



E.C.C.O.

European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations

E.C.C.O. reports

Nr. 2 / 2004



E.C.C.O. seeks to develop and promote, on a practical, scientific and cultural level, the profession of
Conservator-Restorer of Cultural Heritage.



E.C.C.O. reports

Nr. 2 / 2004

E.C.C.O. is an international association who was established on the 14th October 1991 under the Belgian Law of 25th October 1919.

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E.C.C.O. welcomes all contributions to the reports which are of general interest for the profession of Conservator-Restorer. Proposal papers should be submitted to E.C.C.O. by e-mail or on a disc with a paper copy sent to the following address:

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**Next General Assembly in Brussels:
Friday, 11th March 2005**

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Sabine Kessler, Francisca Figueira,
Cornelia Weyer.

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AREAA – Association des Restaurateurs de l'Ecole d'Avignon

ARI – Associazione Restauratori d'Italia

ARP – Associação Profissional de Conservadores-Restauradores de Portugal

ARRC – Associazione Restauratori Corsi Regionali

FFCR – Fédération Française des Conservateurs / Restaurateurs

GTCRC – Grup Tecnic Associacio Professional dels Conservadors-Restauradors de Catalunya

IADA – Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Archiv-, Bibliotheks- und Graphik-Restauratoren

ICHAWI – Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Ireland

IPC – The Institute of Paper Conservation

NKF-DK – Nordisk Konservatorforbund / Danske Afdeling

NKF-FIN – Pohjoismaiden Konservatoriliitto – Suomen Osasto

NKF-N – Nordisk Konservatorforbund / Norske Seksjon

NKF-S – Nordiska Konservatorförbundet / Svenska Sektioner

ÖRV – Österreichischer Restauratorenverband

SKR/SCR – Schweizerischer Verband für Konservierung und Restaurierung / Association Suisse de Conservation et Restauration

SSCR – The Scottish Society for Conservation-Restoration

UKIC – United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works

VDR – Verband der Restauratoren e. V.

VeRes – Belangenvereniging Restauratoren Nederland

VRS – Verband der Restauratoren Südtirols / Associazione Restauratori-Conservatori Alto Adige

E.C.C.O.-Committee meeting, before the General Assembly 2004





Editorial

Dear E.C.C.O. members,

This is the second edition of the **E.C.C.O.** reports, and my first edition at all has become a big experience for me.

2004 brought two new members to E.C.C.O., and I would like to welcome ICHAWI (The Institute for the Conservation of Historical and Artistic Works in Ireland) and VRS (Verband der Restauratoren Südtirols) from Italy.

This years **E.C.C.O.** reports will bring as usual the presidents letter, the report of the general assembly, and reports from the working groups and of the national organisations. Janine van Reekum reports about a meeting in Leefdaal with the idea of initiating a follow up of the APEL project. We also have an interview by Ylva Player-Dahnsjö with Carole Milner, Chair of the new Institute of Conservation in the UK.

Last but not least, I wanted to mention the wonderful flyer Edith Touré and Gisela Scheubmayr have created, and that all of you should have received by now. The response has been very good, and it seems that a flyer like this, really was needed. Once more I would like to mention the new addresses of both the E.C.C.O. and the APEL websites: **www.ecco-eu.info**; **www.apel-eu.info**

The deadline for next years **E.C.C.O.** reports, and to send in your national reports, will again be 1st September 2005.

A warm thank you to all colleagues for supporting this edition, for sending in their texts and many wonderful photos. A special thanks to Edith Touré for being in the background as a helping and supporting hand.

Natalie Ellwanger

Editor

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From the President



Dear Colleagues and Friends

From its very beginnings, E.C.C.O. has striven for high standards in education & practice, and the legal recognition and protection of the profession.

Not only was this vocabulary unfamiliar to many, but the very *need* for it has at times met with incomprehension or at least puzzlement.

– “Why bother to legally protect the profession? All this effort to keep others out – isn’t that against human rights, or against the wishes of EU regarding the mobility of skills? Is it protectionism in thin disguise? Has it got something to do with silly European legislation which tells us how straight a banana needs to be? Or is it just downright meanness of spirit?”

We all know our own situations best. It is difficult to imagine the full details of other national situations, or how legal changes impact on the working lives of our colleagues elsewhere. But E.C.C.O. has always been an extraordinary melting pot of ideas, information exchange and shared goodwill between colleagues (not least over many a wonderful dinner). Many of our concerns are *exactly* the same – but we may call them different things. “*Legal recognition*” did not ring any bells for me when I first started my association. “*The qualification of firms*” – what was that all about? But over the years I began to see what fundamental issues these are – or rather, facets of a single basic issue.

“Conservator-Restorer” – what’s in a name? Who has a right to call themselves that name, and how did they acquire that right? Which way should we point fledgling conservators for the “proper” way to achieve that name? What should the rewards be, in status and money?

Protecting the profession isn’t about being an elitist club. It is to make sure that those who work on the Heritage (which, according to the dictionary is *something which has been inherited from previous generation/s and/or will be passed on to the next generation/s*) will do it well and not harm. Where this Heritage is found is often a matter of historical chance, and is also subject to future change, but our duties to it remain the same.

The *E.C.C.O. Guidelines I–III* really does sum it up – all the fundamental issues round the preservation of heritage are addressed there. Then we have the *APEL Recommendations*. The *E.C.C.O.-ENCoRE Joint Statement on Education*. And now the *E.C.C.O.-ENCoRE Professional Profile* – currently under construction – which will be submitted as an amendment on EC Directive on professionalism and the movement of professionals within Europe. These are all authoritative, proactive statements which have been reached by democratic consensus. Best of all, they are statements by the pan-European profession of the present and future, confidently explaining about itself and its activities from a position of strength and independence. And at last, the vocabulary is as shared as the ideals.

E.C.C.O. is working for you.

Read on.

Ylva Player-Dahnsjö

President

PROFILES

The E.C.C.O.-Board and Committee



Ylva Player-Dahnsjö, President

Lectured for some years in English Literature, before training as a paper conservator with rare books as specialism. Head of the Conservation Institute at the University of Dundee in Scotland since 1992. Currently researching “the value of the real” and how this informs our work in the heritage field.



Edith Touré, Vice President

Paper conservator, free-lancer, works mainly for the national institute of conservation-restoration in Vienna on all kind of art objects: Like wall papers, historical interiors, japanese paravents, drawings and cartapesta.

Studied in Vienna, masters of art at the Academy of Fine Arts 1978.

On the board of ÖRV since 1998, vice president of E.C.C.O. since 2000.

Tanja Røskar Reed, Vice President

Graduated as objects conservator with ethnography as speciality from the Montfort University in England in 1995. Has worked as conservator-restorer since graduation in Norway and in other countries. Works presently as a c-r manager at Aust-Agder-Museet in Arendal, Norway.



Janine van Reekum, General Secretary

Metal conservator with private practice in Amsterdam, Netherlands.

Conservation and restoration of all kinds of metal art objects, varying from bronze sculpture, silverware, pewter and jewellery.

Chair of VeRes since 2000 and General Secretary since 2002.



Natalie Ellwanger, Deputy Secretary

Paintings conservator working at the Kunsthaus Zürich since 1998.

Graduated in 1995 as a conservator from Höhere Fachhochschule für Gestaltung (HFG), Bern.



Michael van Gompén, Treasurer

Born in 1967, studies in electronics and horology. Self-employed, conservator-restorer of scientific and mechanical instruments and time keepers (clocks, watches, etc.) since 1994 in Brussels.

Graduated in conservation-restoration from the University of Sussex, England (West Dean College) in 1992.



Monica Martelli Castaldi, Vice Treasurer

Born in 1957 in South America where she lived several years.

In 1981 diploma in conservation of paintings at Istituto Centrale del Restauro in Rome. Work at ICCROM for approximately ten years as course assistant and coordinator for the courses on Scientific Principles of Conservation and Mural Painting Conservation.

Since 1981 also free-lance conservator with her own firm, works mainly in the Campania region. Since 1996 working especially on archaeological sites, and being consultant for the Archeological Superintendency of Pompeii.



Is now in charge, since 2000, of the conservation of all the decorated surfaces of the site of Herculaneum for the Herculaneum Conservation Project, financed by the Packard Humanities Institute and directed by the British School at Rome.

Since 1994 collaborates with E.C.C.O. as appointed delegate of ARI, and as member of the board since 2002.

Since November 2003 President of ARI, the Associazione Restauratori d' Italia.



Francisca Figueira, Committee

Paper conservator, working at the IPCR (Instituto Portugues de Conservacao Restauro).

Education in paper conservation at the IJF (Instituto Jose de Figueiredo) from 1981–1986.

Member of ARP, appointed delegate for the APEL project in 2000, elected for the E.C.C.O. committee in March 2002.



Sabine Kessler, Committee

Private sculpture conservator for 6 years, working for the French institutions.

Graduated as a conservator-restorer at the Institut de formation de conservateur de chef d'oeuvres d'art (IFROA) in 1997.



Cornelia Weyer, Committee

E.C.C.O.-delegate of VDR since March 2003. Before the merger of the German conservator-restorer associations, she had represented DRV in E.C.C.O. (2000–2001).

She was trained as a paintings conservator in Zürich and Munich from 1973 to 1976. In addition to her formation as a conservator she studied art history at the universities of Zürich, München and Marburg. She graduated with a lizentiat on impainting in the early 19th century and finished her studies in 1987 with a PHD-thesis on the beginnings of painting conservation in the late 18/early 19th century, both at the Zürich University. From 1985 to 1992 she was first assisting Thomas Brachert with the training programme of the Institute für Kunsttechnik und Konservierung, Germanisches Nationalmuseum Nürnberg, the painting conservator at the same museum. Since 1992 she is director of the Restaurierungszentrum der Landshauptstadt Düsseldorf/Schenkung Henkel. She lectured on art technology, restoration ethics and history of restoration at the universities of Zürich, Hildesheim, Giessen, Trier and Düsseldorf. From 1990 to 1996 she acted as a coordinator of the ICOM-CC Working Group Theory and History of restoration. Since 2001 she is vicepresident of VDR.

E.C.C.O.-Committee meeting, Zurich 2004





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April 2004

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*Please help to keep this list up to date by reporting any changes or mistakes to
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 without delay! Please delete any older versions. Thank you.*

E.C.C.O. General Assembly 2004



It was bound to happen ... for the first time in E.C.C.O.'s thirteen years (anybody superstitious?) of existence, all conference rooms at the Headquarters of the European Economic and Social Committee in Brussels were fully booked in March. Our scheduled date of March 5 had to be postponed to April 2, 2004. Luckily only a few delegates were unable to attend the Assembly as a result of the date change. As always, the facilities, including the translators and a computer with beamer, were excellent and we thank the Economic and Social Committee for their hospitality.

The President welcomed all delegates and the observers Elsa Vigouroux of the French FFCR, Pierre Masson of APROA/BRK and Susan Corr of the Irish ICHAWI. A special welcome was extended to René Larsen, chairman of the board of ENCoRE (European Network for Conservation-Restoration Education), who generously joined the Assembly to inform all present about ENCoRE and the collaboration between the two organisations.

Natalie Ellwanger, Michael van Gampen



Suvi Leukumaavaara was present as an observer for NKF Finland and has now become the official delegate due to Anna Häkäri stepping down as delegate and Committee member. Kathryn Walker Tubb from UKIC also resigned from the Committee. Both Anna and Kathryn were warmly thanked for their constructive contributions within the

Committee. Kathryn continues to be delegate for UKIC.

The President expressed her concerns about the situation in Italy; the ARRC ceased to exist and their loyal delegate, Roberto Borgogno, was, therefore, not present at the Assembly. Also, the other Italian association, ARI, seems to be in a critical financial situation, hence, the absence of their President and E.C.C.O. delegate and Committee member, Monica Martelli Castaldi. Hopefully, this situation will improve soon, and all wished for better and more prosperous times for ARI. In contrast to these disappointing developments, the President explained how fruitful and efficiently



E.C.C.O.-Folder in progress. Committee meeting, 1st April 2004

the past year has been for E.C.C.O.. Many contacts with other organisations in the field were set up, or continued, and intensified. Also, a new brochure about the activities, members, aims and objectives of E.C.C.O. has almost been finalised. This brochure will help in explaining the work E.C.C.O. does and will, hopefully, become an effective public relations instrument. The former E.C.C.O. website address and domain caused some troubles which were resolved, thanks to the input of both Anna Häkäri and Tanja Røskar Reed. The General Assembly witnessed the launch of the new websites: **www.ecco-eu.info** and **www.apel-eu.info**. The E.C.C.O. website was designed according to a new format that was set up to create a clearer structure and contain more news. With reference to what has been reported before: the website contains more up-to-date news and the **E.C.C.O.** reports contains a retrospective of the

past year. All were kindly asked to send calls for papers, announcements, pictures of conservator-restorers at work, etc. to webmaster Tanja Røskar Reed.

