INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE PRESERVATION AND THE RESTORATION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY

NEWSLETTER • SPRING 1973

PRESENTATION

Created by UNESCO in 1959, the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property (International Centre for Conservation) is an autonomous intergovernmental organization, formed by a General Assembly, and by the Secretariat which is composed of specialized and administrative personnel.

States wishing to become members of the Centre must send to the Director-General of UNESCO a formal declaration of their intention, signed by the competent Minister.

Each Member State gives the Centre a contribution equal to 1 per cent of its contribution to UNESCO for the current year.

Besides the Member States, public or private cultural institutions, without lucrative aim, can be accepted as Associate Members by the Council, which fixes the amount of their contribution. The Associate Members may send a representative, who, however, does not have a vote, to the General Assembly, and they may also make use of all services offered by the Centre.

As stated in article 1 of the Statutes, the Centre exercises the following functions:

(a) Collect, study, and circulate documentation concerned with the scientific and technical problems of the preservation and restoration of cultural property:

(b) Co-ordinate, stimulate, or institute research in this domain, by means, in particular, of commissions to bodies or experts, international meetings, publications and exchanges of specialists.

(c) Give advice and recommendations on general or specific points connected with the preservation and restoration of cultural property.

(d) Assist in training research workers and technicians and raising the standard of restoration work.

During the first thirteen years of its activity the Centre has, in answer to the most general and urgent needs of its members, put the accent above all on the training of specialized personnel, and technical consultations. The directive lines of the main activities of the Centre have been clearly stated recently in a document approved by the Council in April 1972; the essential elements are reproduced below.

The rapid development of relations with the Member States (54 on 31 December 1972) and the Associate Members, and the attention devoted to maintaining contacts with specialists all over the world (thus forming a sort of network of experts for the Centre), as well as with the young people who have received a significant part of their professional training at the Centre, or through the Centre, are all motives behind the creation of a regular form of contact and information, the Newsletter of the International Centre for Conservation.

The Newsletter will be published at least once a year and will be composed, in principle, of texts of general interest on the policies of conservation throughout the world, information on the different sectors of activity of the International Centre of Conservation and a heading 'contacts' of special interest to the Centre's alumni.
MEMBER STATES
AS OF 31 DECEMBER 1972

Albania  
Austria  
Belgium  
Brazil  
Bulgaria  
Colombia  
Cuba  
Cyprus  
Dominica  
Egypt  
France  
Gabon  
Ghana  
Guinea  
Honduras  
India  
Iraq  

Israel  
Italy  
Japan  
Jordan  
Khmer Republic  
Korea  
Kuwait  
Lebanon  
Libya  
Madagascar  
Malaysia  
Malta  
Mexico  
Morocco  
Nepal  
Netherlands  
Nicaragua  
Nigeria  

Pakistan  
Peru  
Poland  
Portugal  
Rumania  
Spain  
Sri Lanka  
Sudan  
Sweden  
Switzerland  
Syria  
Thailand  
Tunisia  
Turkey  
UK  
USA  
Yugoslavia  
Vietnam

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
AS OF 31 DECEMBER 1972

Gulbenkian Foundation (Lisbon).
C. M. Lerici Foundation, Rome (Italy).
Institut Suisse pour l'Etude de l'Art, Zurich (Switzerland).
Museu de arte contemporanea, Sao Paulo (Brazil).
National Gallery of Victoria, Melbourne (Australia).
Direzione generale dei monumenti, musei, e gallerie pontificie (Vatican City).
Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC (USA).

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES

We shall briefly examine the principles which guide the work of the Centre in its different fields.

Introduction
The main section of the Centre's activities can be divided as follows:
1. Documentation.
2. Publications.
3. Training.
4. Research.
5. Specialized assistance.
6. Regional activity.
7. Co-operation with other international organizations.
8. Theory of restoration.

1. Documentation
The collecting of documentation (library and other kinds of documentation) depends on requirements of the various activities. The purpose is to have the necessary information for (1) didactic activities, and (2) research carried out by the scientific personnel with regard to the promotion of research and technical assistance.

Documentation is supplied upon request, in the form of bibliographies or Xerox copies, against payment of reproduction costs. All requests must necessarily have a well-defined object.

The Centre tries also to exchange information and keep in contact with other documentation centres already existing or being set up, to which it applies in case of need.

Let us mention, in this connection, the documentation services of ICOM, ICOMOS, Delft Polytechnic School, and UNESCO Regional Centres.

These contacts establish around the Centre a network of information which covers all fields of conservation.

2. Publications
In its policy of publications, the Centre has two aims in view:

1. To diffuse basic knowledge acquired in different sectors; this can be done by translating fundamental works or by publishing original texts. This type of publication is generally made in agreement with the Icom Conservation Committee, and realized by Eyrolles, Paris, which deals with distribution.

