



E.C.C.O.  
European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations

# **E.C.C.O.** reports

Nr. 3 / 2005



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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. 3 / 2005

E.C.C.O. is an international association who was established on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 1991 under the Belgian Law of 25<sup>th</sup> 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 issue of E.C.C.O. reports. Deadline for sending in National reports 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006**

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**ARP** – Associação Profissional de Conservadores-Restauradores de Portugal

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**NKF-S** – Nordiska Konservatorförbundet / Svenska Sektionen

**ÖRV** – Österreichischer Restauratorenverband

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Bureau und Committee Meeting in Naples, 18.-19. 6. 2005

f.l.t.r.: Edith Touré, Monica Martelli Castaldi, Cecilia Rönnerstam, Cornelia Weyer, Suvi Leukumaavaara, Michael van Gompén





## Editorial

Dear Members,

I would like to present you the third issue of the **E.C.C.O.** reports. I hope you find it to be of interesting lecture with news of all our member organisations.

In this reports you will find beside the Presidents letter, the report of the General Assembly and the national reports, short news of the working groups. We were able to receive a superb article about the profession by Ira Mazzoni, a German freelance journalist.

The future British organisations gives a short report about their situation.

2005 has been a year of changes. At the General Assembly we were able to receive a first member out of the new EU Countries. The Komora Reštaurátorov from Slovak Republic, represented by their President Mr. Jozef Dorica and their Delegate Barbara Davidson, where unanimously voted for and warmly welcomed.

Because of the merger of organisations in the Netherlands and in Great Britain, this year we are missing VERES, IPC, SSCR and UKIC. We are highly looking forward to welcome this new organisations as soon as possible.

Therefore we are missing our former President Ylva Player-Dahnsjö and the former Secretary General Janine van Reekum. For their outstanding engagement and support here a warm thanks! Another big thank you, to Sabine Kessler, Delegate of FFCR and Committee member for several years. She has left Committee mid term for personal reasons.

The deadline for next years **E.C.C.O.** reports, and to send in your national reports will again be 1<sup>st</sup> September 2006.

A warm thank you, to all colleagues for supporting this edition, for sending in their texts and many wonderful photos.

**Natalie Ellwanger**

*Editor*

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T A B L E

## From the President

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

**2005 is already ending** and it has been a year of many changes inside E.C.C.O., but still with continuity in our actions, fortunately.

### Changes in E.C.C.O.

Indeed, at the time of the General Assembly last March, the President, Ylva Player-Dahnsjo from SSCR, and the General Secretary, Janine van Reekum from VeRes, were forced to resign due to the merging of their national Association into new, bigger bodies (Institute of Conservation in UK and Restauratoren Nederland in the Netherlands).

Furthermore, two other Committee Members left after many years of duty in E.C.C.O., Francisca Figueira from ARP (Portugal) and Sabine Kessler from FFCR (France).

It is my pleasure to express the gratitude of E.C.C.O. to all of them for the time, energy, dedication, enthusiasm and fine companionship they gave countless to our group.

We were only ten in the Committee before these departures and it is easy to imagine how disastrous it can be to loose forty per cent of taskforce at once, amongst which the most experienced and managing persons in charge.

Fortunately, three other National Delegates did candidate to enter the Committee at the same time and were elected by the General Assembly; even more, the three of them were brave enough to accept to take over immediately some of the most important charges of the Bureau.

Cecilia Rönnerstam from NKF-S (Sweden) has become our General Secretary, Suvi Leukumaavaara from NKF-Fin (Finland) has taken over as Treasurer and Susan Corr from ICHAWI (Ireland) is the new Deputy Secretary. All of them have ful-



filled their new duties superbly indeed, despite the difficulties of having to learn so much background so quickly.

Without this new blood, it is hard to believe that E.C.C.O. could have kept running, but luckily we have now a new team that is working hard and well to pursuit as ever the goals and challenges of our profession.