The President presented a new and refreshed Strategic Plan for 2004. The Assembly decided to have the following two of the **Short Term goals** prioritised:

- (1) To achieve a consistent legal definition and official recognition of the profession in national and international law and to actively explore other routes to protect the profession.
- (2) To seize every opportunity to be advocates for the conservation-restoration of Cultural Heritage and the work of E.C.C.O..

The **Long Term goals** are:

- To foster a feeling among individual members of joint ownership of and interest in E.C.C.O.
- To improve public understanding of and interest in conservation-restoration
- To encourage governments and strategic bodies to publicly acknowledge the contribution that conservation-restoration makes to society
- To strive to have representatives of the conservation-restoration profession included in high-level decision making concerning cultural heritage
- To set, monitor and update standards of professional practice in conservation-restoration
- To set, monitor and update standards of education in conservation-restoration
- To collaborate with like-minded bodies for maximum impact

E.C.C.O. General Assembly 2004



Another example of the increased flourishing of E.C.C.O. was the successful application of two new full members. Both the Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Ireland (ICHAWI) and the Verband der Restauratoren Südtirol (VRS) were welcomed as new members by the General Assembly.

With regard to the expansion of the European Union with 10 new member countries in July 2004, Committee member Edith Touré has been busy setting up contacts with those new member states and she reported that many associations showed interest in becoming a member of E.C.C.O.. The Committee will continue to focus on informing and recruiting new members from (East) European countries.

Over the past year, the Committee has tried to promote the work of E.C.C.O. as much as possible, and Committee members gave talks at several conferences. E.C.C.O. has been, and will continue to be, in close contact with especially Ceplis, ICCROM, ICOM-CC and ENCoRE.

from left to right: Edith Touré, Kathryn Walker Tubb, Cornelia Weyer, Ylva Player-Dahnsjö



The contact with ENCoRE has been very close since 2002, and resulted in the publication of several official joint documents. At the General Assembly, René Larsen of ENCoRE was present to elaborate on our joint ventures. He started by explaining that the work of ENCoRE is very similar to that of E.C.C.O.. ENCoRE has 29 full members who all fulfil the set standards of their network, and who are all recognised by their national governments. Besides that, ENCoRE has four asso-





E.C.C.O. General Assembly 2004

ciated members. Furthermore, René Larsen reported that they were very busy with the establishment of a PhD network and of course, the implementation of the Bachelor-Master structure according to the Bologna declaration (which stated that 29 European countries should have this structure fully adopted by 2010). René also mentioned the situation in Denmark where the educational programmes of Medicine were forced to accept a Bachelor level. With regard to our joint efforts concerning a Masters level for conservator-restorers, it was pointed out that we can hardly

expect to be an exception, and that we should accept the fact that a Bachelor level will remain in our profession. The E.C.C.O. and ENCoRE Joint Statement pre-empt such rulings and clearly defines the responsibilities of both the Bachelor and Master trained professionals. The latter document proves the importance of our joint efforts, which were focussed on the European Directive for Professional Qualifications over the last couple of months, and will remain the focus in the near future. This European Directive has caught the special attention of both Boards, because ar-



After General Assembly Dinner 2004, on the left: René Larsen

**E.C.C.O. Committee Meeting
after General Assembly 2004 in Brussels**



chitects are specifically described in the Directive with regards to their role in the protection of heritage. It is hoped that the conservator-restorer can obtain a likewise description in this Directive. The General Assembly adopted the formal partnership of E.C.C.O. and ENCoRE with the following sentence:

“E.C.C.O. and ENCoRE work closely together, representing the European conservation-restoration profession of the present and the future”.

After many very interesting national reports, the General Assembly closed, and all met again for a

glorious dinner where the formal partnership was extensively celebrated.

Besides the two resigning members, Anna Häkäri and Kathryn Walker Tubb, the Committee remained the same with the Bureau officers chosen the next day.

The General Assembly 2005 is scheduled for 11 March. By then the European Economic and Social Committee might be moved to another building in Brussels, and hopefully, we can book a conference room for the scheduled date ...

Janine van Reekum
E.C.C.O. General Secretary



Short report of the meeting in Leefdaal, 1-2 March 2004

The legal consultant of E.C.C.O., Vincent Négri who has a lot of experience in our field and took part in the APEL project, was kind enough to reserve some time to discuss several E.C.C.O. items. The meeting in Leefdaal was set up by the coordinator of the Legislation Working Group; Monica Martelli Castaldi. The main object of the meeting was how to proceed after the APEL project, and in what manner an APEL follow-up should be realised. For this reason, the E.C.C.O. advisor to the Legislation working group, Pierre Masson, was also present. Due to the intensified contact with ENCoRE, several related subjects, such as the realisation of a European profile for a conservator-restorer, needed to be discussed. This is also the reason why E.C.C.O. Committee members Michael van Gompén and Janine van Reekum were also present.



Leefdaal Meeting. From left to right: Michael van Gompén, Vincent Négri, Monica Martelli Castaldi, Pierre Masson

Vincent Négri elaborated on several general European matters, and specifically on the European Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications. This Directive has already been approved by the European Parliament, but it is of course always possible to have the Directive amended, and our profession should try to have this done. The wish to have a unification of arrangements and service within the different European countries, and the wish to have all

these countries operating on exactly the same level and function as one system, are both incorporated within this Directive. Therefore, it is seen as an important document. But, concerning all 'cultural' professions, including those in the field of Cultural Heritage, it is expected that regulations are to be set up at a national level. These pro-



E.C.C.O.-Meeting, Leefdaal, March 2004.
Pierre Masson, Vincent Négri and Monica Martelli Castaldi

fessions are expected to 'regulate themselves' because national heritage is a national item. However, *the European identity* is seen as a potpourri of all the different cultural identities of the participating countries. When emphasising a European profile for the conservator-restorer we should point out the shared responsibility for cultural heritage, which should be seen as a common task on either global or European level, and not specifically connected to a national identity.

The APEL Recommendations and Guidelines already pointed out that a profile, widely supported, of the conservator-restorer is badly needed. Such a profile would give more and better opportunities for regulation and advocacy of our profession. The close collaboration between E.C.C.O. and ENCoRE makes the setting up of a European profile for the profession possible. E.C.C.O. and ENCoRE represent together 20 European countries with 50 full members and 4 associated members who could subscribe to such a profile. A lobby at the European Council in Strasbourg would be very helpful in setting up the acquired amendment concerning our profession in the European Directive.

The meeting in Leefdaal continued with setting up the required actions to work towards a European profile, and how to draw political attention to it. At the moment both the E.C.C.O. Committee, with the help of all members, and the board of ENCoRE are busy with setting up a draft profile. We all hope to present the profile to both our General Assemblies in the beginning of 2005, for adoption.

Furthermore the Leefdaal meeting produced a plan to work on the APEL follow-up. The coordinator of the Legislation working group is now working on this action plan.

Pierre Masson and his wife were warmly thanked for their hospitality.

Janine van Reekum
E.C.C.O. General Secretary



News from the Working Group – Education, Qualification, and Practice

Education Questionnaire

The education enquiry that had been established in 2002, through written questions endorsed to the various delegates about education matters, has been analysed by the working group, and the replies were inserted into a database in 2003. In this first version, a single table was created in which each enquiry question corresponded to one line. The consultancy of this database was difficult and not very clear. This year (2004), before the E.C.C.O. General Assembly, the database was revised constructing two separate but interlinked tables. One of them was general information from each country, and the second one, related to the first, was for each national education organism. Thus it is possible to find common aspects, like organisation and E.C.C.O. delegates contacts, as well as, to register the different education organisms with their differing fields of specialization, levels and situation with respect to the Bologna Process.

This database still needs further construction, and the information within needs to be incremented and updated. In the future, we hope it will benefit from the direct consultancy to the various education institutes. This new version of the database was sent out by e-mail, and handed in paper, to all the E.C.C.O. delegates present at the Gene-

ral Assembly. Denmark's delegate congratulated E.C.C.O. updating the Assembly with the information that their Conservation School now has started a PhD program.

The database can be sent to those organisations that wish to use it internally, or on their websites. It can become a useful tool for the consultancy of national organisations' recognised education courses, and comparison of different conservation models when students, or working professionals, travel around Europe.

Some of the collected information was useful at the time, but will no longer be relevant enough to be part of the consulting database in the future.

Plans for the Future

Two ideas were brought up last year that have not been followed up so far. They were: The research on historical information about education courses that ceased to exist; and the implementation of a greater uniformity within Europe as to the main areas of practice in conservation-restoration.

The historical information could go as far as to include the founding philosophy underlying each course.

A greater uniformity in the main areas of practice is something that René Larsen also discussed, this year, as an objective for future collaboration. He supports his idea on established professions such as medicine.

Francisca Figueira

E.C.C.O.-Committee meeting, Zurich 2004





Working Group of Rates and Wages

During the past year, the working group has met once in Paris to create a new inquiry. First, we had an English and a French version and thanks to VDR who had translated it into German, we have as well a German version, which has been very useful for the Austrian, Southtyrolean, and part of the Swiss members.

First of all, we want to thank all the members who returned the inquiry.

Unfortunately, this questionnaire has not been sent out by all organisations to their members, and so we are missing the answers from several countries. In general, the amount of responses has not been very high, especially amongst the freelance professionals. Because of this, we are going to publish once more the English version of the inquiry in this **E.C.C.O.** reports. We would like to invite you to fill in the form, if you haven't done it so far, and to send it anonymously till 31th March 2005 to Michael van Gompen, Rue Archimede 46, B-1000 Brussels.

Please support us in our work by sending in your answers, with the few replies we have, a comparison of the results is hardly possible.

Natalie Ellwanger

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Inquiry on conservator-restorer's incomes



■ Identification

Country: _____ Age: _____ Sex: ☐ F ☐ M

Town of more than 100,000 inhabitants: ☐ Yes ☐ No First year of beginning activity: _____

Main speciality¹: _____

■ Professional Status²

Employee in public sector		
	%	
National level		
Sub-national level		

Employee of private museum, association or foundation		
	%	
Short term contract		
Long term		

Employee in private sector		
	%	
Short term contract		
Long term		

Freelance		
	%	
Freelance		
Company manager		

■ Average time devoted to professional activities per week (hours)³ _____

■ Average vacation days per year⁴ _____

■ Incomes

Annual incomes ⁵		1999	2000	2001	2002	2003
EMPLOYEE	Salary ⁶ :	€	€	€	€	€
FREELANCE	Benefit ⁷ :	€	€	€	€	€
FREELANCE	Turnover: out of VAT	€	€	€	€	€

Do you own a register company in C-R from which you are the manager? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Do you employ other people on a permanent basis? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, how many and are they all qualified Conservator-Restorers? _____

1 Please try to be as short as possible (for example, paintings, sculptures, metal, archaeological material ...)

2 You may have to tick several possibilities, but then please indicate the proportion for each

3 For freelance professionals: please account for the whole time you spend for connected activities for example: conservation reports, contact with customers, paperwork, symposiums, continuous training, etc.

4 For the last five years

5 Such as declared on your income tax assessment

6 After all the various social taxes, but before income tax

7 As number 6



President to President – Ylva Player-Dahnsjö interviews Carole Milner, Chair of the new Institute of Conservation in the UK

Carole worked in paintings conservation in Italy for 4 years, then for 16 years in France and, from 1994–‘99, as Head of Conservation and Collection Care at the Museum & Galleries Commission in the UK. She was instrumental in the setting up of E.C.C.O. in its earliest days, sat on ICCROM’s Executive Board for 7 years and has chaired the National Council for Conservation and Restoration (NCCR) since 2002. Since 1999 she has worked at VSO, an international development agency that works through volunteers to combat poverty and disadvantage in the world’s poorest countries.

Q: First of all, please explain about this new Institute.

A: To date there have been up to 12 different professional bodies in the UK, each representing different aspects of conservation in the UK and Ireland. The first attempt to bring these bodies together was made in 1994 under The Conservation Forum, an umbrella body that was then formally constituted as the National Council for Conservation and Restoration (NCCR) in 1999. The real watershed came in March 2002, when members of the NCCR Council agreed “to explore the possibility of dissolving all existing structures and creating a new single body representing the whole of the conservation profession”. Formal moves to create the new body began in March 2003, followed by a long and detailed consultation with all 4000 individual members of NCCR organisations. In September 2004, members of the voting bodies cast their votes overwhelmingly in favour and the establishment of new Institute of Conservation for the UK is now firmly underway.



Carole Milner

Q: It is not a very distinctive name, is it? Will it not be confused with other bodies with similar names?