2. To supply students with short and synthetic texts on the subjects dealt with during the course; the series of lecture notes was started in 1970. To it can be added the publication of lecture notes in offset. This material is distributed to the students against payment of a partial contribution to the expenses, and sold, on request, by the Centre.

3. Training
1. The Centre when organizing training of specialists should aim at ensuring member countries a service of competent specialists in different fields; the need of such action is mainly felt in underdeveloped countries and in developed countries with few specialists and limited possibilities.

Since the number of experts capable of teaching is also very limited, priority is given to the formation of
young specialists with the realization of a limited conservation work, having the character of a methodological example and including, in principle, the participation of local specialists in view of their training.

Conditions: the mission should be carefully planned in collaboration with local authorities and preceded by a mission of experts to define the nature and extent of work to be done, checking them and concluding operations at the end of the work. It is advisable that one at least of the associated local technicians spends a preliminary training period in Rome.

The financial conditions are the same as for the missions of experts; but in the case of important operations, the Centre will take into consideration the opening of a special credit in the budget.

4. Emergency missions. Since 1969 the Council has approved the organization of urgent missions in case of natural catastrophes menacing the conservation of cultural property and has authorized the Director of the Centre to finance them, drawing money out of the reserve fund, with a limit of $4,000.

6. Regional activity
Since the nature of subjects, the cultural, social, economic, and administrative conditions, staff and equipment facilities, climatic factors of deterioration vary in a considerable way from one region to another, an effective action of safeguard should take into account all the problems characterizing each region.

The first phase of the work is direct knowledge of the situation in different regions. Up to now, it has only been realized through travelling done by the scientific personnel.

The organization of Regional Seminars, which will probably be repeated with a certain regularity, should follow the following:

Systematic information on the problems of the various countries of a region.

Regular contacts between regional specialists, as they have been existing for a long time in Europe and North America.

The information from these specialists on the most interesting problems and on the possibilities of international organizations.

All data collected through seminars of this kind will allow better elaboration of future programmes of the Centre according to the needs of the different regions of the world.

The training of specialists is one of the main problems of the Centre. Therefore, it seems that the existence of regional Training Centres created by UNESCO, should be duly considered in the organization of these seminars.

On the other hand, the development of regional programmes established by Icom and ICOMOS might also offer good opportunities for collaboration.

7. Co-operation with other international organizations
The co-operation with other international organizations interested in conservation, and particularly with Icom, ICOMOS, and IIC has been existing for a long time and might be better articulated in future.

1. In relation to UNESCO, the aim of the Centre is to be a specialized organization dealing with problems of conservation which it will solve by participating in the following ways:

Technical and general consultations on the problems of
Elaboration of theory. The fundamental principles of a modern conception of restoration based on respect towards the historical and aesthetic authenticity of a monument, and on the most recent methods of approach, were theoretically established by reliable authors and, on a more practical plan, by the Charter of Venice of 1964. The whole action of the Centre is based on these principles. However, it should be recognized that the modes of application to the different fields of universal cultural property still need special elaboration. The Centre wishes to operate at this level, under the form of publications or by stimulating the exchange of points of view during meetings.

2. The diffusion of knowledge. That is, of a rigorous conception of conservation and its methodology covers a very important part of the whole teaching of the Centre. It aims at the development of the critical conscience of young restorers and at the progressive creation of a common culture and terminology that will facilitate relations between international specialists, whatever cultural background they may have.

Of course this action will be a long-term one, and should be considered, not as an ‘indoctrination’, but as a living problem.

Library and documentation
The library of the Centre at the present contains about 5,000 volumes covering all sectors of conservation: architecture and urbanism, excavations, painting, sculpture, applied arts, graphic documents, books and archives. The library subscribes to all magazines specializing in conservation and to most of those which give the sector an important place.

The documentation department also keeps the reports presented during the meetings of the Icom Committee for Conservation. Copies of these reports can be obtained at the price of 50 lira per page.

Publications

Volumes on sale


MASSARI, Giovanni. L’umidità nei monumenti (in Italian), 1969, 600 lira ($1).

MASSARI, Giovanni. Humidity in Monuments (translation in English), 1971, 600 lira ($1).


MAMILLAN, Marc. Pathology of Building Materials, 1970, 600 lira ($1).


MAMILLAN, Marc. Pathologie et conservation des constructions en pierre, 1972, 1,450 lira ($2.50).


FORAMITTI, Hans. Mesures de sécurité et d’urgence pour la protection des biens culturels, 1972, 600 lira ($1).

