methodically analysed. This can then lead to appropriate first aid and stabilization interventions. Although complex conservation treatments are sometimes required, simple measures implemented with locally available materials can also temporarily prevent or significantly reduce decay, allowing time for a conservation plan to be devised and implemented.

During the most recent course at Diana-Karatas, participants from five countries in the region analysed four case studies, proposed first-aid actions and implemented them at the site, creating models that can be repeated elsewhere. More importantly, the course provided the initial steps towards a better communication, breaking down the psychological barrier between the professions.



Course participant applying a gauze facing to a render, before its reburial.

Reflections on ICCROM's Internship Programme

Christian Biggi

As an archaeologist, my application to ICCROM's internship programme was based on a desire to understand better the approaches to protecting the cultural heritage which is discovered by my profession, but all too often neglected afterwards. I was excited to be accepted as intern to the ATHAR programme as it gave me the chance to complement and improve my knowledge of archaeological conservation in another region.

The internship involved me in the preparation of training courses for professionals from Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. The workload was considerable but multifaceted, and allowed me to assist in course preparation at every level. I believe that contact with the many high-level experts and participants that ICCROM attracts was an invaluable experience which is rarely matched elsewhere. Working for the ATHAR programme allowed me to come into contact with the heritage of the Arab Region and those people working there, who are highly committed to professional capacity building and the preservation of cultural heritage and sites.

Sarath Chandra Boyapati

My internship at ICCROM was a valuable experience in my life, professionally and personally. Working on the community-based Living Heritage programme at ICCROM broadened my knowledge about conservation theory and practice, and helped me to address the complex issues of managing a living heritage site.

In my current role I coordinate multiple agencies in an integrated conservation approach to the World Heritage Site of Hampi. This requires multidisciplinary skills in order to handle tasks such as communication, conflict management and consensus building. Management through dialogue is the best approach for conservation, especially in a country such as India where there is continuity in the cultural practices. The lively and energetic ICCROM working environment, set among the historic city of Rome, will remain as a standard, and will continue to influence my professional practice.

Christina Brooks

Working on the CollAsia 2010 programme gave me a real understanding of the threats

posed to collections in Southeast Asia, and the professional systems and environments in which conservators and heritage institutions operate in underfunded or developing conservation environments. I was also able to further my learning in the superb ICCROM library and at various symposia where I was able to observe 'ICCROM in action!' This provided me with a greater understanding of how IGOs can operate in an international and highly complex field, through education, awareness and advocacy. As a result my view of conservation has shifted to a more international outlook, based on factors such as sustainability, appropriate technologies, relevance to local environments, and community interaction.

I will always remember my time at ICCROM fondly, and as a time of growth and learning for which I am eternally grateful.

Maria Corsino

My internship at ICCROM has greatly enriched my approach to science and conservation. The object of my research was silicon-based products and how their application can be optimized for conservation purposes. I collaborated closely with Ernesto Borrelli, Laboratory Coordinator.

I also took advantage of ICCROM's intellectual environment. As an intern, I had the opportunity to interact with other ICCROM staff, interns and fellows, and to attend lectures on many different topics. This has benefited me in my current architectural conservation project, collaborating with professionals in other fields. I have been able to communicate successfully conservation issues and notions, and this has resulted in a conservation-friendly outcome. Conservation issues always intertwine at some point with other disciplines, and being informed on fields other than our own helps us become better professionals in our fields, and can be beneficial to others in unexpected situations.

Anne Cummins

Buon lavoro is Italian for 'good work' and the salutation I encountered when beginning my working day at ICCROM in Rome.

I spent my five-month internship working on two stone and mortar-based projects in the laboratory, supervised by Ernesto Borrelli. My particular interest as a materials conservator was in gaining a better understanding of the behaviour of different



Christian Biggi



Christina Brooks



Sarath Chandra Boyapati



Anne Cummins

mortars and renders. Australia does not have a tradition of applying hydraulic additives such as pozzolana to mortars and concrete as pioneered by the ancient Romans, so I was interested in its modern applications.