A: Finding a name that was acceptable to the majority of people was no easy process! Members were invited to submit suggestions during the consultation period and this clearly had to be the basis for the choice of name. In addition, we had to indicate that this is a completely new body and not a takeover by an existing UK organisation. We had to be aware of the political sensitivities of our constituent and newly devolved nations. We also wanted to keep the name as simple as possible but with enough gravitas to make it equal to similar organisations such as the Royal Institute of British Architects, and the Institute of Chartered Surveyors. And then there is the problem with acronyms – there were some interesting alternative names but their acronyms were a bit too comical!

“*Institute of Conservation*” reflects our charitable aims and the strapline “*for all those concerned with the care of cultural heritage*” reflects the inclusive nature of our membership – the conservation community as well as the profession. As for confusion with existing bodies, it must be

acknowledged that, as international conservation bodies work predominantly in English, this is actually a disadvantage in our case as that leaves us with only a limited pool of words to fish in. We will, however, make every effort to make the new Institute easily distinguishable by the design of its logo and by making it clear that we are a UK body with a large international membership, and not the other way round. We could spend months and years perfecting a name, but unfortunately it is not a luxury we can afford. It is a major achievement to have come this far and, given the enormous restrictions on our time and energies, in the end it is the construction of the new Institute itself that is now the most important task.

Q: Why is this Institute going to be more than “the sum of its parts”?

A: For a full answer to this, I would need to direct you to the “Prospectus”, which can be seen on the NCCR/Institute of Conservation website (nccr.org.uk), but basically it will have economies of scale, a critical mass, and a single, strong coherent voice. It will eliminate the inefficiencies of duplicated effort and membership (some individuals currently have membership of up to six different professional bodies) and will, for the first time ever, enable us to benefit from having a truly inclusive organisation.

Q: The UK is the latest of several such mergers and convergences to take place in the past few years – why do you think this is happening now?

A: If we look right back over the history of conservation, particularly in Europe, we see a movement from being a whole mixture of Guilds and trades, separatist organisations and factions to that of being a qualified, unified profession. If I look even at my own “road travelled”, when I began my training in Italy, it was essentially a manual apprenticeship. When I moved to France, did my Masters’ Degree and became involved in the massive efforts of the French Federation to gain legal and intellectual recognition of the profession, things were already moving towards serious professionalisation. The formation of E.C.C.O. came

in the wake of that and of similar movements elsewhere, as in Germany and Italy, and was sorely needed. In the current climate, we need this recognition more than ever, not just for the own sake of our own livelihoods but for the well-being and survival of our shared cultural heritage and everything it signifies.

Q: What have been the best and the worst experiences of the convergence process to date?

A: Brave question! If I start with the “downs”, I suppose I have at times been disappointed by the lack of understanding of many of the wider issues affecting us all and by the unwelcome reminder that factionalism still exists. Secondly, despite all efforts to keep the convergence process transparent, to consult, involve and inform members at every turn, there have been instances of differences, some aired very publicly, that could simply have been avoided, along with the harm they caused, had those concerned checked their facts first. But then change is never easy, and these have been learning points hopefully for all of us.

On the plus side, I must acknowledge the huge sense of solidarity between colleagues and the reserves of goodwill, forbearance, humour and mutual encouragement that have been evident, even when everyone was utterly exhausted and feeling low. Those who have never been at the centre of such a process will not (and – to be fair – cannot) be aware of the amount of personal time and energy that is spent, and how these impacts on the lives of each of those involved. I have come across no other profession with such qualities, values and altruism.

Q: Will the new Institute of Conservation still wish to be part of E.C.C.O.?

A: Yes, it will be very important that we continue to play an active part in what is happening on the European stage. For obvious technical reasons, the current UK members of E.C.C.O. will withdraw because they will cease to exist and the Institute of Conservation will need to apply for membership again, just like other converged bodies (eg VDR) have done. We were mindful of the criteria



for E.C.C.O. membership when we constructed the membership groups within the new Institute and our aim has been to keep strict professional



Partially cleaned Colosseum, Rome

categories while enabling the wider community to share the work of the Institute by joining other, more general categories.

Q: Explain what “inclusiveness” means and what how it will be an improvement.

A: Briefly, “inclusive” for me means NOT keeping others out – it means including and welcoming all those who care for our cultural heritage, helping them to find their place and reach their aspirations, including professional qualifications and status if that is what they are seeking. This means those who are interested in conservation, just as the professionals who work in both the public and private sectors, and those who work as volunteers, technicians, educators, managers, craftspeople, scientists etc. Our aspiration for the new UK Institute is that it will become a place where, in time,

we all can come together to exchange ideas, further our knowledge, be inspired and empowered.

Q: Conservation-Restoration – Is it important?

A: Yes it is – from the micro- to the macro-level – from looking after the most beautiful painting in the world to a battered First World War postcard to the Bamyán Buddhas.

It is the cultural and spiritual heritage of individuals and peoples across the world that provides identity, a sense of continuity and, in many cases, hope and inspiration for the future. In all our small ways, we help to preserve that heritage – a living testimony of human aspiration, belief and achievement. In a world like today’s, that is fundamentally important.

Q: What are your personal wishes for the future?

A: I no longer practice my profession, but I love it. I have deep respect, admiration and affection for my conservation colleagues, going right back to Italy, to France, to the early days of E.C.C.O. and, of course, in the UK. Our profession performs the most extraordinary feats of skill, sensitivity, intelligence and humility. It deserves proper acknowledgement, a place at the highest tables and a bright, strong future. My personal wish for the future is simply that this will be achieved, particularly here now in the UK.

APROA-BRK

(Association Professionnelle de Conservateurs-Restaurateurs d'Oeuvres d'Art – Beroepsvereniging voor Conservators-Restaurateurs van Kunstvoorwerpen) – BELGIUM.

The committee:

Nathalie Laquière; President
Etienne Costa; Vice-President
Michael Van Gompén; Treasurer
An Tant; Vice-Treasurer
Hilde Weissenborn; Secretary
Baudouin Desmaele; Secretary
Camille De Clercq
Anne-Sophie Augustyniak
Marjan Buyle
Christian Copet
Bernard Delmotte
Dominique Driesmans
Pierre Masson
Marie-Annelle Mouffe
Marie Postec

www.brk-aproa.be

www.aproa-brk.be

The annual General Assembly was held in February 2004, and was marked by the election of a large number of new board members, amongst which a significant amount of young and enthusiastic conservators-restorers. During this General Assembly, a voting was held on the proposed for-

mation of an Ethical Council; this proposal was, however, rejected by a majority of the Assembly.

This working year was distinguished by the successful organisation in November 2003 of BRK-APROA's biennial conference, concerning "varnishes in the conservation and restoration". The printouts of this conference will be published by end of 2004. The BRK-APROA is already preparing its next colloquium, which will deal with "the filling of lacunas" and will be held on October 27 and 28, 2005.

Also, the BRK-APROA comprises three different working groups. The first working group will tackle professional issues on ethical matters. The second will re-evaluate and possibly modify the applicable rules on the access to, and the specialisations within the profession. Finally, the third task force will examine the possibility of having the profession recognised and protected by the government.

The BRK-APROA still interacts with the SERV on the classification of professional profiles. This year BRK-APROA and SERV mainly elaborated the professional profiles on "glass and lead", "polychromy" and "paintings".

Nathalie Laquière

President of APROA-BRK



ARI

Associazine Restauratori d'Italia

ARI has gone through important and difficult changes in these last years. In November 2003, after a long struggling period, a new board has been elected and a new President has been appointed. The association was close to disappear.

The present Italian context

The lack of defined legislation for cultural property has led to irreversible consequences.

In the last 15–20 years many non competent firms have been in charge of works on protected heritage. These firms are now in *lawful possession* of the requirements to participate to public tendering becoming potential killers for the health of cultural objects and dangerous rivals for professional Conservator-Restorer's firms.

The law for public tendering has gone under revision, but most of the Italian Conservator-Restorers have been really proved by the continuous

Pompeii – House 10



changes in regulations and laws, and economically destroyed by the crazy race to gain public tendering against the strong construction firms described above.

Italian conservator-restorers are discouraged, do not believe in the profession, do not believe in the public institutions and are obliged to offer impos-

sible percentage drops to the prices, to be able to win the minimum tendering needed to survive as firms.

This dramatic situation has of course had a very deep influence in the life of professional associations. The only associations now active in Italy are ARI and the new South Tyrolean Association, VRS, plus one very specific small association for paper conservators active in the Liguria region.

The work of ARI

Paradoxically ARI is now a well known and recognized association, with a strong position towards public authorities.

The leaving President, Maura G. Borelli, in her ten years of mandate, had carried on a firm and constant policy to increase the visibility and the recognition of the profession. As a result ARI is now a very esteemed and considered referent for all the national institutions involved in the protection of cultural heritage.

ARI is in strict contact with the legislative office of the Ministry of Cultural Property and directly or indirectly involved in all the recent commissions of discussion of the following topics:

Commissioning of works on protected heritage:

The Ministry of Cultural Property has asked ARI to revise the final draft of the laws and decrees for public tendering of works of conservation-restoration. The following important results have been obtained:

Definition of the Conservator-Restorer

In Italy defined as “Restauratore-Conservatore di Beni Culturali”

Definition of the specificity of works on protected heritage.

It is now obligation to:

- Separate the categories of works on protected heritage from the others.

Inside this general category for protected heritage, a second division has been obtained separating it in three subcategories:

OG2 – immobile cultural property (monuments)

OS2 – decorated surfaces of the architecture and mobil objects

OS25 – archaeological excavation

- To give specific contracts for these works to defined categories of professionals: for category OS2 the professional is the Conservator-Restorer
- To apply the “*more economically favourable offer*” procedure, which includes the evaluation of the curricula of the professionals. The value given to the CV is summed to the value given to the offered price. Values are predetermined and included in the tendering invitation.

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Definition of the professionals who can be in charge of these kinds of works:

It is now obligation to:

- Prepare a detailed plan for the interventions to be realized
- To include in the plan a “technical section” with an exhaustive analysis of the object of the intervention its technique of execution, state of conservation and the proposal of interventions required
- To commission the plan to a specialist in conservation (architect, engineer and or a Conservator-Restorer)
- To compulsory in charge a Conservator-Restorer for the compiling of the “technical sec-

tion” if the commission is given to other kind of professionals

- To include a Conservator-Restorer in all the decisions moments (in the commissions for the evaluation of offers, as responsible for the procedures, as director of works or assistant to the direction, as final inspector, as planner)

These regulation are now included in the law, and they will be defined in detail in a specific “Regulation for fulfilment” (*Regolamento di attuazione*) at present in discussion and preparation.

The Ministry of Cultural Property is continuing the work on public tendering legislation with the intent to increase de definition of the regulations for cultural heritage, separating them as much as possible from the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Public Works.

Education in conservation – the Lombardy region, leader in many activities for the protection of cultural property, has stopped the devolution of financial resources for courses in conservation.

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Universities, schools, academies, etc. will have to strictly adapt their courses to the definitions and regulations that which will be established in accordance with the main bodies involved in the subject.



An important agreement has been recently signed in Milan (24 October 2004) by the University and the Region to activate new courses only after the definition of the specific Professional Profiles for the Conservator-Restorer.

A commission including Ministry of Cultural Property, Central Institutions for the education of C-R (Istituto Centrale per il Restauro in Rome and Opificio delle Pietre Dure in Florence), Ministry of Education, Art Academies and others are now working on the modifications and specifications of the existing laws, to insert in the law the Conservator-Restorer professional profile and its required education.

Rates and wages

Prices for conservation-restoration interventions have been published by ARI through the major national editor for this kind of publications since 1994. The publication is periodically brought up to date and new prices are inserted. The last edition contains new regulations on professional agreements and contracts, and prices for consultancies and planning.

The problems of the Association

In spite of the challenging results described above ARI has had to face the dramatic lack of new inscriptions and the absolute paralysis and lack of support of old members due to the problems described in the above Italian context paragraph.

The consequences of these factors have been the decrease of the number of members, a financial collapse and an internal protest movement that has led part of the previous board to dismiss. The President, exhausted, decided to retire.

The new board then has taken in charge the association in a difficult moment, with the inevitable obligation to conclude certain important actions in the legislative changes described above.

A consistent party has then formed among the assembly gathering together colleagues with a very practical but disillusioned sense of the profession. The objective: move the Association in the direction of working on new proposals of amendments

to the recently elaborated laws (proposed and strongly pushed by ARI in the previous years!!).

It has been, and it is, my personal opinion that this line of action would certainly help Conservators-Restorers to have more possibilities in the calls for tendering, but would have totally gone to the detriment of the professional recognition and quality in the works that ARI had pursued since its creation.

My role as new President has then been to maintain the role that ARI has reached thanks to the previous presidency, keeping the Association firmly attached to its statutory objectives and avoiding the total drop of seriousness in the activities to be continued.