Training of specialists in conservation
Architectural conservation
This course, organized in collaboration with the Faculty of Architecture of the Rome University, and with the cooperation of visiting professors chosen among international specialists, is held each year from January to June and is
open to architects, engineers, urbanists, archaeologists, and art historians with university degrees. The participants receive a certificate of attendance issued by the Centre and can afterwards present an original thesis giving them the opportunity to obtain a diploma from the Faculty of Architecture Rome University.

The following have obtained attendance certificates from the Centre in 1972:

- Akumoh-Boateng, Kofi (Ghana)
- Arroja, Perez Graciela (Mexico)
- Bazu, Olga (Rumania)
- Bellisario, Fabio (Italy)
- Benavides, Solis Jorge (Equador)
- Bonilla-Pivaral, Hector (Guatemala)
- Buch, Felicitas (GFR)
- Chiia, Augusto (Italy)
- Conati, Giovanna (Italy)
- Correa, Orbegezo, Jose (Peru)
- Dal Cin, Adriana (Argentina)
- De Naeyer, Andre (Belgium)
- Eideval, Balonho (Brazil)
- De Escobar, Alba (Mexico)
- Fancelli, Paolo (Italy)
- Folino, Paulo (Brazil)
- Giacconi, Giulia (Italy)
- Gomes, Pascoal Coelho Olinio (Brazil)
- Grassi, Anna (Yugoslavia)
- Gelisahadi, Hossein (Iran)
- Leysen, Floribert (Belgium)
- Liotti, Cataldo (Italy)
- Lucarelli, Sergio (Italy)
- Marriof, R. Alba (Italy)
- Marjovovic Karpov, Svetlana (Yugoslavia)
- von Matern, Akke (Sweden)
- Mattos-Cardenas, Leonardo (Peru)
- Menichelli, Bruno (Italy)
- Millar, Norman (UK)
- Orive Bellinger, Olga (Mexico)
- Papachristu, Maria (Greece)
- Rabefirenena, Clement (Madagascar)
- Ricotti, Anna (Italy)
- Russel, John (UK)
- Santalla, L. Elda (Argentina)
- Santos, Luis (Columbia)
- Seabra, Jao Luis (Portugal)
- Tar, Jashina (USA)
- Widawski, Jaroslav (Poland)
- Yaneff, Stoyan (Bulgaria)
- Zamora, Quintana Francisco (Mexico)

The following have obtained diplomas, in 1972, from the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Rome:

- Cunow, Waldemar (Sweden)
- Curtis-Morgan, Leonardo (Peru)
- Menichelli, Bruno (Italy)
- Miller, Norman (UK)
- Orive Bellinger, Olga (Mexico)
- Papachristu, Maria (Greece)
- Rabefirenena, Clement (Madagascar)
- Ricotti, Anna (Italy)
- Russel, John (UK)
- Santalla, L. Elda (Argentina)
- Santos, Luis (Columbia)
- Seabra, Jao Luis (Portugal)
- Tar, Jashina (USA)
- Widawski, Jaroslav (Poland)
- Yanoff, Stoyan (Bulgaria)
- Zamora, Quintana Francisco (Mexico)

The following have obtained attendance certificates in 1972:

- Blanchy, Pavel (Czechoslovakia)
- Bogale, Mamm (Ethiopia)
- Burchardt, Jacqueline (Switzerland)
- Dwyer, Diane Michelle (USA)
- Finlay, Gillian Katherine (UK)
- Giare, Anna (Switzerland)
- Hada, Hiroshi (Japan)
- Idil, Ali Ceto (Turkey)
- Khewhok, Sanit (Thailand)
- Olsson, Kerstin (Sweden)
- Pemberton-Pigott, Viola (UK)
- Saporta, Upendra N. (Nepal)
- Tuczynski, Zelek (Poland)
- Wellmann, Sophie Charlotte (Germany)

Scientific principles of conservation

This course, which will begin in an experimental form in 1973, is intended for specialists in conservation of cultural property: historians or art, archaeologists, keepers of museums, scientists and restorers. It will last about four months and include the theory of restoration, the structure of materials, the action of surroundings, the technological principles of conservation.

The aim is to demonstrate the fundamental principles of conservation calling upon practical experience above all else, and using a language as simple as possible, thus making them accessible to people not having scientific preparation.

The number of participants will be limited by the possibilities of the laboratory and equipment. A maximum of ten is foreseen, when the course reaches its full development.

Travelling Summer School for Restorers (TSSR)

From 4 July to 5 August 1972, the Centre organized, with the assistance of the Smithsonian Institution, the National Endowment for the Arts and Humanities, the American Institute for Architects, and the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a study tour on problems of architectural restoration in England, France, Belgium, and Holland. Under the direction of Professor Charles Peterson, Messrs. Brown Morton III and Gael de Guichen, and Miss Elizabeth Pye assisting, a group of twenty-five architects and urbanists, coming from USA, France, Turkey, Ghana, Canada, UK, and Mexico took part in this tour, which allowed a particularly profitable exchange of views.