### E.C.C.O. in a changing world

And unfortunately, we all can see that these days are not the best we have known for a number of years in our field of Conservation-Restoration.

In most of our countries, if not in all, the public budgets for conservation-restoration works have dramatically decreased.

Many important Museums have seen severe cuts in their staff, especially in their Conservation Department and even some specialised public Institutions for conservation have now to run on reduced expenses.

Equally, there is virtually no more public money for contracting free-lance Conservator-Restorers

for major work campaigns and costs have to be covered by private sponsors with in most cases, a very commercial approach of our work, precise expectations for showy results and little attention for ethics.

Beside these problems linked to the economy, our field is also affected by the general fashion for deregulation at both European and national levels, which makes our desire to get a specific legal recognition of our profession with adequate regulation to practice, more difficult to reach.

Even education is under threat by the Bologna Process, which is now starting to be applied to University and High School trainings in Conservation-Restoration. The main risk is to see the level of education available to be reduced to Bachelor only for "minor" specialities in some Member States. Some students could also be tempted to stop after three years of study if being given then a Bachelor Diploma.

Hopefully, the joint statement written by E.C.C.O. and ENCoRE will help to keep the Master degrees available everywhere and to promote the highest possible education for Conservator-Restorers.

#### **Future for E.C.C.O.**

Despite these negative views, our dedication to the preservation of the heritage and to our profession remains unchanged.

E.C.C.O. continues to fight and to collaborate with other Organisations at international level such as ICCROM, ENCoRE, ICOM and others to achieve our main objectives.

The strong interest we get from national Associations of former Eastern Countries that have joined the E.U. recently, is greatly encouraging and we hope to welcome as many of them as possible in a near future, like we have had the pleasure to welcome our Colleagues from the Slovak Republic this year as Full Member.

The drafting of new founding documents is still in progress. The important European Professional Profile for the Conservator-Restorer will still be

discussed intensively in 2006 with the aim of reaching a final adoption at the 2007 General Assembly.

A Memorandum on the legal issues and practical situation of the conservation-restoration in Europe is expected to be finished after the summer and to be presented to the EU Authorities. A press information package will also be available soon to help us in our lobbying work at both European and National levels.

In order to stick to the needs and to meet as much as possible the expectations of Members, a questionnaire has been sent in November to all Member Associations to collect their opinions and wishes for future actions of E.C.C.O. The results will be analysed during an extraordinary Committee Meeting in late January 2006 that will decide accordingly on the main directions to take for the next few years and on the strategies to set up to reach our goals

Indeed, it seemed more than appropriate, before celebrating the 15th Anniversary of E.C.C.O. in 2006 to redefine our aims accurately and to give ourselves a realistic view on the future we are hoping to build for our profession.

Finally, I will conclude by saying that E.C.C.O. can only be what we all make it and that without the chance to rely on you all; nothing would be possible to achieve.

Enjoy your reports 2005.

**Michael Van Gompén**  
*President*



## PROFILES



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



**Michael van Gampen**, 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.

#### **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.



**Natalie Ellwanger**, Vice President

Graduated in 1995 as a conservator from Höhere Fachhochschule für Gestaltung (HFG), Bern. After seven years at the Kunsthhaus Zürich, now working at the Vorarlberger Landesmuseum, Bregenz, Austria.



**Cecilia Rønnerstam**, General Secretary

Paintings conservator, specialised in conservation of portrait miniatures. Works part time at the National Museum of Fine Arts in Stockholm, Sweden and does part time research. Started her training at the School of Conservation, Royal Academy of Arts in Copenhagen and went on with a postgraduate MA at the RCA/V&A Conservation Course in London. Is also on the board of NKF-S.

#### **Susan Corr**, Deputy Secretary

Paper conservator working in private practice. Trained in the National Gallery of Ireland, Italy and Japan. Spent 10 years as consultant conservator to the Chester Beatty Library and is presently consultant to the Irish Museum of Modern Art.