After this difficult year of internal *earthquake*, things look better.



Economical problems are still not solved, but it seems that a new energy is running around and that we are collecting more consensuses among the colleagues and the institutions. We count on several re-inscriptions and quite a large number of new requests arriving from young professionals.

I think ARI will survive.

Monica Martelli Castaldi

President of ARI

ARP

Associação profissional de conservadores-restauradores de Portugal

This report covers the period from August 2003 to August 2004.

At the beginning of 2004 ARP had new elections with Francisca Figueira elected president. As a result of this, she will be stepping down next year, from the E.C.C.O. Committee.

This year, ARP has been working towards the edition of a scientific journal, together with a science professor. Our aim is to publish two issues per year, and the content is conservation studies from the wide world of conservation including: conservators, museum and science professionals; conservation interventions; opinion papers and book plus seminar reviews.

Our internal bylaws have also been reviewed, and a list of specialisms has been established. At the moment, there are thirteen areas of specialisation which I think do not need translation: Azulejo, Cerâmica e Vidro; Bens Arqueológicos; Bens Etnográficos; Papel, Documentos e Livro; Escultura; Fotografia; Instrumentos Musicais; Metais; Mobiliário; Pedra; Pintura; Pintura Mural and Têxteis. These areas can still be subdivided (eg.): Paper, Documents and Book – works of art on paper – preventive conservation assessment.



Last year, we spoke of the accreditation system that Instituto Português de Conservação e Restauro (IPCR) – a public organism from the Ministry of Culture – and ARP are trying to set up, which will accredit professionals who can be called upon to present their bidding proposals in a conservation project. This, however, has not been implemented yet, and a third party has become involved, the Work Department, which creates some formal difficulties and has slowed down the process. There is hope that IPCR, which is well attuned to ARP, will maintain the last decision.

The Bologna Process is something that keeps springing up in the newspapers as something that should forcibly change extensively the higher education system. But it is very complicated as it would need to change completely the education concept that has been in use for decades. In the Bologna's concept, the first degree is more work oriented, more applied knowledge. The first three years of our Higher Education courses are general abstract knowledge, and only in the last two years is there a bit more job oriented applied knowledge. This means that the change will have to be so drastic that perhaps it will not be able to be implemented all at once. There is talk that the Polytechnic Education Institutes will cease to exist as the Universities will have to give a more technical program, leaving no significant difference between them.

Board of Directors

Lisboa, 1st of September 2004



FFCR

Fédération Française des Conservateurs/ Restaurateurs



Following a brainstorming session with a professional consultant, the FFCR has defined eight main fields of action since 2003. All of them influence the recognition of our profession (which is the FFCR's most important goal) in different degrees. They form the backbone of our reflection, and we try to devote equal effort to each of them throughout the year.

They are:

- State cultural policy
- Legal recognition of the profession
- Education
- Contact with related professions (such as curators, architects, and others)
- Everyday practice

- Internal communication (among members)
- External communication (media)
- Financial resources of the association
- European topics

Are these subjects only representative of the French situation, or are they widely shared by the other national associations affiliated with the E.C.C.O.?

With regard to our links with Europe (including E.C.C.O.), we do note that not only is the importance of European law increasing, but we can also appreciate that belonging to a European confederation brings us greater strength and credibility in the eyes of our partners. This is the first advantage E.C.C.O. gives its members. Of course, we also follow with interest the fundamental work carried out by E.C.C.O. on weighty subjects like the recognition of professional qualifications in Europe, the setting up of a professional profile, educational needs, and reforms in professional guidelines. We try modestly to contribute to these subjects at the national level.

Sabine Kessler at work



The first semester of 2004 has been somewhat arduous for the profession and for the FFCR, which faced a problematic case: the restoration of the famous Galerie des Glaces in the château at Versailles. Even though this prestigious place constitutes one of the symbols of our public heritage, the procedure chosen to select the team of conservator-restorers was most unclear, carried out within a private juridical framework rather than as a public bid. This framework gave the patron most of the authority in the superintendence of works. Without explaining the details here, we can say that this affair highlights two disturbing matters for the profession:

- the level of education required to restore public cultural heritage;
- the conditions that sponsoring companies are subject to when participating in such projects, and their intrusion in the specific field of conservation-restoration of cultural heritage.

From a French point of view, it seems essential in light of this affair to define the grades of professional qualification as quickly as possible, and to have these definitions ratified by the European authorities. This is why we have great hopes for the E.C.C.O.'s action on this subject.

Another burning question is the project of standardisation in cultural heritage conservation, led by the CEN. Since the project began officially in France, in May, the FFCR has joined the technical committee founded by the French standards association, called AFNOR. We hope to appoint a significant number of members to the five working groups. To carry out this project, which will certainly require much time and energy, the FFCR plans to solicit European funding. We should be glad to share this fundamental work with other professional organisations; it is probably possible to raise structural European funds for this work.

In addition, two new projects headed by the FFCR will be accomplished in 2004:

- our participation in the European "Journées du Patrimoine", the 18th and 19th of September, at five locations, with presentations proposed by our members. The goal is to improve the general public's recognition of our profession's

specific characteristics, through both the FFCR and E.C.C.O.'s platforms.

- a course for professionals, in response to the present misgivings, called "Adaptation du conservateur-restaurateur à la commande publique", for which we have obtained 17000 € in aid from the Professional Training Fund.

Besides, we continue to publish our professional calendar, which presents the foundation texts (including E.C.C.O.'s), the list of our members and one with the graduates from state schools.

The FFCR will welcome with pleasure any proposal to discuss these topics, as well as other points that concern the future of the profession. Might this be discussed at the next assembly that E.C.C.O. is organising in Strasbourg? Will it be possible to bring together, for this occasion, the presidents of the national associations?



ICHAWI

Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Ireland



Ireland's membership of E.C.C.O. through the Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Ireland (ICHAWI), was ratified at the General Assembly in April of this year much to the delight and, dare I say, satisfaction of our members. The fact that there is now a thriving community of conservators in this country working within a professional framework owes much to the quiet, relentless efforts of those who would have started their careers at a time when there was little formal recognition of the importance or significance of such work. It is fitting that thanks is extended to these conservators as we now accept membership of E.C.C.O..

ICHAWI was established in 1990 and as a non-profit making organisation it was granted charitable status. Developing out of the Irish Professional Conservators and Restorers Association (IPCRA) with whom it still maintains close links, ICHAWI is an accrediting body and actively supports the training and further education of conservators-restorers. It is funded through membership fees, courses and seminars and by the National Heritage Council, a statutory body responsible for developing Heritage policies in Ireland. A representative from the board of ICHAWI is on the Council's Museums and Archives sub-committee. Over the last two years ICHAWI and IPCRA have been represented at NCCR meetings to participate and discuss the proposed convergence of all conservation-restoration bodies in the UK and Ireland. For many reasons it is not possible for Ireland to converge with this proposed single body, but the process has been interesting, good contacts have been forged and it is hoped that the outcome will strengthen the voice of conservation at national level.

Much effort has gone into raising the position of the conservator from that of the level of technician and further education and training has

helped to achieve this. Most of the larger national institutions and museums, north and south, have full time conservators with well equipped workshops and studios. Most other county museums, archives and heritage centres have to contract conservators for specific jobs. There is a wide range of conservation-restoration specialists working in a private capacity on whom they rely.

In conjunction with the many museums that are now established around the country, a Registration and Accreditation scheme is presently being developed by the Heritage Council. As part of the accreditation scheme, the participating museum must achieve a certain level of practice in collections care. Such a scheme is serving to raise the profile of preservation issues while the Standards for Collections Care have been worked out and coordinated by accredited conservators.

Accreditation

Best practice is of concern to all in the profession and ICHAWI is responsible for the accreditation of conservators in Ireland. While anybody entering the profession in the last twenty years has under-



To launch a new publication by the Heritage Council
Archaeology & Development: Guidelines for Good Practice for Developers.

taken diploma or postgraduate courses in conservation in Britain or further afield, traditionally, training and skills were acquired in-house and on the job. Accreditation, recognising the diverse

routes that have lead into the profession, is a peer review of the conservator's experience and qualifications, working methods and guiding principles in order to arrive at a qualitative judgement. Assessment is by interview and includes an on-site visit to the conservator's studio. Three assessors are initially involved and these report back to the board of the Institute. There is an external assessor who is an acknowledged expert in his/her field and two members from the board of the Institute.

A basic tenet throughout discussions at meetings between NCCR and ICHAWI has been joint recognition of the Irish accreditation scheme. A mentoring system is being discussed so as to facilitate application for accreditation and to support the applicant in their preparation. ICHAWI also keeps a record of its members Continuous Professional Development.

Training and Courses

To date, there is one university based post-graduate course in Urban Building Conservation, at the School of Architecture, University College Dublin. The move to standardise qualifications, instigated by the Bologna Declaration, has led the Galway-Mayo Institute of Technology to now offer a three year Bachelor of Science Degree in the Conservation-Restoration of Furniture and Wooden Objects based in Letterfrack, Co. Galway. This course has developed out of its original two year Furniture Restoration Diploma. There is a proposal to establish a materials science course at a third level institution but this is still in the process of negotiation.

ICHAWI runs many seminars and short courses both for the professional conservator and for anyone with responsibility for cultural heritage. Lectures and conferences are regularly organised by both ICHAWI and IPCRA and IPCRA publishes a newsletter. Ireland was host to the IIC Congress in 1998 and a very successful conference on Contemporary Art:Creation, Curation, Collection and Conservation was held at The Museum Of Modern Art in 2001.

Finally, recent changes to the National Monuments Act, 2004 have been deplored by ICHAWI. New provisions to the Act effectively give the Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Local Government sole discretion in the designation



Photo: Department of Irish Folklore, University College, Dublin

Restoration of Mayglass Farmstead.

and protection of our National Monuments. This has considerably weakened the Heritage services and the Minister has clearly indicated that the economic viability of the state will take precedent over cultural values in determining what is or is not to be protected and preserved.

Susann Corr

ICHAWI E.C.C.O. Delegate



IPC – The Institute of Paper Conservation



I am writing just after the results of IPC's voting for convergence which has taken place at the end of September 2004. 74% of our voting members said YES to convergence! This is a clear endorsement for IPC to move forward with the other four organisations towards the formation of the new Institute of Conservation. Our European and overseas members will remain important to us; they will be offered all the benefits they currently enjoy and a lot more at the same subscription fee as UK members.

It has been a long two years working towards convergence. The numerous meetings, the inevitable mountains of paper and e mail correspondence; the extended period of consultation has stretched all our mental and physical resources. However, it must be said, that during all this time the five organisations have worked closely and harmoniously together aided by our ever patient consultant, Mike Caudrey. We were extremely fortunate to have had the leadership of Carole Milner; one of E.C.C.O.'s founding members over the whole period. It is no exaggeration to say that without her we would not have succeeded.

During this period our committee members and our Administrator, Tina Marshall, carried out with the ordinary business of IPC. Our meetings have ranged from evening lectures to workshops lasting several days. Evening lectures are always sold out with lively discussions following. *'Collage – The Conservator's Dilemma'*, *'Keeping the Evidence – Preserving the Past'*, *'Linking Digital Images to Documentation'*, *'Ephemera – Collecting Lavatory Paper Wrappers and Conserving them'* are challenging subjects to a conservator! Our workshops covered *Japanese Scroll Painting Conservation* at the Far Eastern Conservation Centre in Leiden, *Making a Karibari Board* and *Book Display and Making Book Cradles* at the Victoria & Albert Mu-

seum and a very successful *Conservation Framing Workshop for Commercial Framers*. These are the activities that the book and paper group of the new Institute will carry on doing with more and more co-operation, we hope, with our European colleagues.

We are already working in close co-operation with our colleagues from Germany, Austria and Italy on the EU funded Leonardo Project. *Water and Paper: a guide for conservators*. The ultimate aim of this project is to produce a textbook and a novel teaching compendium written for conservation professionals involved with the preservation and conservation of paper. The editors and initiators of the project are Dr Gerhard Banik, Head of Paper Conservation Training Programme SABK and Irene Bruckle, Associate professor at the Art Conservation Department, State University College Buffalo. A pilot course was organised and set up by IPC in its capacity as a network partner and hosted by Mario Aleppo, Head of Preservation and Nancy Bell, Head of Conservation Research, the National Archives, Kew, London. For more information on the project visit our website www.ipc.org.uk and www.sabk.de

We are forging ahead with the organisation of our 2006 Conference on the broad subject of preservation/conservation. Are they friends or enemies? Do they fight for the same resources, for the same people? There are many challenging questions and we hope many of you will participate both by giving papers and by attending the Conference.