Specialized assistance

Among the missions carried out by the Centre in 1971 and 1972, we can mention:

- Borobudur. Mission by Mr. G. Torraca (January 1971) and Mr. P. Mora (September 1971) within the frame of the UNESCO Programme. A study of the alteration of stone and of cleaning procedures, in co-operation with other experts of UNESCO. A discussion on results of laboratory experiments in Paris (CETBTP) and Orléans (BEPM).

- Goreme (Turkey). Mission by Messrs. G. Torraca and P. Mora, and Mrs. L. Mora (May 1972). Study of conservation problems concerning the mural paintings of the rock churches of Cappadoce. The Centre has proposed a programme of study and conservation which has been accepted in principle by the Turkish Government. A mission organized by the Centre will start the first phase of the programme of conservation and training of restorers in autumn 1973.
Venice. The Centre has organized, in collaboration with several Italian national laboratories, a study of the atmospheric pollution of stone. The action of microorganisms on stone and on canvas is also being studied in that field, in collaboration with the Institut Pasteur, in Paris. The Centre carried out two missions in Venice in 1971, and five in 1972.

Humor (Rumania). After a first mission carried out in 1970, the Centre organized, during the summer of 1971, in collaboration with the Direction of Historical Monuments of Rumania, a pilot working camp, for the restoration of the murals of Humor, in Moldavia. The team, under the direction of Mr. P. Mora, was composed of: Messrs. E. Mohapp, H. Scholtz, and Z. Majcherowicz, and on the Rumanian side, Miss T. Pogonat, Mr. I. Istudor, Miss Ignat, Mr. Neagoe, and Mr. Ivanivici.


Regional conferences

Southern and South-East Asia. A conference was organized from 5 to 17 February 1972, in New Delhi, in collaboration with the Central Laboratory of the National Museum of New Delhi.

Main subjects: conservation of metal objects, murals, miniatures; problems of climatology and of the different countries of the region. The publication of the contributions is under study.

After the conference, Mr. P. Philippot, director of the Centre, and Mr. O. P. Agrawal, member of the Council carried out an information mission in different countries of South-East Asia: Ceylon, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Nepal, in order to study the possibilities for further programmes in the region.

North America. A regional conference was organized from 7 to 19 September 1972, in Williamsburg and Philadelphia, on the theme conservation — principles and practices. One of the main aims was to allow specialists of historic preservation and museum conservation to meet one another, so as to establish fields of common interest and promote collaboration. The communications will be published during 1973. The conference was sponsored by the Rome Centre Committee of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, administered and co-ordinated by the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the USA, and made possible through grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Colonial Williamsburg, the National Park Service US Department of the Interior, the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission and the International Centre for Conservation.

Latin America. A third conference on problems concerning particularly Latin America will be organized in November 1973, in Mexico, in collaboration with the Centro latinoamericano de conservacion y restauracion de bienes culturales and the Paul Coremans Centre.

Other meetings

Treatment of stone (cleaning, consolidation, and protection)

A meeting, organized in collaboration with the 'Centro per la conservazione delle sculture all'aperto' took place in Bologna in October 1971. The communications, in French and English have been published.

Icom Committee for Conservation

The reports presented at the Icom Committee for Conservation in Madrid, October 2 to 7, will not be published, but copies of them may be purchased from the library of the Centre: A list has been published in the reviews: Icom News and IIC News.

Research

Conservation of structures in unbaked bricks

In October 1972, the programme of research started in February 1968, in collaboration with the Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique, Brussels, and the Archaeological Institute of the University of Turin, was concluded. A report has been presented to the meeting on the conservation of unbaked bricks organized by ICOMOS in Yagzed, Iran, in November 1972, and is actually to be published shortly. It will be available, on request, from the library of the Centre.

Conservation of stone

The ‘Centro per la conservazione delle sculture all’aperto’ (Via dei Pignattari, 1 Bologna 40124, Italy) was created by two Italian governmental departments in collaboration with the Centre. This centre has organized an international meeting (see above) and experiments in situ on recent proceedings of stone conservation. The programme of tests in situ will be developed in 1973 and a new international meeting will be announced within the near future for autumn 1974.

Contacts

The Centre wishes to remain in close contact with all the specialists who have participated in the courses or received training under its patronage. Furthermore the Newsletter which is meant to be a regular means of contact, has been projected also for their attention.

So please write us, informing us of your works, your promotions, also giving us your suggestions.

[Editor’s Note: This first issue of the International Centre for Conservation Newsletter was compiled and edited by the Centre and all comments and requests for additional information should be directed to: The International Centre for Conservation, 256 via Cavour, 00184 ROME, Italy.]