Recently, I have been able to apply my ICCROM research to a conservation project in Sydney for the Macquarie Place Obelisk, designed in 1816 to mark the distances from the young port Colony. I am taking a very methodical and unconventional approach by planning the work in stages, with a prolonged testing and documentation stage to understand the decay mechanisms and micro-environment around the monument, before beginning conservation treatments. We have included some mortar trials adding a pozzolana (*trass*) to a lime-based mortar to infill semi-detached contour scale on the sandstone, in the hope that it will be more durable than traditional lime sand mortars.

My memories of ICCROM are of wonderful dedicated people and good work, so I wish you all 'buon lavoro'.



Gudrun Schmid

Gayle McIntyre

As an intern and moderator for the International Course on Reducing Risks to Collections, I had the rare opportunity to integrate and align my experience and expertise with the current research, the clever and witty curriculum design, the teaching talents, and the multiple resources and skills contained within the Collections Unit of ICCROM. It was remarkable to observe how this small department works tirelessly on multi-layered and complicated projects with such style, grace, commitment and genuine passion.

This internship afforded me the opportunity to meet an international group of conservators, conservation scientists, collections experts, and conservation managers; make new friends and establish a network of highly specialized contacts; assess the pedagogy for this course; learn new techniques to assess, manage and reduce risks to collections; earn the trust of new group of peers; and become acquainted with the many valuable resources that ICCROM has to offer to the conservation community.

For me personally, the most enlightening lesson was learning the need to provide clear, consistent and unambiguous information in my work.



Ulla Visscher

Gudrun Schmid

Working with ICCROM's guidebook project, and joining classes and excursions of the Sharing Conservation Decisions 2004 Course, I gained a deep insight into many conservation issues and the involved disciplines. Now, whenever I visit a heritage place, my first thought is about its conservation. My second thought is: how could the place-relevant values and vulnerability be communicated to the general public? And only my third thought goes to the history and beauty of the place itself.

I currently specialise in the establishment of management plans for heritage sites, a role in which I occupy a mediating position between all the stakeholders who have a say in the future development of a heritage site.

My internship at ICCROM allowed me to see with the eyes of a conservator, and I am now able not only to assess conservation aspects inherent in management issues but also to communicate these aspects to non-expert parties.

Ulla Visscher

During my internship, I worked on developing a collections disaster recovery plan and a long-term image and audiovisual preservation plan for ICCROM's library and archive. I relied heavily on in-house expertise, and also had the opportunity to visit libraries and archives in several national, international and foreign institutions in Rome to discover how they were handling these issues.

Disaster planning requires coordination with local suppliers, services, facilities and expertise. International institutions, or national institutions operating outside their own boundaries in a 'foreign' environment, face challenges in this respect, and increased efforts are required to understand and operate successfully within the host country. ICCROM can serve as an example of successfully marrying the benefits of internationalism with the added responsibility that this implies, to reach out, clarify and build consensus across cultural lines.

My internship experience provided me with a wealth of technical information which I look forward to sharing in my future career. I retain the benefits of my exposure to international professionals and their various points of view, and the conviction that by combining differing perspectives, better solutions can be achieved.

ICCROM Library: Selected New Acquisitions

Paul Arenson (ICCROM)

Archaeology

Mitigation of construction impact on archaeological remains. Vol. 1: Main report. Vol. 2: Database of archaeological mitigation strategies, M. J. Davis et al. (London: English Heritage) 2004. ISBN 1-901992-47-0

This study, commissioned by English Heritage, discusses ways to avoid or limit damage and disturbance to archaeological sites and *in situ* remains that are subject to development works or construction projects. Separate sections cover options intended to lessen impact before, during and after construction, as well as monitoring techniques and mitigation strategies such as reburial. An accompanying CD-ROM contains a database of archaeological and construction sites where these strategies have been put to use.

