

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

NEWSLETTER • SPRING 1973

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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	Israel	Pakistan
Austria	Italy	Peru
Belgium	Japan	Poland
Brazil	Jordan	Portugal
Bulgaria	Khmer Republic	Rumania
Colombia	Korea	Spain
Cuba	Kuwait	Sri Lanka
Cyprus	Lebanon	Sudan
Dominica	Libya	Sweden
Egypt	Madagascar	Switzerland
France	Malaysia	Syria
Gabon	Malta	Thailand
GFR	Mexico	Tunisia
Ghana	Morocco	Turkey
Guinea	Nepal	UK
Honduras	Netherlands	USA
India	Nicaragua	Yugoslavia
Iraq	Nigeria	Vietnam

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS AS OF 31 DECEMBER 1972

Gulbenkian Foundation (Lisbon).
 The International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC), London, (UK).
 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).
 National Institute for the protection of monuments of the Croatian Republic (Rep. Zavod za Zastitu Sponenika Kulture), Zagreb (Yugoslavia).

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

'monitors', that is young specialists capable of teaching or guiding a worksite.

A new generation of experts, who will contribute to solve the growing problems of teaching should be trained by the Centre. This implies the Centre's individual assistance to the best candidates, including its endeavours to obtain any means that might improve their formation (field training, scholarships, travel, assistant responsibility, missions, and so on). It should be pointed out that this policy has started to show good results. In fact, a number of former students of the Centre hold today important positions in the field of education.

2. Owing to its international character, the teaching of the Centre cannot be addressed to beginners, but its aim should be improvement or specialization. Elementary teaching should be given in the respective countries of students or at a regional level.

3. The conditions required for collective teaching organized by the Centre imply the following structural problems:

Being occupied in different tasks, the scientific staff of the Centre can devote only a very short amount of time to teaching. Its role is mainly that of preparing the programmes and co-ordinating the lectures, for which external experts will be responsible. The students should be looked after by assistants, chosen preferably from former students. It will result that: (1) The students cannot be assisted in the same way as they would on a national course, the duration of which is longer and directed by the same teachers; and moreover (2) The understanding of subjects depends to a large extent on the level of the students in the field under consideration. On the other hand the courses may have a broader horizon and variety, new possibilities, much wider than those of a national level. The success of the courses organized by the Centre will depend on the exploitation of these possibilities and on limiting the number of participants, according to the Centre's possibilities. From this point of view, a '*numerus clausus*' is made indispensable.

4. Research

The Centre does not carry out research directly, but it stimulates and encourages it through a policy of co-ordinating initiative and by supporting meetings of experts and working groups (engaging temporary assistants for research projects, co-ordination of international research groups, etc.).

5. Specialized assistance

The specialized assistance of the Centre to member countries can be realized in various ways:

1. *Technical correspondence.* For all questions that can be resolved in writing.

2. *Missions of experts.* They can be either members of the scientific staff of the Centre, or external experts chosen by the Centre. The object of such missions is to obtain direct knowledge of the problem and give technical advice. The missions are generally very short (about one week at the most) and can be formed by a team of selected experts to cover all the different aspects of problems.

Normal conditions. Stay and, in principle, travelling expenses paid by the inviting country. External experts fees and, occasionally, travelling expenses paid by the Centre.

3. *Pilot worksites.* These entail entrusting one or more

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 allow 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

conservation included in the main programmes of UNESCO for the enhancement of cultural property and assistance to member countries.

Advice and collaboration on the choice of experts, and progressively, training of young experts to whom UNESCO might apply for certain missions.

Contribution for the development of regional training centres.

2. Being an active network of specialists, Icom, ICOMOS, and IIC are indispensable complements of the Centre for activities on an international scale. Collaboration will be based on this and the common interests it implies. They offer the Centre easy and continuous contact with specialists, thus facilitating the choice of experts and teachers.

Specialized meetings organized by Icom, ICOMOS, and IIC contribute greatly in promoting research: according to its possibilities the Centre adds scientific and material support in fields of particular interest. This participation in scientific meetings of the above-mentioned organizations helps the Centre to be continuously informed on recent developments of research.

The importance of collaboration in the field of publications has already been stressed in Doc. AG5/5.

Collaboration should be progressively established in the field of documentation, considering the orientation of the Centre's documentation (see above), and the different nature of the documentation services of Icom and ICOMOS.

So far as concerns Icom, the Centre deals with the conservation section in museums, which the Icom service does not cover.

So far as concerns ICOMOS, the Centre concentrates on didactic documentation, connected to its teaching and on the documentation relative to technical assistance.

8. Theory of restoration

So far as concerns the theory of restoration, the Centre contributes in two different aspects: elaboration of theory and its diffusion.