Kate Colleran
Chair IPC

NKF-DK

**Nordisk Konservatorforbund/
Den Danske Afdeling**

IIC Nordic – The Danish Section

In general, we feel that the previous years hard work on the political lines has had a promising effect. We can't as yet burst of any revolutionary results, but our organization is increasingly becoming a partner asked for among policymakers and administrators. We are convinced to stay steady on this profile.

An example of the stronger position of NKF-DK at the political level is shown in the parliamentary hearing on the issue of a new administrative division of Denmark at the local and regional levels. NKF-DK was invited to promote its view on the future of the previously county-based conservation laboratories. These conservation facilities are not founded in any governmental law, but have been based solely on the will and skill of the local

politicians and museum professionals. In the future, the main issue for our organisation is to have a professional conservation support for the local museums and archives recognized by the state. Further, we wish to improve the quality and specialisation of this conservation support. NKF-DK, therefore, pledged, by its chairman, for getting a legal foundation for the professional conservation support at the regional level.

Further, NKF-DK is engaged economically and as an organisation in the Danish working group on "Environment, WG 4, within the European project on standards concerning cultural heritage, CEN. Colleagues are as well represented in the mirror committee of CEN.

A set of "minimum standards" for handling museum objects was formulated by NKF-DK earlier. These standards will form a basis for the coming formal standardization to be issued by The Ministry of Culture. NKF-DK is a member of the official working group.

**Studying tour to the Baltic countries:
visiting the conservationcenter Kanut in Tallinn**





To further enhance networking within all branches of the Danish museums (fine arts, cultural history and natural history) a formal group has been established, which is open to all conservator-restorers of the said museum types. A network for improving the running of the vast museum collections has also been established. This group is open to all types museum professionals such as registrars, conservator-restorers, art historians, archaeologists and technical staff. This network has its offspring from the seminar held last year within the frame of NKF-DK and the Cultural Historical Museum in Randers. We have high hopes that the preserving of cultural heritage will benefit from such flexible yet formal network. Further, the network-groups are hosted by The Association of Cultural Historical Museums.

In spite of the focus on the political work NKF-DK is observant to stay visible among the members. Member activities as well as an ongoing revision of our home page and a release of printed publications seek to fulfil this goal. We have thus published two issues of our newsletter "Bulletin", and one issue of the inter Nordic "Meddelelser om Konservering" with a theme about conservation of recent wooden objects.

**Studying tour to the Baltic countries:
visiting the school of conservation in Riga**



During the year members of NKF-DK have been offered special visits to relevant institutions such as: The Museum of Police History; the new specialised storage facilities of The Danish Institute of Films; and a newly opened house at The Open Air Department of The National Museum. May of this year, a large group of colleagues, also including members from our Nordic sister organisations, was attending a very condensed and highly inspiring study trip to a whole range of conservation labs and museums in the Baltic countries.

The municipality of Copenhagen hosted the general assembly in April 2004, and we had a most interesting introduction to the conservation work in progress there.

After the general assembly the board constituted as follows: **Michael Højlund Rasmussen**, chairman, **Karen Borchersen**, vice chairman, **Vivi Lønborg Andersen**, treasurer, **Susan Ritterband** and **Martin Bernsted**, editors of "Bulletin", **Maj Ringgard** and **Camilla Bastholm**, arrangements officers and **Karin Wegener Tams** and **Lin Spaabæk** are account revisors.

Jens Aagaard furthermore is our web-master, **Mai Stief Ajstrup** is editor in chief of "Meddelelser om Konservering", **Tina Kramer Molkte** was appointed chairman of Nordisk Konservatorforbund, **Lone Petersen** is NKF-DK representative in CEN, **Karen Borchersen** is member of a networking group on cultural matters within Dansk Magisterforening, **Vivi Lønborg Andersen** is our representative in Teknisk Landsforbund and **Marianne Hadsund**, **Ida Hovmand** and **Michael Højlund Rasmussen** are members of the cultural ministerial advisory board for minimum standards representing NKF-DK. **Per Hadsund** is our member in the working group for post educational training of conservator-restorers at The School of Conservation.

For further information please visit our websites:

www.nkf-dk.dk

and **www.nordiskkonservatorforbund.org**

September 2004

Helle Strehle

NKF-DK repr. to E.C.C.O.

NKF-FIN

**Pohjoismainen konservaattoriliitto –
Suomen osasto
Nordiska Konservatorsförbundet –
Finska Sektionen**

IIC Nordic Group – Finnish Section

In 2004, the regulations of the *IIC Nordic Group – Finnish Section* were renewed in order for them to correspond to the standardisation of regulations and membership categories of all Nordic Sections, as well as to adapt to the E.C.C.O. Professional Guidelines. The new regulations concerning the membership took effect at the beginning of April.

As an outcome of this, the three remaining categories in the Finnish Section are: student membership; full membership; and supporting membership. The main purpose of the renewal has been to replace associate membership, which has now become a closed category with student members.

In April, all current associate members have been contacted in order to enquire whether they wanted to upgrade their membership to become a full member. Requirements for upgrading are: a polytechnic (BA Hons.) degree plus two years of work experience as a conservator; or a vocational degree plus five years of work experience as a conservator. Selection will be based on the applicants' CV, as well as on examples of documentation of conservation projects, which members working in the private sector have been asked to submit. The new upgraded full members will be nominated at the Annual Autumn Meeting of the Section.

Prior to the Autumn Meeting, there are currently 255 members of which 90 are full members, 152 associate members, 3 honorary members and 10 supporting members.

Other changes besides the renewal of the regulations concern the website, and the newsletter of the Section. The new website (www.konservaatto-

riliitto.fi) is expected to be opened later this year. With the other Nordic Sections, efforts for collaboration in a common newsletter are being studied. Until then, the newsletter "Konservaattoriliiton lehti", as well as the conservation e-mail discussion list continue to be the main forums for the Finnish conservators.

The E.C.C.O. Professional Guidelines have been translated into Finnish. The Finnish Section has also drafted a definition for the profession of a conservator.

The Annual Spring Meeting took place on the 19th of March in the city of Tampere. The meeting was held at the auditorium of Museum Centre Vapriikki, a former linen factory from the mid-19th century, which was converted into exhibition spaces, providing facilities for collections, conservation, photo archives, library and various other educational and scientific purposes.

This year's Annual Autumn Meeting was held on the 15th of October at the conservation department of the National Museum of Finland in Helsinki. Prior to the meeting there will be a seminar organized at the museum on an interesting subject: courier work.

In May, the Finnish Section awarded five grants of euro 400 to graduating students at the EVTEK Institute of Art and Design in Vantaa, one stipend per each conservation degree programme. The new students have started their education at the EVTEK in August, and the number of conservation degree programmes has been extended to six.

This year has also brought a change in representation of the Finnish Section as Anna Häkäri has left her post as an E.C.C.O. Delegate after many years of dedicated work. The follower of Anna is a paintings conservator Suvi Leukumaavaara who has participated twice in the General Assembly as an observer.

Anna Häkäri

*Suvi Leukumaavaara
NKF-FI E.C.C.O. Delegate*



NKF-N

IIC Nordic Group – the Norwegian Section

Members per September 2004:

133 members

59 associates

The strategic plan from 2001 was revised in both 2002 and re-adopted in 2003. The organisation decided in 2002 to concentrate on the following points:

- Work actively with arranging lectures, seminars and workshops for members and associates.
- Maintain and develop NKF-N webpages.
- Encourage contact and cooperation between the different specialised work areas.
- Further develop the cooperation with the Norwegian Museums Association (NMA) advisory board on conservation.
- Work towards integrating the occupation within the museum sector. NKF-N should arrange conservation seminars at the NMA general assembly and maintain the contact with the NMA and other museum organisations.
- Work towards getting the profession better known to other related cultural areas and in the media.

NKF-Ns general assembly was held at the offices of the Directorate of Cultural Heritage on Friday 30th April. Approximately 35 members attended. Prior to the GA there were four papers presented. One of the papers dealt with Norway's share in the EU project IMPACT, which is a model used in the calculation of concentration and impact of acidic and oxidising outdoor gases in museums and historic buildings. The others were presentations of PhD and graduate research.

In June, during the annual meeting of the NKF chairpersons and delegates in Denmark, it was decided to set up a taskforce that would look into what can be done to strengthen the cooperation between the different sections of NKF. The first

meeting of this taskforce was held in October. During the NKF meeting it was also decided that *Nordic Association of Conservators* will be the official english title of the NKF – IIC Nordic group.

Also this year, the NKF-N was invited to arrange a conservation seminar during the Museums Associations annual meeting in September. NKF-N invited Michael Højlund Rasmussen, chairperson of NKF-DK, to talk about regional conservation and storage facilities in Vejle, Denmark. It was very encouraging to see that many representatives from other professions at the museums chose to attend the conservation seminar as opposed to other parallel seminars.

Two more meetings are planned for 2004. The autumn's meeting will be held at the Munch Museum in Oslo. Three newly graduated conservators will present their theses, but security no doubt will be a hot topic of discussion after the presentations are finished. At the Christmas meeting two conservators from the Norwegian Institute of Cultural Heritage will present an ongoing project at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy – National Art Gallery.

NKF-N publishes the newsletter Norsk Konserver twice a year, and has an active e-mail list with listings of courses, jobs and other relevant information. The NKF-N websites can be found either on www.museumsnett.no/nkf-n, or at the communal web portal for the IIC Nordic Group www.konservatorforbundet.dk.

Contacts:

NKF-N

Chairperson NKF-N Anne-Grethe Slettemoen
anne.slettemoen@bergenartmuseum.no

E.C.C.O. representative

Vice-president E.C.C.O. Tanja Reed
tanja.reed@aaks.no

NKF-S

Nordiska konservatorförbundet – svenska sektionen

IIC Nordic Group – Swedish section

The board as elected at the General Assembly in March 2004:

Lars Björk, chair, permanent member

Britta Nilsson, secretary, permanent member

Daniel Kwiatkowski, treasurer, permanent member

Inga-Lill Nyström-Larsson, permanent member

Yang Sook Koh, permanent member

Charlotte Ahlgren, deputy member

Jenni Lindbom, deputy member

Lennart Andersson, deputy member

The NKF-S is an organisation in transformation. The general assembly was held in Stockholm in March 2004. The meeting vividly discussed the level of academic training and/or experience required for a conservator. This topic has been a continuing issue for the past few years, which is now coming closer to a conclusion with the NKF-S and the School of Conservation at the University of Gothenburg working in closer co-operation. The aim is to review the qualifications required for admission to the various categories of NKF-S, and the distinction of degrees awarded by the conservation training programme, while focusing on getting nearer the recommendations presented by the E.C.C.O. Guidelines.

As of today, students are accepted on a four year conservation training programme at the University of Gothenburg, leading to a Masters degree. It is possible, however, to leave the programme at Bachelor level after three years. There is no distinction between the degrees regarding the professional title, both qualify for the title of conservator. (Regarding the International Masters degree, The Bologna Declaration has been signed by Sweden, but results have yet to come).

A complication in the process is that Swedish law

and regulations do not define, nor protect, the conservation profession. This results in the fact that anyone can use the title conservator whether they hold a degree or not. In a further perspective, this leads to problems of accreditation and related authority issues within the profession.

The meeting further took into consideration a suggestion of introducing new categories of membership of the NKF-S. The possible new system will be comparable to those of the other Nordic countries. Currently, the NKF-S has 332 members, 127 of them being full members.

So, basically, the NKF-S is undergoing a changing process, ultimately aiming for the profession of conservation to achieve a higher status. Information on the resulting goals will be presented in next years E.C.C.O. report.

The NKF-S paper, *Realia – tidskrift för konservering*, is published twice yearly. The editorial board is happy to receive an increasing amount of articles, but find that it has become virtually impossible to find advertisers to finance printing and distribution, since most retailers advertise on the internet rather than in papers. Hopefully, the paper can continue being published twice a year with other financial support to cover the costs. Meanwhile, a working group has been established to present an NKF-S homepage on the internet.

Finally, Sweden will be hosting the next IIC Nordic Group Triennial Conference in 2006. A preliminary working group has been appointed, and suggestions for topics are being considered.

Cecilia Rönnerstam

NKF-S, E.C.C.O. rep



ÖRV

Österreichischer Restauratorenverband



The yearly General Assembly of ÖRV took place on 28 June 2004 in Vienna at the Academy of Applied Arts.

The ÖRV board comprises six members who remained unchanged.

Stefan Kainz as president,

Peter Kalsner vice president, coordinator of the jour fixe and the publications,

Doris Müller-Hess, treasurer,

Christa Hoffmann, general secretary, coordinator of working groups,

Hilde Neugebauer, vice general secretary, responsible for the homepage,

Martina Ruttin, coordinator of this year ÖRV conference,

Edith Touré, E.C.C.O. delegate.