Arqueología preventiva en el Eje Cafetero: reconocimiento y rescate arqueológico en los municipios jurisdicción del Fondo para la reconstrucción del Eje Cafetero, FOREC, Carlos Andrés Barragán and Víctor González Fernández (eds.) (Bogota: Instituto Colombiano de Antropología e Historia (ICANH)) 2001. ISBN 958-8181-03-8
After the 1999 earthquake in the Colombian coffee-growing region known as the Eje Cafetero, the Colombian government created a special fund, FOREC, for the reconstruction and development of the region. This book presents efforts made to protect the region's rich archaeological heritage, with an emphasis on the role of preventive archaeology in the research process. The studies, covering the rescue and monitoring of archaeological heritage within the affected municipalities, are documented, along with the legal instruments used by FOREC.

Architectural conservation

Αποκατάσταση μνημείων: Αναβίωση ιστορικών κτιρίων στην Αττική (Restoration of monuments: rehabilitation of historical buildings in Attica), Vols. I and II, Yiannis Kizis (Athens: ERGON IV) 2004. ISBN 960-86676-6-0
This two-volume set documents forty years of interventions to Attica's historic buildings and sites. Restorations to sites dating from classical antiquity include the Acropolis Erechtheion, the Theatre of Dionysus, and Hadrian's Library, while rehabilitations and adaptive-use projects to nineteenth and twentieth century sites include Saint Irene's Church, the Benaki Museum, and

a series of government buildings, private mansions and industrial sites. Also featured is a revitalization project for the Plaka District, the historical centre of Athens. An editorial effort is made to display the tensions between ideal and feasible restoration goals, and the balance struck between the needs of preservation and modernization.

Mostart: A Bridge Story, Rusmir Ćišić, Tihomir Rozić, and Anto Šain (Mostar: PCU City of Mostar) 2004.

This book documents the project to rebuild the Stari Most (Mostar Bridge), destroyed by artillery fire in 1993 and now reconstructed by the City of Mostar with assistance and funding from UNESCO and the World Bank. Sections in Bosnian and in English cover: the bridge's history; a structural analysis of the bridge design; sampling and classification of original building materials such as stone, mortar and metal; strengthening of the bridge foundations; and the specifications for, and cutting of, new Tenelija stone blocks to be used in the reconstruction. Also presented are the archaeological investigations and technical description of the associated Tara and Halebija Towers, which were rebuilt as part of this project.

Archives and library conservation

Scelte e strategie per la conservazione della memoria (Choices and strategies for preservation of the collective memory), Maria Teresa Tanasi et al. (eds.) (Bolzano: Archivio di Stato) 2005. ISBN 88-7574-048-8

The papers of this international convention, held in Dobbiaco in 2002, outline dangers and solutions for the preservation of archival information, on whichever support or format it may be found. Broad topics include: risk assessment and disaster measures; options for preserving original materials; scientific analysis of deterioration; technical solutions for common archival problems; access options; training and professional information-sharing; digitization and forward migration issues; and repository design, restoration and retro-fitting.

Blessures d'archives, rêve d'éternité: de la conservation préventive à la restauration, Hélène Grousseau, et al. (Valence: Despesse) 2004. ISBN 2-86026-036-6

This publication stems from a joint exhibition organized by the central archives of the





Vaucluse and Drôme departments in France. The purpose was to educate the public about the sources of deterioration that commonly degrade or destroy archival documents. These include: humidity and temperature levels, dust and light; biodeterioration from mould and bacteria, or from insect and rodent attack; air pollution; and disaster events such as fire and flood. Also covered are preventive conservation, archival housing and inventory, and document restoration techniques including anoxic deinfestation and paper reintegration.

Biology, microbiology, infestation

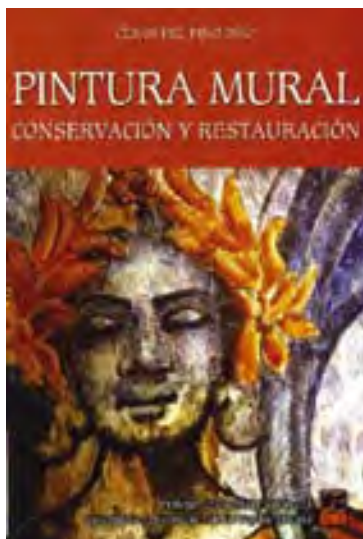
Schimmel: Gefahr für Mensch und Kulturgut durch Mikroorganismen (Fungi: a threat for people and cultural heritage through micro-organisms), Angelika Rauch, et al. (eds.) (Stuttgart: Konrad Theiss Verlag) 2004. ISBN 3-8062-1925-7