**Suvi Leukumaavaara**, Treasurer

Worked as an illustrator/designer before training as a conservator of Fine Arts. Graduated in 2000 from EVTEK Institute of Art and Design in Finland, specialised in easel paintings and polychrome sculptures. Has worked as a conservator in Finland, Italy and England. Postgraduate studies in Italy and currently in England.





**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.



**Edith Touré**, Committee

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. from 2000 till 2005.



**Francisca Figueira**, Committee

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

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.



**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 vice-president of VDR.





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## Associate Member Organisations

D E L E G A T E

O R G A N I S A T I O N

*Please help to keep this list up to date by reporting any changes or mistakes to  
**Susan Corr, e-mail: [corneman@oceanfree.net](mailto:corneman@oceanfree.net)**  
 without delay! Please delete any older versions. Thank you.*

## E.C.C.O. General Assembly 2005

**For the first time** the General Assembly (GA) took place in the new building of the Economic and Social Committee. The new facilities with the technical equipment were excellent and the translators did once more a brilliant job. We would like to thank the Economic and Social Committee for their hospitality.

The President welcomed all delegates and observers. Silke Beiner-Büth of German VDR, Pierre Masson of Belgian APROA/BRK and Christopher Woods of UKIC, accompanied their delegates. Barbara Davidson, future Delegate, and Jozef Dorica, President of the Slovak Chamber of Restorers, joined the General Assembly, waiting to become a Full Member later that GA. As the year before René Larsen of ENCoRE joined the meeting again, since he was invited to talk about the “European Directive of Mutual Recognition of Professional Qualification” and explain ENCoRE’s point of view. From the Greek “Organisation of Higher Education Conservators of Antiquities and Works of Art”, Mrs Efi Papadopoulou and Mr Argyris Koniditsiotis came to get a first impression of E.C.C.O., and to give a review about the situation in Greece.

Thanks to the intensified contact with East European countries, set up by Committee member Edith Touré, the E.C.C.O. GA welcomed the Chamber of Restorers, Slovak Republic. The subcommittee for new members reported that the Komora Reštaurátorov sent all the required documents for full membership and proposed their application to the GA. The GA voted unanimously in favour of their full membership. The Chamber represented by their President Jozef Dorica and their Delegate Barbara Davidson was welcomed. Jozef Dorica gave a informative report about the situation of C-R’s in Slovak Republic and the history of the Chamber of Restorers.

Slovak Republic is one of the few countries that hold a law about the safeguarding of cultural heritage and the Chamber of Restorers has been set up in accordance to that law.

Two organisations had to be expelled from E.C.C.O.. The Italian ARRC had dissolved without sending a letter of resignation or informing E.C.C.O. in an official form. So it had to be expelled for pure technical reasons. The expulsion of the French AREEA was proposed, for they didn’t respond to any attempt of E.C.C.O. to get in touch with them and they didn’t pay their fees for two years. The General Assembly voted in favour of the expulsion with a clear majority.

The Strategic Plan presented for the year 2005 is very similar to the one of 2004. As the President explained the goals of E.C.C.O. and the topics to work on remain the same since the work on many projects is still ongoing and the wanted results haven’t been achieved yet. The General Assembly voted in favour of the following Strategic Plan.

### Short term Strategies

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..

### Long Term Strategies

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



During the last year there has been closer work with ICOM-CC. Both E.C.C.O. Bureau Members Monica Martelli Castaldi and Janine van Reekum talked about E.C.C.O. and its work on two assemblies of ICOM-CC.

The main work done by E.C.C.O. and ENCoRE in the last term was the further development of the European Directive on professional qualifications. René Larsen and Janine van Reekum together spoke about E.C.C.O. and ENCoRE at the meeting of ICOM-CC Working Group Education in Helsinki in October 2004.