We count 187 ordinary members. We decided to create a new status: friends of ÖRV; These individuals have an interest in our activities, get our newsletters, come to the conferences and pay fees, without being conservators-restorers.

The most important activity each year is our conference with a publication afterwards.

These publications are sold through the German bookstore Siegl, where you can order it via internet for a moderate price.

There is no financial benefit but it covers the costs of the printing and the layout.

Our next conference (the 19th) takes place on 11.–13. of November 2004 **“Mehr Schein als Sein?”, Retusche, Ergänzung, Rekonstruktion, Illusion** – in St. Pölten, in the federal museum of Lower Austria (approx. 60 km from Vienna).

There will be around 200 participants with 21 speakers (from Vienna, Munich, Hamburg, Cologne, etc.).

The publication for this conference will be ready by June next year.

ÖRV has a new working group called *“Bestands-erhaltung – Buch/Grafik/Archivalien”*.

It is open to everybody interested in these themes, especially people working in libraries and archives.

Results will be published on the ÖRV homepage **www.örv.at** and **www.orv.at** (both!)

You are welcome to contact us through our e-mail address info@orv.at

The ÖRV mobile nr: 0664 / 503 30 64

The address: 1010 Wien, Postfach 576

We will be happy to publish your requests or articles (German or English) in our quarterly Newsletters *“Mitteilungen”*. If you wish to receive it, please write to us!

The EUROPA NOSTRA AWARD 2003 has been granted to the engraving collection of the Academy of Fine Arts for its restoration project and the digital recording of the gothic map-drawings (427 on parchment).

A conference about *“Tierische Holzschädlinge – Bekämpfung und Prävention”* took place on 25 June in Graz (capital of Styria) with experts from Switzerland, Germany and Austria and over 100 participants. A publication will follow.

As a résumé of the last year, I would like to state the permanent effort of our organisation to keep in touch with our members and to promote the image of the conservator-restorer in our country despite many problems, similar to those in other European countries.

We appreciate very much the effort that E.C.C.O. puts into the legislation and the new guidelines.

Edith Touré

Vienna, October 2004

SKR/SCR

**Schweizerischer Verband für Konservierung
und Restaurierung**
**Association Suisse de Conservation
et Restauration**

Members

The number of full members is 266 this year with a further 106 members in training and 48 with the status of corresponding members. To make it somewhat easier for young university graduates to join the Association, the Board has decided to reduce the first year's subscription for one half.

Professional conferences and events

The professional conference for 2003 in Berne, entitled *kunst stoff kunst (plastic art)* was well attended with 172 participants. Many foreign guests were also welcomed at the event.

The theme of the 2004 annual conference was *restaurer et créer (restore and create)*; it was organized in conjunction with the Historic Monuments Preservation authorities of the Cantons of Geneva and Vaud. This time the spotlight was not directed at conservation methods, but rather at ways of handling gaps in the work of art or structure. On the basis of practical examples, conservation and restoration experts, curators of historic monuments and artists showed how this difficult topic has been approached, while at the same time proposed possible solutions to the expert audience. The aim of the event was to open a dialogue extending across professional boundaries, while also rethinking the approach to new creation on historic buildings.

The conference theme in 2005 will focus on issues surrounding the preservation of technical cultural assets.

As part of the further training programme for the specialisations of archaeology, monument preservation, conservation and technology of ICOMOS Switzerland, representatives of the Association

took part in the organisation of the colloquy entitled "Making Use of Synergies" which was held in February 2004.

Policy development

A round discussion took place at the University of the Arts in Berne on 6 November on issues surrounding the professional policy of the Association. The following working groups were formed:

- *Recommendations for the grading of conservation and restoration experts employed by institutions*
- *Fee recommendations*
- *Procedures applicable to calls for tenders*

The working group on the "prohibition of advertising" also began its work. The existing code of honour of the SKR/SCR prohibits its members from advertising. The 2003 Annual General Meeting resolved in response to a motion to set up a working group to find a solution to this problem. This working group and the Board have developed the appropriate background conditions.

Monika Danneegger and Christian Marty met the Chairman of the Swiss Federal Historic Monuments Preservation Department (EKD), Dr Bernhard Furrer, for an exchange of views. Issues discussed by them included recommended fees, tendering procedures and budget cuts in the area of monument preservation. The purpose of this discussion was to open a dialogue and make direct contact when problems are experienced; more regular meetings should also be held.

At the initiative of Natalie Ellwanger (E.C.C.O. Delegate of the SKR/SCR), Christian Marty and Natalie Ellwanger attended a discussion with the Swiss Standards Association (SNV). Dr Paul Raschle (EMPA St. Gallen) was also present at the discussions. The main subject of discussion was the position to be taken on the initiative of the European Committee for Standardization (CEN). In principle, the SKR/SCR takes the view that objects of cultural history are always unique items so that the formulation of standards makes no sense. But we would still like to find out more about this project as binding standards might be created with consequences for our profession.



Website

The design for the homepage is now ready and the contents will have to be prepared in the course of the first half of the year.

Basic and advanced training

Monika Dannegger represented the SKR on the Advisory Council for the Course in Conservation and Restoration at the Berne Professional University. At the last meeting of 3 July 2003, information was provided on changes following the formation of the Berne University for the Arts (HKB). As part of this restructuring, the existing Advisory Council was converted into an "Examinations and Quality Assurance Commission of the Conservation/Restoration Specialization." Because of fears that strategic and coordination aspects might receive insufficient attention in future, the persons present also advocated the creation of a second body to be known as the "Advisory Council for Swiss Study Courses in Conservation and Restoration."

This year, the Professional University of La Chaux-de-Fonds, in cooperation with the SKR, will once again be holding a one-week course of further training in July. The course will deal with electro-chemical treatment techniques for the conservation of archaeological and historical metals. In recent years, these methods have been greatly refined and the latest developments will be illustrated in theory, and on the basis of practical trials by Dr Christian Degryny of the Malta Centre for Restoration. Since October 2002, a new course has been offered in La Chaux-de-Fonds on the conservation of technical and scientific cultural assets. The two universities are currently working on the practical implementation of the "Bologna Model". Ideally, the first Bachelor's study course would begin in October 2005.

Coordination meeting / Specialized and regional groups

The coordination meeting, which is held at the beginning of the year between the individual working and interest groups of the Association, was again organized in Berne. This year, it took place at the Swiss National Library. Over 25 mem-

bers were kept informed on the activities of the Association and on the regional and working groups. The meeting was followed by a guided tour of the conservation-restoration department.

Specialized Group for Textiles

Two meetings were held last year, and both were well attended. The annual event was held in Langenthal, and as an accompanying programme guided tours of the Ruckstuhl and Création Baumann companies were offered. An advanced training seminar on the "use of adhesives on textiles" was also organized, and illustrated a range of working techniques.

Specialized Group for Paper

A meeting of the specialized group was held in the Berne City and University Library on the topic of the "newly renovated restoration workshop." Some 50 persons attended this event.

Specialized Group for Furniture/Timber

No training course on furniture conservation and restoration exists at present in Switzerland. This makes the recent decision by the Conservation and Restoration Department of Berne Professional University to plan an in-depth course on "Furniture" more important. To prepare the necessary planning documents, Berne Professional University has asked Mrs Henriette Bon, a member of the SKR Executive, to conduct a survey of data on the latest state of the training situation in the field of "Furniture" in Europe.

Specialized Group on Art Historical Objects

A seminar on the subject of the "illegal transfer of cultural goods" was held in November 2003.

Christian Marty
SKR/SCR Chairman

SSCR

The Scottish Society for Conservation-Restoration

As you may know the convergence of the main conservation bodies in the UK has been the hot topic of the last few years – it has certainly pre-occupied the SSCR committee. Finally on the 29th September we held an Extraordinary General Meeting to vote on the motion:

I agree that SSCR should support the formation of the Institute of Conservation with, at some time in the future and at the Committee's discretion, transfer of assets in accordance with SSCR's Constitution and Scottish Charity Law.

(I hope E.C.C.O. members realise Scotland has a separate legal and charity system and we have taken great care to ensure any change is both democratic and legal!)

There were a **total of 61 votes cast**; of 180 eligible votes (only institutional members did not have a vote). **The result is 51 for the proposal, 10 against, so the resolution to support convergence is carried – that is 84% in favour and 16% against.**

The YES vote for convergence confirms the membership's commitment to the formation of the Institute of Conservation, and we are now managing the transition. We are working to support the new body, while ensuring the spirit of SSCR does not get lost in a new bureaucracy.

As Ylva Player-Dahnsjö and Clare Meredith are stepping down from the Vanguard group – which itself is now redundant, Lisa Neilsen and Maeve Wooley have agreed to represent SSCR at future convergence meetings.

* * * * *

Other aspects of life here were the SSCR visits to conservation projects which included:

- A wet April day Glasgow visit to Holmwood House by Alex 'Greek' Thomson – who adapted classical ornament to a Scottish environ-

ment. Owned by the National Trust for Scotland, the beautiful painted stencil-work of C.T. Bowie is undergoing restoration by Owen Davidson.

- A sunny June day trip to the Mount Stuart home of the Marquis of Bute, on the Isle of Bute on the River Clyde to see one of Britains most spectacular Gothic houses with stunning interiors.
- The August outing was to the Britannia Panopticon Music Hall, a rare survivor of 19th century working class theatrical entertainment in the heart of Glasgow.
- In October we visited the new Glasgow Museums Collections resource centre, a purpose built storage facility with 6,000 sq.m of environmentally controlled stores.

Our last, but no means least, event of the year is the Seventh Annual Plenderleith Lecture, in honour of Dr. Harold Plenderleith, one of the founding fathers of modern Conservation. This year being presented by Jonathan Ashley Smith, Senior Research Fellow in Conservation Studies and former Head of Conservation at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

He was awarded the Plowden Medal in 2000 and his lecture is "Conservation Futures: a sound investment?"

The title sounds good, and is certainly one we all hope is true ...

Greetings from Scotland.

Paul McAuley
Chair SSCR

It only remains for me thank all involved, and all who took the time to vote. I look forward to seeing you all at the Plenderleith lecture by Dr Jonathan Ashley-Smith in November.

PMcA Chair



UKIC

United Kingdom Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works

Convergence

At the time of writing, the future of this Institute hangs on the outcome of votes being taken by our members, and those of four sister organisations at the end of September. Provided the votes are favourable we five organisations will dissolve over the following months, to be replaced by a new one: The Institute of Conservation. This is a pivotal moment in the history of conservation in the United Kingdom. The new Institute will have a membership of around 3000, and an income sufficient to employ enough staff to achieve many of the aspirations of our new joint membership. Provided this goes ahead, the National Council for Conservation-Restoration will cease to exist, having largely completed its task of bringing the organisations together.

A prospectus for the new organisation *The Institute of Conservation: a summary of the key facts for future members* can be found on the websites of UKIC, IPC and SSCR. Copies of the booklet are available from UKIC office. The websites also contain several supporting documents, including a full record and analysis of the consultation with members, over a period of two and a half years.

© www.conservationregister.com

The other probable partners are the Care of Collections Forum and the Photographic Materials Conservation Group.

If this merger proceeds, the UK's three E.C.C.O. organisations will become one (IPC, SSCR, UKIC), and we should then look forward to negotiating a fresh relationship with E.C.C.O.. The new Institute will be offering overseas members all the benefits they currently enjoy – and more – and at the same subscription fee as UK members. It is intended that the two prestigious peer-reviewed journals *The Paper Conservator* and *The Conservator* will continue to be independently produced, though in a uniform house style.

The work to reach even this tentative point has been not only considerable but highly collaborative. If a similar degree of collaboration can be achieved within the new organisation its future success is assured. We wish to acknowledge the dynamic leadership shown by Carole Milner, NCCR Chair and also one of E.C.C.O.'s founding figures.

The UKIC Year

Alongside the work on convergence, UKIC has pursued a particularly busy agenda this year. In July 2004 we held the first general conference on a non-technical topic: *Working with the project culture*. Held in Liverpool, home to the award-winning Conservation Centre, it was very well attended, and a full programme generated excellent debate. The conclusion is that many conservators



have risen to the challenges presented by project working, though not everyone, and that the processes of collaboration with other professionals, such as architects, offer some encouraging examples. This subject provided the opportunity to reflect on the gradually improving professional status of conservators, and on the gender issues raised for a largely female workforce. E.C.C.O.'s President, Ylva-Player Dahnsjö gave a lively keynote talk, which included a description of the APEL project; copies of the report were available. Conference abstracts are on the UKIC website, and it is hoped to publish the proceedings, possibly on CD.