These papers, presented at the 2001 vDR conference, focus on the dangers posed by mould and other forms of microbiological attack, both to cultural property objects and to the persons who work or come into contact with them. Broad topics include: the identification of microbial attack; contamination causes; types of object damage; prevention and treatment options; and precautions to shield humans from health risk. The contributions of biologists, medical doctors, archivists, and lawyers were sought in addition to those of conservators, so as to create an interdisciplinary discussion useful to the conservation profession yet also accessible to the general public.

Earthen architecture

Arquitectura de Terra em Portugal/Earth Architecture in Portugal, Maria Fernandes and Mariana Correia (eds.) (Associação Centro da Terra; Lisbon: Argumentum) 2005. ISBN 972-8479-36-0

This bilingual publication, created by the Associação Centro da Terra, presents a broad view of the current state of Portuguese earthen architecture. Papers from 54 contributors are divided into separate sections covering earth as building material, the intersection of earthen architecture with conservation, landscape, archaeology and contemporary architecture, professions associated with earthen architecture, and training options in the field. The book touches on earth constructions from Brazil, Goa and Madeira in addition to documenting those of continental Portugal.



Legislation

Les monuments historiques, un nouvel enjeu ? Vols. I et II, Michel Prieur and Dominique Audrerie (eds.) (Paris: L'Harmattan) 2004. ISBN 2-7475-6574-2 and 2-7475-6575-0

In celebration of the ninetieth anniversary of the ground-breaking 1913 French law dedicated to the protection of historic monuments, a symposium was held in Limoges to discuss its impact in France and worldwide on the preservation of movable and immovable heritage. The published papers present viewpoints from university scholars, lawyers and cultural heritage professionals on how this law has integrated concern for heritage into subsequent legislation, cultural policy, urban planning and regional development efforts.

Going, Going, Gone: Regulating the Market in Illicit Antiquities, S.R.M. Mackenzie (Leicester, UK: Institute of Art & Law) 2005. ISBN 1-903987-07-5

Taking as its topic the problem of increasing traffic in looted objects, this book presents an analysis of current laws regulating the international movement of antiquities, exposing legal flaws and loopholes exploited by traffickers as well as ways in which these laws are not appropriately adapted to how the antiquities market functions. The author presents interviews and site visits at auction houses and museums, examining from all sides why the current legal controls are not working, and how they and the antiquities market as a whole might be improved.

Mural paintings

La Pintura Mural: Conservación y Restauración, César del Pino Díaz (Madrid: CIE Dossat 2000) 2004. ISBN 84-89656-88-6

The principles and techniques of mural paintings conservation are reviewed in this publication. There are chapters on the following: the characterization of mural painting typologies and mortar supports; diagnosis and solutions for deterioration caused by water, salts, light, vibration, climate and biological attack; and conservation methodologies including consolidation, cleaning, and protective coating. Scientific analysis and restoration documentation are discussed, as are techniques for the transfer of mural paintings on to new supports.

Madrasa Amiriya: la conservazione delle pitture murali/Amiriya Madrasa: conservation of the mural paintings, Selma Al Radi, Roberto Nardi, and Chiara Zizola (Rome: Centro di Conservazione Archeologica) 2005. Arabic: ISBN 88-901903-2-9; Italian: ISBN 88-901903-0-2; English: ISBN 88-901903-1-0 This book details the restoration project of the mural paintings of the Amiriya Madrasa, one of Yemen's most significant monuments, which was undertaken by the Archaeological Conservation Centre of Rome with the help of international funding. The restoration work provided the occasion for a six-month course in 2003 which trained Yemeni professionals in mural painting conservation and maintenance. The book, available in Arabic, Italian and English versions, describes all stages of the project, as well as providing extensive photographic documentation of the beautiful tempera mural paintings, both pre- and post-conservation.