For the future E.C.C.O. will try to get into closer contact to the new Eastern European Members of the EU. First steps into the right direction have been done with the application of the Slovak Chamber. E.C.C.O.'s members are invited in September to take part in a conference in Slovakia with the title: „Methods of Restoration from the View of Practising Conservator-Restorers“. Committee and Bureau are planning to send a Delegate.

The Working Group “Survey on Rates and Wages in Europe” has finalised and printed the results of the questionnaire in the E.C.C.O. reports 2004. The coordinator of the group Sabine Kessler explained that the group has dissolved because of the feeling that all that has to be done was made and that with the possibilities the group has nothing more could be achieved.

The websites [www.ecco-eu.info](http://www.ecco-eu.info) and [www.apel-eu.info](http://www.apel-eu.info) are still under construction. Tanja Røskar Reed will maintain the sites. Please send your news and items for the calendar to her! As a part of the new webpages the E.C.C.O. Bureau and Committee will have new e-mail addresses connected to the pages.

A very controversial discussed topic of the GA was the draft paper for the European Directive on professional qualifications. This paper was set up in Düsseldorf by Ylva Player Dahnsjö and Cornelia Weyer from E.C.C.O. and Ulrich Schiebl and René Larsen from ENCoRE in cooperation with the E.C.C.O. bureau and committee. ENCoRE had adopted this draft paper already on its GA. It was distributed in advance to the GA to the boards of all member organisations and several amongst

them sent comments and had objections to this paper. René Larsen, who was present at the GA, was able to explain about the paper, its form and its aims. Finally the GA voted for the paper as a draft version on which still has to be worked. It was decided to vote on the final version via e-mail. After voting on the final version this paper should be presented in Strasbourg.

President Ylva Player Dahnsjö (SSCR), General Secretary Janine van Reekum (VeRes) and Francisca Figueira (IPCR), they all resigned from Bureau and Committee. For the tremendous amount of work, the representation of E.C.C.O. they have done and their wonderful company they were warmly thanked.

Three new candidates were proposed to the General Assembly and voted for unanimously:

Susan Corr (ICHAWI), Suvi Leukumaavaara (NKF-Fin) and Cecilia Rønnerstam (NKF-S).

The General Assembly 2006 is scheduled for March 3, at the Conseil Economique & Social Européen (CESE), rue Beliard 99, 1040 Brussels

**Natalie Ellwanger, Tanja Røskar Reed**

*E.C.C.O. Vice Presidents*



## Science – Technique – Art – Philosophy?

### Conservator/restorers' responsibility for European cultural heritage

Can photographs replace the frescos by Giotto and Cimabue? Inconceivable! By no means! It seemed impossible to reconstruct the vaults of the Basilica of Saint Francis in Assisi, which were destroyed by an earthquake in Umbria on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September 1997. Even experts considered it a hopeless task to pluck fragments and splinters of plaster from the pile of rubble and fit them together to create an image. The intention was to use photographs to give the ceiling paintings a context and, at the same time, to indicate the tragic irreplaceable loss. However, Giuseppe Basile and his specialized team from the *Istituto Centrale per il Restauro* chose instead to record the material remains and preserve the destroyed original: a puzzle consisting of thousands of pieces and tiny fragments patiently pieced together during countless hours of work.

This almost monastic, patient care for our heritage, for the uniqueness of art, was finally rewarded. Carefully weighing up the possible and the necessary, a conservation treatment was achieved which managed to preserve the thirteenth century frescoes along with the marks of their destruction. The conservator-restorers consciously refrained from painting over losses and cracks with artistic élan. Nevertheless they did retouch just enough so that the eye of the viewer could identify the figures of the saints and not just perceive them as patches. Conservation and restoration is more than just a technical skill, more than an art and more than a science. It is the practice of ethical responsibility towards our cultural heritage and towards contemporary and future society for whom it will be preserved.