1. *Elaboration of theory.* The fundamental principles of a modern conception of restoration based on respect towards the historical and aesthetical 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.

INFORMATION

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

The collection *Works and Publications* published in collaboration with the Icom Committee for Conservation by Eyrolles, in Paris, and distributed by Allen & Unwin, in English-speaking countries.

Volumes on sale

INIGUEZ HERRERO, J. *Altération des calcaires et des grès utilisés dans la construction*, Paris, 1967, FF. 26.90.

ICOM. *Problems of Conservation in Museums*, Paris, 1969, FF. 53.90.

FLIEDER, Françoise, *La conservation des documents graphiques — Recherches expérimentales*, Paris, 1969, FF. 48.10.

MASSARI, Giovanni, *Bâtiments humides et insalubres — Pratique de leur assainissement*, Paris, 1971, FF. 105.00.

A *Lecture Notes* collection, published by the Centre, available at the Centre:

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

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

SCHULTZE, Edgar, *Techniques de conservation et de restauration des monuments — Terrains et fondations*, 1970, 1,200 lira (\$2).

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

DE ANGELIS D'OSSAT, Guglielmo. *Guide to the Methodical Study of Monuments and Causes of their Deterioration/Guida allo studio metodico dei monumenti e delle loro cause di deterioramento* (in English and Italian), 1972, 750 lira (\$1.25).

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

STAMBOLOV, T., and VAN ASPEREN DE BOER, J. R. J. *The Deterioration and Conservation of Porous Building Materials in Monuments*, 1972, 1,800 lira (\$3).

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 co-operation 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:

Akuamoah-Boateng, Kofi (Ghana)
 Artola, Perez Graciela (Mexico)
 Bazu, Olga (Rumania)
 Bellisario, Fabio (Italy)
 Benavides, Solis Jorge (Equador)
 Bonilla-Pivaral, Hector (Guatemala)
 Buch, Felicitas (GFR)
 Chiaia, Augusto (Italy)
 Conati, Giovanna (Italy)
 Correa, Orbegoso, José (Peru)
 Dal Cin, Adriana (Argentina)
 De Naeyer, André (Belgium)
 Eideval, Bolanho (Brazil)
 de Escobar, Alba (Mexico)
 Fancelli, Paolo (Italy)
 Folino, Paulo (Brazil)
 Giacconi, Giulia (Italy)
 Gomes, Paschoal Coelho Olinio (Brazil)
 Ivkovic, Ana (Yugoslavia)
 Kelishadaï, Hossein (Iran)
 Leysen, Floribert (Belgium)
 Liotti, Cataldo (Italy)
 Lucarelli, Sergio (Italy)
 Marafioti, R. Alba (Italy)
 Marjonovic Karpov, Svetlana (Yugoslavia)
 von Matern, Ake (Sweden)
 Mattos-Cardenas, Leonardo (Peru)
 Menichelli, Bruno (Italy)
 Millar, Norman (UK)
 Orive Bellinger, Olga (Mexico)
 Papachristu, Maria (Greece)
 Rabefirenena, Clément (Madagascar)
 Ricotti, Anna (Italy)
 Russel, John (UK)
 Santalla, L. Elda (Argentina)
 Santos, Luis (Columbia)
 Seabra, Jao Luis (Portugal)
 Tarr, Jashina (USA)
 Widawski, Jarosław (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:

Łysiak, Waldemar (Poland)
 Uraivan, Wongtaladquan (Thailand)
 Hatamzadeh, Parviz (Iran)
 Dan, Le Tan (Vietnam)
 Theocharidis, Plutarco (Greece)
 Buickians, Angela (Iran)
 Neshvad, Sohrab (Iran)

Conservation of mural paintings

The course on conservation of mural paintings is organized every year, from March to July, in collaboration with the Istituto Centrale del Restauro. It is dedicated to trained restorers wishing to specialize in the field.

The following have obtained attendance certificates in 1972:

Blattny, Pavel (Czechoslovakia)
 Bogale, Mammo (Ethiopia)
 Burchardt, Jacqueline (Switzerland)
 Dwyer, Dianne Michele (USA)
 Finlay, Gillian Katherine (UK)
 Gier, Anna (Switzerland)
 Hada, Hiroshi (Japan)
 Idil, Ali Ceto (Turkey)
 Khewhok, Sanit (Thailand)
 Olsson, Kerstin (Sweden)
 Pemberton-Pigott, Viola (UK)
 Sapkota, Upendra N. (Nepal)
 Tuczynski, Lezek (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 G  l 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. Torracca (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 Orl  ans (BEGM).

G  reme (Turkey). Mission by Messrs. G. Torracca 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 micro-organisms 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.

Nepal and Vietnam. Missions by Mr. Brown Morton III, consultations required by UNESCO on the conservation of the city of Hué and the monuments of Nepal.

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.]