Museum storage

Magasinbygningens, fysik og funktion: postprint, Maj Ringgaard et al. (eds.) (Hvidovre, Denmark: Nordisk Konservatorforbund, danske afdeling) 2005. ISBN 87-990583-8 Papers from this 2004 course on museum storage, held by the Danish chapter of the Nordic Conservation Association, investigate topics such as facilities design and layout, environmental monitoring, collections management and tracking, and risk management. This situation of museum storage in the Faeroe Islands, Iceland and Sweden is also discussed. The publication ends with a section of course surveys evaluating conditions in six Danish museum storage facilities.

Paintings

Minimo intervento conservativo nel restauro dei dipinti, Centro per lo studio dei materiali per il restauro (CESMAR7) (Saonara, Italy: Il Prato) 2005. ISBN 88-89566-29-9 Minimal intervention was the topic of this 2004 meeting organized by CESMAR7, the second in the conference series *Colore e Conservazione* (Colour and Conservation). In addition to defining the term and assessing its theoretical implications, the collected papers reflect on the goal of minimal intervention in the light of canvas and panel paintings conservation practice. Relining and backing

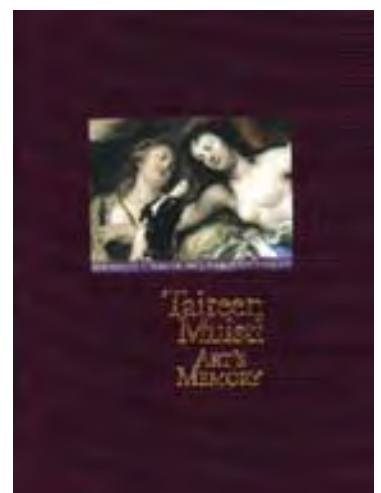
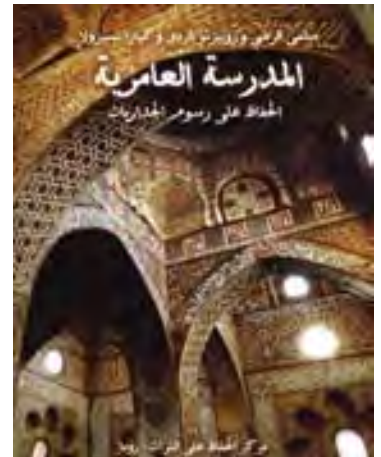
criteria and techniques, climatic effects on the mechanical behaviour of paintings, evaluating and correcting tensioning levels, and other topics are discussed.

Taiteen Muisti: konservoinnin kerrostumial/Art's Memory: layers of conservation, Reetta Kuojärvi-Närhi et al. (eds.) (Helsinki: Sinebrychoff Art Museum) 2005. ISBN 951-53-2730-X

In the course of the 2001-2002 restoration of the Sinebrychoff Art Museum, a historic house museum located in Helsinki, a series of interventions took place to the house interior as well as to its collections of furniture, panel paintings, portrait miniatures and pastels. Among the paintings restored were works by Giovanni Boccati, Jürgen Ovens, and Marten de Vos. This bilingual publication from the Valtion Taidemuseo (Finnish National Gallery) documents the restorations and the scientific analyses that preceded them, and provides historical background on the house and its objects, including discoveries that came to light as a result of the conservation work.

Site management and maintenance

Historic Fortification Preservation Handbook, David M. Hansen, Kimberly Keagle and Deborah Rehn (WA: Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission) 2003. This handbook, produced by the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission together with the United States National Park Service and the University of Oregon, addresses the fundamental issues of historic fortification designation and management. Individual sections cover: the identification and evaluation of military fortifications as historic properties, providing several different survey and condition assessment methods; discussion of site diagnosis and treatment, with emphasis on building materials such as masonry and concrete; and management issues including documentation, the ramifications of public ownership, visitor safety, site interpretation, and site care options. Abundant examples, case studies, sample forms and worksheets are provided.