In 1880 William Morris stated in his essay *The Beauty of Life* that a restorer's error of judgment

could potentially destroy our cultural heritage. At that time the responsibility for monuments and works of art lay in the hands of artists and architects. They frequently referred to their own sensitivity and discernment to justify their actions. Although they aimed to reveal the supposed original their restoration treatments were often interpretative and destroyed everything which did not comply with prevailing ideals. It was not until the 1930s that specialised training for conservator-restorers was established in the Institute of Archaeology and the Courtauld Institute in London and in the *Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique* in Brussels; in Vienna a course was set up at the *Akademie der Bildenden Künste*; the *Doerner-Institut* in Munich began its scientific research and the *Istituto Centrale del Restauro* in Rome sought to develop a methodology for conservation-restoration. A euphoric wave of progressiveness also spread through restoration studios: aged and embrittled canvas paintings were lined and not infrequently flattened on hot-tables. Chemicals were used to combat woodworm. DDT, lindane, PCP, arsenic and mercury were thought to protect valuable textiles. Thus today some store-rooms can only be entered wearing a protective mask. New synthetic resins promised wonders but instead they accelerated the ageing process and degeneration. Nowadays many conservators





complain that 50–80% of their time is spent repairing damage caused by earlier restorations, whether it is to paintings, or to wooden and stone sculpture. In view of these historical errors, caution, scepticism and restraint are advisable. The maxim ‘less is more’ has applied for a long time. In current conservation practice the actual treatment plays a subordinate roll in the professional profile: analysis, preventative care and conservation are prioritized, as every direct intervention poses a potential loss to the original.

The European professional organisations are today agreed that only a university training of at least five years qualifies a conservator-restorer to practise. Practical experience before or during the scientific training is a precondition. Material science and art history, methods of analysis, conservation techniques and documentation, the basics in chemistry, physics and biology, museology and preservation of monuments and historic buildings are all integral to the curriculum, as are law and business studies. The aim of the training is not to produce generalists but rather level-headed specialists, who are aware of their limitations and have an interdisciplinary training so they can seek and understand advice from specialists in other scientific fields. The demands on expertise, communicative competence and social skills are enormous, as Europe’s material and cultural heritage is at stake. For this reason the profession has established a strict code of ethics.

The conservator-restorer’s personal responsibility towards the public and the aesthetic historical value, as well as the material integrity, of cultural assets was defined in the guidelines drawn up by the European Confederation of Conservator-Restorer’s Organisation (E.C.C.O.) in 1993. An inherently critical stance is demanded of the conservator-restorer regarding the expectations with which s/he is confronted, the evidence provided by chemical, physical and biological expertise and his own knowledge and treatment. However this authority, which should, on the slightest reservation, result in termination of the contract, is compromised: institutionally, commercially and socially.

Significantly, however, it has not yet been possible to protect the title “Conservator-restorer”. Currently amateurs, artists and craftsmen can offer their services in this field without the required training and without any obligation to the professional code of ethics. Some countries like Italy or England have reacted against this state of affairs by introducing strict forms of accreditation. However, the national lists of acknowledged, qualified conservators are difficult to reconcile with liberal European employment rights.

Despite increasing professionalism on an academic level, conservator-restorers do not have the institutional authority, which, according to the European code of ethics, they require, to make appropriate decisions about the future of cultural assets. As a rule the conservator’s opinion is not taken into consideration when important decisions are made. S/he is not granted planning or guidance competence in matters concerning either museum collections or the historical buildings. Conservator-restorers are rarely asked to participate in formulating an invitation to tender. This task is carried out by architects and, increasingly, by transferees. The economic, technical and creative programme has usually already been established before the complex historical context of the building has been adequately researched. More significantly, however, the regular tender procedure relegates the conservation-restoration of an altarpiece to contract work, contradicting all professional guidelines. Conservator-restorers are not craftsmen. Their function is the material preservation of our historical tradition rather than making things as good as new. Due to a lack of basic knowledge the required tasks are often defined so vaguely in the invitation to tender that the necessary experts are not even requested to compete; or their detailed and reflected offer is inevitably rejected for financial reasons.