In June the *Pilgrim Trust Conservation Awards* were presented by The Rt Hon Tessa Jowell MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, and by TV personality Loyd Grossman. The main Award was won by the Hamilton Kerr Institute for its conservation of the 14th Century retablo from a small church in Suffolk. This year a further award was included to recognise achievement in digital preservation. The full shortlist and the list of winners are available in our special newsletter *Conservation Awards Despatch* and our website. We are delighted that the future of the award scheme has been assured for the next three rounds with the generous financial support of Sir Paul McCartney.

Our publications comprise one of the principal benefits of membership, and this year again six issues of *Conservation News* and the annual peer-reviewed journal *The Conservator* were produced. *CN* carries news of E.C.C.O. developments to all our members.

I reported last year on considerable progress with accreditation – in particular the scheme we operate jointly with IPC and the Society of Archivists: *Professional Accreditation of Conservator-Restorers* (PACR). This continues to thrive, with a growing number of candidates, more assessors being recruited and trained, and an effective Accreditation Committee. This year we introduced a new route to accreditation for those more

concerned with preventive conservation than with treatment and intervention. Full explanations of the scheme and all the documents can be found on the website www.pacr.org.uk.



The public face of accreditation is *The Conservation Register*. This too has made considerable progress over the year. This database of conservation and restoration practices covering the UK and Ireland is being drastically overhauled, bringing entries up-to-date, and invoking a fresh set of criteria. Among these is the requirement that the principal of a conservation practice, namely the one controlling the standard of work, must be accredited. The most significant breakthrough occurred in February when the Register went online, and readers of E.C.C.O Reports are encouraged to look at it at www.conservationregister.com.



This is a powerful tool for those seeking recognised practices of quality, as well as a means for those businesses to make their names widely-available to clients, whether public sector or pri-

vate individuals, and hence focus the work on those conservators best equipped to carry it out, with lasting benefit to our cultural heritage. A further bonus for those PACR-accredited businesses on the Register is that they are eligible for a 10% discount on their insurance.



Our Education, Training and Research Committee has been working on several fronts: A published guide for internships, to help both interns and supervisors; funding by the UK's research body, and the doubtful provision for funding research in cultural heritage under the EU's forthcoming 7th Framework, on which we are making representations. Particular attention has been given to the shared work of ENCoRE and E.C.C.O. on the qualifications for recognition of conservation and the Bologna Declaration. Our Chairman, Chris Woods attended a constructive meeting of the ENCoRE Board in Newcastle in April, and we look forward to working together on the somewhat disparate approaches to this issue, embracing the UK's preference for recognising competence to practice as much as the educational route to achieving this.

The specialist Sections of the Institute have again generated an exciting and wide-ranging programme of events. To give a taste, here are just a few from the many events held during the year: the Historic Interiors Section considered *The Historic Interior Under Threat* and held a Georgian evening, in period costume, eating period food to period music; and they joined forces with the Textile Section for *Opening up Display*; the Stone & Wall Paintings Section met at the Royal Academy of Arts to consider Baroque decoration, and held a three-day conference at the Natural Stone Show; the Stained Glass Section reviewed *19th and 20th Century stained glass*; the Metal Section held study days on medals and sculpture, riveting and silver; the Paintings Section (jointly with BAPCR) held a conference on *Alternative to Lining*; the Gilding and Decorative Surfaces Section hosted two seminars on Sampling and Scientific Analysis; the Furniture & Wood section held a health and safety course in Wood Machining; the Ethnography Section ran a seminar:

Caught in a compromising position, discussing the effect of the project culture in museums; the Ceramics & Glass Section held its Spring meeting Crystal Clear in the glass-making district of Stourbridge, West Midlands; and the Archaeology Section discussed the conservation of maritime material, at the Submarine Museums in Gosport.

To see the full range of the Institute's activities, we recommend a visit to our website: **www.ukic.org.uk**; even better, we would welcome you as a member of this or maybe the new Institute.

David Leigh
Director

VDR

**Verband der Restauratoren e. V. –
(Federation of Restorers)**

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1. Political activity in the professional field

● Job protection laws

Job title protection legislation for conservators-restorers must go through the 16 *Bundesländer* in Germany because the *Bundesländer* hold jurisdiction over the nation's cultural affairs, not the federal government.

The 'Restorers' List' that was compiled as a result of the '*Restauratorenengesetz*' ['Restorer's Law'] has had very positive effects in Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania: both public and private clients have made increasing use of the list in awarding contracts. Many a time contractors are asked whether they are listed during the award allocation process.

A parliamentary hearing concerning a legal initiative put forward by the Democratic Socialist Party (PDS) took place in Saxony at the beginning of April. VDR was represented through the attendance of Vice President Wolfram Vormelker, two Members of the Committee, and the Managing Director. Unfortunately, the large parties in the parliament, the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and the German Social Democratic Party (SPD) could not agree to a joint action with the PDS, causing the law to be put on ice for the moment, but it will, hopefully, be taken up again in the

coming legislative session. The VDR will then engage in a renewed dialogue with all of the parties concerned.

In Hamburg, the *Länder* Group Chairman and the Managing Director had a chance to speak with the new 'Senator for Culture' about the chances of a job protection law. They agreed to stay in contact with each other, and to look into a joint action with other *Bundesländer*.

● 'Seal of Quality'

Considering the increased difficulty of winning acceptance for a legal job protection regulation in the current political landscape, the VDR Committee decided at its meeting in November 2003 to intensify its activities and work in parallel to obtain an initiative for a VDR Seal of Quality. The President and the Managing Director submitted a preliminary concept at the following Committee meeting in April 2004. The apparent tendency is moving toward making membership in the VDR the first requirement for the future Seal of Quality,

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though the possibility of whether the VDR could award Seals of Quality to non-members is also being currently examined. The Seal of Quality should not be a one-off award, but rather tied to renewed qualifications such as advanced education that are approved at certain intervals. With the help of this initiative, the VDR hopes for quality assurance in the awarding of contracts and a favorable public relations effect.

● Advanced training

The VDR would like to offer advanced training opportunities for conservators-restorers in conjunction with German universities. A first step has been taken with the introduction of the 'Modulare Weiterbildung Restauration' (MDR) ['Modular Advanced Training Course for Restoration'] program of studies at the *Fachhochschule für Technik und Wirtschaft* [University of Applied Sciences for Business and Technology] in Berlin; the VDR and FHTW are currently negotiating over a contract that should regulate joint sponsorship of this program.

The questionnaire regarding the advanced education needs of VDR members that was published in the VDR Bulletin is currently being evaluated, and should be incorporated into the advanced training concept.

● Education

A second educational conference has already taken place at the *Haus der Kultur* [House of Culture] in Bonn, where the registered office of the VDR is located. The VDR had invited the universities offering Restoration Studies Programs as well as the *Akkreditierungsrat* [Accreditation Council] and three accrediting agencies to engage in dialogue about the topic of Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. The accreditation process was discussed. The situation at the universities presents a varied picture: the launch of a BA degree program at universities in Hildesheim and Berlin is already set for the winter semester of 2004. The VDR has positioned itself by making available a 'Com-

petency Catalogue' (a listing of the necessary qualities and capability characteristics of graduates from the point of view of professional practice) to the agencies and, upon request, expert appraisers for the accreditation process.

● Professional status and concerns of freelancers

The social and business situation of freelance conservators-restorers is the current focus of interest.

The VDR is continuing its cooperation in the working group 'Social Security' of the *Deutsche Kulturrat* [German Cultural Council]; a preliminary resolution was co-signed by Michael Recker, Chairman of the VDR working group 'Freelancers'.

The VDR is currently putting together a 'Statement of Restorers Needs and Requirements' for the *Kunstrat* [Art Council] which will also be made available to the Enquete Cultural Commission of the German Parliament.

Together with Committee Member Jana Labahn and Managing Director Dr. Sabina Fleitmann, the Chairman of the VDR working group 'Freelancers' conducted discussions with the *Künstlersozialkasse* (KSK) [Artists' Social Security Fund] with the long-term aim of allowing restorers to insure themselves there.

Together with the working group 'Freelancers' and the working group 'Restorers in Training', the VDR Bureau is planning a workshop for the beginning of 2005 addressing the current situation of contract orders and the conservation-restoration market.

● Conservators-Restorers as expert appraisers

Discussions took place with the *Bundesverband der öffentlich bestellten und vereidigten Sachverständigen* (BVS) [Federation of Publicly Contracted and Sworn-in Expert Appraisers] and the *Institut für Sachverständigenwesen* (IFS) [Institute for Appraisal Practices]. The long-term goal is to promote the establishment of a separate conservation-restoration expert appraiser because there are often either not enough or not yet any qualified expert

appraisers to make judgments on conservation-restoration questions in this field (for legal proceedings, insurance questions, etc.)

Bureau Member Roland Vogel participated in the 5th *Deutschen Kunstsachverständigentag* [German Art Appraisers' Day] in Nuremberg in May 2004.

● Pay scale compensation reform

Public sector compensation law is planned to undergo reform in Germany. For this reason negotiations have been taking place among the employers – local authorities, *Bundesländer*, and federal government – and the service trade union ver.di since the end of last year.

The VDR has formed a study group under the direction of Vice President Dr. Cornelia Weyer that newly describes and updates the job description of conservators-restorers working in the public sector. The revised job description profile is to be delivered to the negotiating partners. In addition, two position papers have

already been presented to the trade union documenting conservators-restorers' entitlement to be grouped in an appropriate salary bracket. Members were included in the drafting process through a workshop held in Kassel under the direction of Jürgen Hoffmann, Chairman of the working group 'Restorers in the Public Sector'.

● Cultural promotion and collaboration with foundations

VDR President Kornelius Götz was especially active in this area: in February he attended a conference in Prague entitled "Activities of German Foundations in and with Middle and Eastern Europe in the Year of EU-Enlargement". In May, the President was also invited to the "Spring Meeting of Cultural Promotion Foundations" in Berlin. The hosting cultural foundation of the *Bundesländer* (KSL) likewise arranged participation in "Cultural Foundations in Europe – Creating an International



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Network for Cultural Cooperation" in St. Petersburg in July, 2004, co-hosted by the Russian Dmitry Likhachev Foundation. The basic idea was the same as for the previous conference held in Schloss Neuhardenberg near Berlin in 2002: high-ranking representatives of European and North American cultural foundations were to enter into dialogue with one another. The VDR President was able to introduce various conservation-restoration projects in need of sponsorship.

2. Public Relations

● Corporate design

The new corporate design for the Federation has now been implemented in all materials and publications. These include an updated press kit, a press review of the last 'Restorers' Day', a press archive, as well as a VDR stand presentation for conferences and trade fairs.

● Joint project with the *Deutschen Museumsbund* (DMB) [German Museum Federation]

Preparation of the International Museum Day on May 12, 2004: Participation in the publication, compilation, and publication of projects by VDR members in museums and workshops on this day.

● 'Tag der Freien Berufe' ['Freelancers Day'] sponsored by the *Bundesverband der Freien Berufe* (BFB) [Federation of Freelance Professions], May 5, 2004

Topic: "Freelancing in the New Europe"

The VDR was represented with a stand. President Götz sat at the podium for a discussion entitled 'Diploma Recognition Guidelines – Quality Assurance in Germany' and managed to advance awareness of our profession relative to the many larger groups of architects, engineers, lawyers, etc.

● Trade fair 'denkmal' 2004

At the end of October the VDR will be represented for the first time with a "*Gemeinschaftsstand der Restauratoren*" [a collaborative stand of VDR members] at the Leipzig trade fair. The conference "*Schnittstellen in der Archäologie*" ["Interfaces in Archaeology"] (working group 'Archaeological Objects') as well as a seminar about public procurement law and a podium discussion – together with the *Zentralverband des Handwerks* [Central Federation of German Trades] – regarding the issue of EU-enlargement will all be taking place there.

3. Publications

● "*VDR-Beiträge zur Erhaltung von Kunst- und Kulturgut*" ["Contributions to the Preservation of Art and Cultural Property"]

The new periodical of the VDR, a series of articles appearing twice yearly, has two issues available to date (1/2003 und 1/2004). Issue 2/2004 is in the works and will appear in the fall of this year. The national and international resonance has been positive; the broad spectrum of topics is especially highlighted. The Head Editor is Prof. Ingo Timm, Berlin; Vice President Dr. Cornelia Weyer is the Bureau Member responsible for publications. Members receive the magazine free of charge.

● "*VDR-Schriftenreihe*" ["VDR Series of Publications"]

The conference transcript of the "Mold" conference in Munich in 2001 will appear in the autumn of 2004 and will also be sold commercially. A conference volume of the Düsseldorf conference "Surface Cleaning" (Restorators' Day, 2003) will appear under the auspices of Vice President Dr. Cornelia Weyer in 2005. Members receive the monograph publication at a reduced price.