Att värda en kyrka, Elisabeth Svalin (Stockholm: Verbum Förlag) 2004. ISBN 91-526-3011-0

This short volume on church maintenance, produced in conjunction with the Riksantikvarieämbetet (Swedish National Heritage Board), provides practical guidance to caretakers of church property in Sweden. The book discusses church interiors and exteriors with a focus on climate issues, the daily handling of church objects and cleaning of church spaces, the creation and maintenance of inventories, and risk management issues such as security, fire, theft and safety. Each chapter ends with a checklist of recommended actions, and contains suggestions on how to design maintenance routines. For instances where expert assistance must be sought and permissions obtained, information is given on the types of Swedish antiquities authorities and the assistance each can provide.

Sculpture

Policromia: a escultura policromada religiosa dos séculos XVII e XVIII: estudo comparativo das técnicas, alterações e conservação em Portugal, Espanha e Bélgica, Ana Isabel Seruya et al. (eds.) (Lisbon: Instituto português de conservação e restauro (IPCR)) 2004. ISBN 972-95724-4-5

This book arose from a comparative study project starting in 1999 which involved nine movable-objects conservation institutions in Portugal, Spain and Belgium. The intent was to create a subject database, as well as to work systematically towards a European standard of best practices for conserving religious polychrome Baroque sculpture. Papers from the 2002 conference held at the IPCR in Lisbon present different aspects of the topic, including study of techniques, deterioration effects, work methodologies and pigment analysis for polychrome sculpture in wood, clay and stone.

Tourism

Tourisme solidaire et développement durable, Jean-Marie Collombon et al. (eds.) (Paris: Éditions du Gret) 2004. ISBN 2-86844-149-1

The tourism sector is one of the most economically dynamic in the world, yet its very success creates concerns for the negative impacts of increasing numbers of visitors on sites and on the often-disadvantaged countries where they are located. This 2003

conference discusses the creation of fair-tourism partnerships, dedicated to creating a more ethical consumption where tourism profits are used in target countries for sustainable development efforts, including site preservation. Articles from the conference are presented, along with case studies of fair-tourism initiatives in Francophone Africa and the Near East.

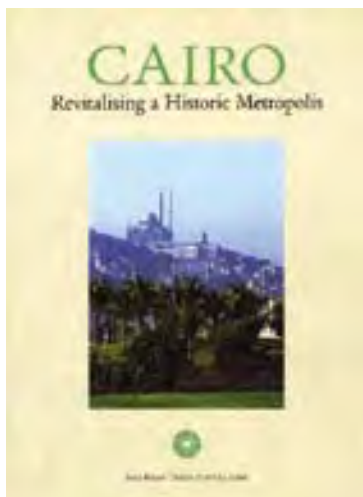
Urban conservation

Cairo: Revitalising a Historic Metropolis, Stefano Bianca and Philip Jodidio (eds.) (Turin: Umberto Allemandi & Co) 2004. ISBN 88-422-1235-0

Cairo, with some sixteen million residents, is one of the most densely inhabited cities in the world, with a population level that profoundly impacts the city's historic monuments and the quality of life offered to its residents. To improve living conditions while preserving historical monuments, the Aga Khan Trust for Culture undertook an urban redevelopment project, creating the Al-Azhar public garden out of what was previously barren wasteland, restoring the Ayyubid city wall, and rehabilitating the historic but economically challenged al-Darb al-Ahmar district. Papers collected in this volume retrace the history of Cairo's monuments and outline aspects of the urban redevelopment scheme, with its stated aim of reconciling conservation needs with those of Cairo residents.

The Science of Saving Venice, Caroline Fletcher and Jane Da Mosto (Turin: Umberto Allemandi & Co.) 2004. ISBN 88-422-1310-1

Despite numerous restoration works to its monuments, Venice is at ever-increasing risk from flooding caused by soil subsidence and rising Adriatic sea-levels, as well as from lagoon modifications and heavy traffic which alter tidal patterns and negatively impact water purity. These rising levels of salt water and pollution, in turn, attack the city's stone foundations. This book, the result of a three-year research project based at Cambridge University, distils the state of current science and explains potential solutions to save Venice, including barrier technology, restoration of lagoon wetlands, and the need for careful coordination of restoration efforts.



Publications for Sale

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The books may be purchased online from the ICCROM bookshop (http://www.iccrom.org/eng/db_bookshop.asp), or by downloading the order form, or by writing directly to the bookshop at ICCROM (address on back cover).



Legal Frameworks for the Protection of Immovable Cultural Heritage in Africa, W. Ndoro and G. Pwiti (eds). Rome: ICCROM, 2005. 75 pp. (ICCROM Conservation Studies 5). €25.00



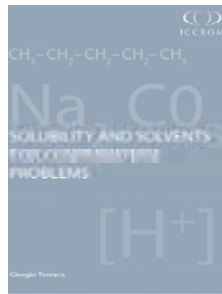
El estudio y la conservación de la cerámica decorada en arquitectura. A. Alva Balderrama, A. Almagro Vidal, and I. Bestué Cardiel (eds). Rome: ICCROM, 2003. Several languages. €60.00



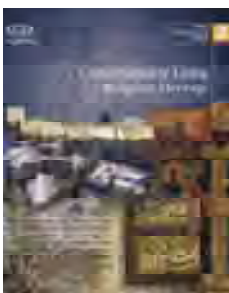
Porous Building Materials - Materials Science for Architectural Conservation, G. Torraca. Reprint. Rome: ICCROM, 2005. 149 pp. €15.00



Traditional Conservation Practices in Africa, T. Joffroy (ed.). Rome: ICCROM, 2005. 104 pp. (ICCROM Conservation Studies 2). €30.00



Solubility and Solvents for Conservation Problems, G. Torraca. Reprint. Rome: ICCROM, 2005. 64 pp. €10.00



Conservation of Living Religious Heritage, H. Stovel, N. Stanley-Price and R. Killick (eds). Rome: ICCROM, 2005. 113 pp. (ICCROM Conservation Studies 3). €40.00



Management Guidelines for World Cultural Heritage Sites, B.M. Feilden and J. Jokilehto. Arabic translation. Rome: ICCROM, 2005. 142 pp. €20.00



The Preservation of Great Zimbabwe: Your Monument, Our Shrine. W. Ndoro. Rome: ICCROM, 2005. 90 pp. (ICCROM Conservation Studies 4). €30.00



Reburial of Archaeological Sites: a colloquium held at Santa Fe, New Mexico, 17-21 March 2003. Special issue of *Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites*, Vol. 6, Nos. 3 and 4, 2004. 270 pp. € 66.00



Manual para el manejo de los sitios del Patrimonio Cultural Mundial, B.M. Feilden and J. Jokilehto. Rome: ICCROM, 2003. 187 pp. €22.00



Theory of Restoration, Cesare Brandi. Florence: Nardini Editore, 2005. 186 pp. €20.00



Preparación ante el riesgo: un manual para el manejo del Patrimonio Cultural Mundial, H. Stovel. Rome: ICCROM, 2003. 206 pp. €22.00



Guide de manipulation des collections, V. Illes, B. Derion. Paris: Somogy –Editions d'art, 2004. 128 pp. €20.00



Survey of the legal and professional responsibilities of the Conservator-Restorers. ECCO, 2001. 324 pp. Bilingual English and French. €30.00



The Compleat Marble Sleuth, P. Rockwell, S. Rosenfeld and H. Hanley. Sunny Isles Beach, FL, Rockrose Publishing, 2004. 233 pp. €50.00



ICOM Committee for Conservation. 14th Triennial Meeting, The Hague, 12-16 September 2005. Pre-prints. London: James & James, 2005. 2 vols. and 1 CD-ROM. €155.00



The Illustrated Burra Charter: Good Practice for Heritage Places, Peter Marquis-Kyle and Meredith Walker. Burwood: Australia ICOMOS, 2004. 116 pp. €32.00



Les mosaïques: conserver pour présenter/Mosaics: Conserve to Display?, VIIème conférence du ICCM, Actes, Arles, 22-28 novembre 1999. Arles: Musée de l'Arles antique, 2004. 493 pp. In French and English. €35.00



Keeping Time: the History and Theory of Preservation in America, W. J. Murtagh. 3rd ed. Hoboken: N. J. Wiley & Sons, 2005. 249 pp. €34.00

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