4. Projects and Events

Because no large multidisciplinary Restorers' Day will be taking place in 2004, the calendar of events from the end of 2003 to the end of 2004 is marked by numerous events of the VDR working groups. The larger projects are mentioned here:







- Working group 'Ethnographic Objects – Folklore and Ethnology/ Leather/Handicraft Objects' *"In Vielfalt vereint"* ["Unity in Diversity"] – symposium March 23–27th, 2004, Mannheim
- Working group 'Polychromatic paintings/ Länder-group Saxony-Anhalt' *"Die Straße der Romanik – Auf den Spuren hochmittelalterlicher Skulptur und Baukunst"* ["The Romanic Road – On the Trail of High Middle Age Sculpture and Architecture"] May 13–16th, 2004, Saxony-Anhalt
- Working group 'Graphics, Archival and Literary Material' *"Mehr als Papier – Materialkombinationen in Kunsttechnologie und Restaurierung"* ["Beyond Paper – Material Combinations in Art Technology and Restoration"] International symposium June 4–7th, 2004, Dresden
- Working group 'Paintings' *"Peter Paul Rubens – Technologie und Restaurierung"* ["Peter Paul Rubens – Technology and Restoration"] Scientific colloquium September 30th – October 2nd, 2004, Brunswick
- Working group 'Textiles' *"Nur Flicken und Stopfen? Textilrestaurierung in vergangenen Jahrzehnten"* ["Mere Patch and Darn? Textile Restoration in Past Decades"] November 10–12th, 2004, Kassel

- Working group 'Modern Art – The Cultural Assets of Modernity' *"Durch Rückschläge zum Erfolg"* ["From Setback to Success"] 3rd symposium December 3–4th, 2004, Cologne

Bureau and Management

Bonn, September 1st, 2004



		
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VeRes

Belangenvereniging Restauratoren Nederland



The board of VeRes and many volunteers have been very busy over the past year with the future merger of the Dutch conservator-restorer associations. The VAR (association of paper and photographic conservator-restorers), TRON (association of textile conservator-restorers), the Dutch department of IIC and VeRes have all signed a declaration of intent to merge at the beginning of 2005. Many groups have been formed to embark upon the design and structure of a new association, and a project leader has been appointed. All general assemblies have voted in early 2004 in favour of this merger, and the parties involved are very pleased with the volunteers who have been joining in the different discussions. A presentation to all members of the preferred structure of the new organisation is planned for autumn 2004.

During the project other small Dutch organisations in the field are contacted and invited to join this merger. We all sincerely hope that the new association will represent all former associations and all conservator-restorers in the Netherlands.

Besides this very important merger, many other projects have taken place during the past year, some of which are outlined below:

The project VASSt-artist

The project VASSt-artist focuses upon designing a health and safety policy of products used by artists. The project is a joint initiative of the Unions FNV, FNV-Kiem, the CNV art union, the Federation of Artists associations and several other professional artists associations. VeRes has been invited to join the project, since conservator-restorers use many products similar to those artists use, and also lack a sound health and safety policy. The board of VeRes voted in favour of joining the project, and board member Inske Immink has been appointed as the contact person.

All joining organisations represent many one-per-

son businesses without employees and are, therefore, in the Netherlands not forced by law to implement the set health and safety policies. The project was set up to inform and instruct such small businesses concerning environmental and toxicity data for products frequently used by artists and conservator-restorers. The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour offers a design for a new policy for such products, called SOMS, and a strategy for handling products (the European equivalent is called REACH) that has been developed by both the government and companies.

The VASSt project aims to update specific data on products. The organisations involved are expected to provide proper communication with their members about the subject, and provide their members with data concerning the risks when specific products are used. VASSt monitors the information available to the users, and will provide the necessary knowledge whenever incorrect data, or a lack of information, about certain products is detected. Such knowledge and additional information will be produced in line with existing strategies of labour covenants, the new (European) legislation for safety information sheets and the policy for risk assessment and evaluation. The VASSt project has been awarded a € 100.000,- subsidy for setting up an action plan.

Masters' in conservation-restoration

The **E.C.C.O.** reports 2003 and the Newsletters before 2003 already contain descriptions of the ongoing project to realise a Masters' program in conservation-restoration. The project involves both training institutes in existence in the Netherlands; SRAL and ICN. The ICN is also the state authority responsible for both conservation training programs with their own program at a non-academic level (comparable with a bachelors training program) and the SRAL at a post-academic level. The aforementioned project was aimed to incorporate both training institutes into a bachelor-masters' curriculum at one or more Dutch universities, in accordance with EC legislation and standards. Unfortunately, it is unsure as yet as to what the criteria will be, and with what kind of

former education students will be allowed to join such a bachelor-masters' program in conservation-restoration. Recent developments show that, due to current economic setbacks and budget-cuts, the responsible state departments (both Culture and Education) intend to set the cut-off at lower levels of expertise than the advisory steering committee of the project had proposed.

VeRes checklist for registration and documentation


The VeRes Code of Ethics enhances the importance of proper registration and documentation of conservation proposals and treatments. During the past years, it has not always been clear for conservator-restorers, especially those who work privately, to what extent one should keep records of proposals and treatments. The VeRes board, therefore, has decided to stimulate and promote such record keeping for conservator-restorers of all kind of disciplines. A task-group has been formed in 2003, and produced a very basic and clear document containing guidelines for documentation and record keeping. This brochure (checklist) has been handed out to all VeRes members, and copies can be requested at the VeRes office.

Yearly wood- and furniture symposium

On a yearly basis, VeRes financially supports several workshops, symposia and publications that contribute to the professionalism of conservator-restorers. One such symposium is the wood and furniture symposium that was held on 10 October, 2003 in Delft. The foundation Ebenist organises these yearly symposia in the field of wood- and furniture conservation and VeRes supports their publications. This year the theme was: 'furniture of the last century' and the Faculty of Architecture of the Delft Technical University proved to be the perfect environment for this successful day because of their unique chair collection. Furthermore, an exhibition, related to the theme of the symposium, called 'The Dutch solidity: chairs by Dutch artists', was mounted at this facility in Delft. Needless to say, all 150 participants enjoyed a highly informative day.



The board of VeRes



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Yves Pieter Debraegh, General Secretary of ECCO,
Conservation and Library, University of Innsbruck,
c/o Markt 10, 6020 Innsbruck, Austria.

The APEL project has produced, for the first time on a European level, a survey on the legislation concerning cultural heritage and its conservation-restoration, and an exhaustive analysis of the conservation-restoration processes at present used in the European countries. The publication of 410 pages is now available. The book addresses not only Conservator-Restorers but all the professions involved in the preservation of cultural heritage, including lawyers and administrative operators, and brings together numerous contributions in French and English: an exhaustive survey of the European legislation for the conservation-restoration of cultural property and the legal status of the Conservator-Restorer; an analysis of the European situation of the actors and their responsibilities at the various steps of the process of conservation-restoration; a collection of relevant bibliographies, legal references and web sites; a proposal for a dictionary of legal terms in conservation-restoration. The final document of the project, the "Recommendations and Guidelines for the adoption of common principles regarding the conservation-restoration of the Cultural Heritage in Europe", approved by all the participants of the project and translated into 7 languages (English, Finnish, French, German, Italian, Dutch and Portuguese) constitutes a useful tool to promote the recognition and professional status of the Conservator-Restorer and to improve the quality of conservation-restoration activities.

ECCO
European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organizations
In partnership with:
Afdeling Monumenten en Landschappen van het Ministerie Vlaamse Gemeenschap, Belgium /
ARF - Associação Profissional de Conservadores-Restoradores do Portugal / Arts Council of Southwest Finland /
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ICCROM - International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property
With the financial support of the European Commission, DG X
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VRS

**Verband der Restauratoren Südtirols /
Associazione Restauratori-Conservatori
Alto Adige**



For the members of the Association Restorers-Conservators of South Tyrol the beginning of this year was very work-intensive as we were making preparations for the acceptance into E.C.C.O..

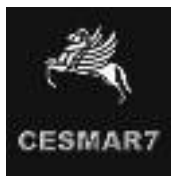
Numerous meetings of the board members were held, and a few were attended by a lawyer, in order to update our association's statutes, and to adjust them to the European standard. At our general assembly at the end of March 2004 the new statutes were unanimously accepted by our members.

At the beginning of April 2004, we were informed that our associations' membership request was accepted by E.C.C.O.. We were absolutely thrilled about the news, because this acceptance confirms and adds significant importance to our activity as an organisation and to our profession as a restorer-conservator.

Our association is taking part in an international project for restoration, conservation and documentation of the temple construction in Bhutan. This project started in 2002 in co-operation with an Austrian team, and will continue for a few more years. Our member Martin Pittertschatscher has been operating as a restorer within this team for a few years (also in spring 2004). The team is mainly dealing with the conservation of one particularly room within the temple, Tongsa Dzong, which is amply decorated with wall paintings. His special assignment consisted in pre-analysing,

cleaning, fixing, filling and retouching of the wall paintings. Furthermore, our associate was involved in providing training to 11 local restorers; all of whom showed great enthusiasm, technical ability, skillfulness and motivation.

In May 2004, our association organised an advance training course for its members, and the associates of the superintendence, with the Italian



restorer and analytical chemist Paolo Cremonesi.

Cremonesi earned a doctorate in biochemistry in Milan and specialised in biomedical chemistry

at the Nebraska University Medical Center in Omaha, Nebraska, USA.

After returning to Italy, he completed an education to become a restorer, and has since, in co-operation with CESMAR 7, devoted his time to alternative cleaning procedures for painted surfaces in general and in particular with resin soaps and solvent gels.

CESMAR 7 is a group consisting of restorers, analytical chemists, biologists, art historians and several scientists who are focused on researching new materials to apply within restoration, and which have not been developed for this purpose. They are also responsible for new products and applications of gently cleaning methods on painted surfaces, which are beneficiary to the cultural heritages. CESMAR 7's scientists are organising many advanced training courses for restorers-conservators. In addition, this group is planning to create a database for restorers-conservators in order to provide them access to the most recent developments within material science for this professional area.

In May 2004, our association took part in the symposium "Constructed Development, Pre-analysis and Documentation as Planning Tools".

Not only well-known architects from Italy and abroad were lecturing, but also our associate Martin Pittertschatscher recited on the subject "The Restorer's Role within Construction Development".

The symposium was arranged by the Foundation



of Architects, Environmental and Landscape Planners, Monument Conservators from the Province of Bolzano, Bolzano Borough Council, Working Committee for Housing-Development South Tyrol and the Association Restorers-Conservators of South Tyrol.

The reading lecturers were:

Professor Manfred Schuller from Bamberg University (D) “Building Archeology, ICOMOS Monuments and Sites”

Vincenzo Geroldi – art historian from Mantova University of “Working Techniques of Historical Intonacos”

Andreas Bruschke from Dresden Messbildstelle (D) “Construction Incorporation as Realisation Process – Requirements and Comparison of Methods”

Barbara Lanz and Sonja Mitterer – architects of the Innsbruck University (A) – “Construction Research within the Architect’s Planning Process”

In September 2004, an informal meeting occurred between our association’s head, Ms. Verena Mumelter, and the President of the Bolzano Province, Dr. Luis Durnwalder. Ms. Mumelter introduced our association to the politician, and raised his awareness for the partially stagnate work situation for qualified restorers-conservators, since a few years ago a section for restorers was set up within the manufacturer’s union. The members are coming from a technical background and from now, worryingly, competition (i.e. tenders).

In October 2004, the annual international convention for restorers was held in Thiene, near Vicenza. As usual, the majority of our members did attend. This year the international lecturers were on the subject of minimal intervention on cultural heritage.

This year’s visiting lecturers are:

Ezio Buzzegoli (ODP, Florence)

Matteo Rossi Doria (Rome)

Stefan Michalski (Canadian Institute, Ottawa)

Stephan Hacknej (Tate Gallery, London)

Puccio Speroni (Copenhagen)

Paul Ackrojd (National Gallery, London)

Marco Ciatti (OPD, Florence)

Alain Roche (Paris)

Sergio Reale (DMTI Faculty Florence University)

Winfried Heiber (Academy of Arts, Dresden)

Giovanni Testa (Milan)

Antonio Iaccarino (Idelson Rome)

Franco Del Zotto (Udine)

Gino Castelli (OPD, Florence)

Giorgio Bonsanti (Florence University)

In November 2004, in our county capital, Bolzano, a work-art exhibition of paintings from the 17th and 18th century will be opened. The exhibition’s curator Dr. Silvia Spada offered to guide our associations members through this exhibition, as she did so at the exhibition on Gothic (Il Trecento) a few years ago.

During 2004, the number of members of the Association Restores-Conservators of South Tyrol has remained the same with 19 ordinary members, 2 honorary members (retired restorers) and 1 so called extraordinary member. The association has received a few requests from young restorers who demonstrated great interest in obtaining membership.



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