The last decades have seen the building of museums that are more sensational than ever before. This museum boom catapults the architect into stardom. In principle the museum serves not only to display the art work but, above all, to provide optimal conditions for its preservation. For which

of these 'luxury shrines' was a conservator-restorer requested to participate in formulating the requirements for the competition? In which competition was the head conservator sitting on the jury panel? Shouldn't more detailed specifications have been fought for once the architect had been awarded with the contract? Couldn't conservator-restorers have asserted themselves against the chambers, curators and architects with their arguments? Weren't the protective wall sections minimized to save money? Storage rooms were cancelled, whereas the architect's aesthetic refinement was accepted, with reference to his authorship.

How much authority does the conservator-restorer have in a museum? On its homepage the team from the *Kunsthau*s in Zurich states self-confi-



dently that patina and yellowed varnish belong to the historical dimension of the art work and therefore bear witness to its authenticity. Accordingly "it would be irresponsible to remove this varnish and replace it with a clear one." There are good reasons for emphasising this point: museum curators still demand that paintings be cleaned in preparation for an exhibition. In the run up to the legendary Vermeer retrospective in the Hague in 1996 ten out of the twenty-three paintings exhibited were "restored". The *Mauritshuis* even staged the varnish removal of the *View of Delft* in the

public arena. Separated merely by a pane of glass, the visitor could stand directly behind the head conservator and, via a monitor and video camera, share his view through the microscope. Jubilees and museum openings are still an opportunity to do more than necessary, often with irreversible consequences for the works of art. When does dirt become patina? The great masters should appear fresh, "radiate in their original splendour", although it is well known that pigments age irreversibly and that the original state can therefore never be revealed. The increase in exhibitions results in more frequent restorations. It is not uncommon practice to pay for the restoration of borrowed objects, which can then be announced as sensational, since, due to their fragility, they have never travelled before. Is there a conservator who would risk his job and refuse this task due to ethical qualms?

The conservator-restorer Agnese Parronchi showed great courage when she refused the contract to clean Michelangelo's David after a difference of opinion with the directors of the *Galleria dell'Accademia*. Parronchi was convinced that this marble statue could only be dry-cleaned with soft cloths, brushes and erasers. The directors, however, favoured a damp 'wash'. In the end a colleague was found who, watched by the public, applied compressions to the David and also removed the remains of a protective wax layer from an earlier restoration. It remains open as to which method is better. Pivotal, however, is that the directors dictated.

When museums are already using the cleaning process as a public advertisement, is it surprising that self-acclaimed experts offer collectors the ultimate cleaning agent which will make their paintings radiate anew 'with absolute safety, effectiveness and without problems'? The diluted domestic cleaning agent naturally also removes old varnishes. Therefore a new one is applied. According to the manufacturer this process should be carried out every ten years, when, at the latest, paint layers will also be removed!

The more art and culture become an economic factor, the more the tourist industry advances into the remotest villages in search of history, mystery





and beauty, the more communities survive on income from tourist attractions, the greater becomes the desire for attractive illustration and recalling, and the more frequently cleaning, restoration and reconstructions take place. Increasingly the conservator-restorer is instrumentalised in her/his responsibility towards society. The responsibility towards the historical integrity of cultural assets is pushed into the background. Meanwhile even the smallest parish is aware of the scientific, analytical methods employed by conservators. It is often asked whether it would be possible to reveal and reconstruct the hardly identifiable original polychrome of an altarpiece while restoring the church building. Usually, regardless of the condition of more recent layers and regardless of the historical value erased in the process. The more famous the cultural site, the more important the work of art, the easier it is to find sponsors willing to support such projects. Thus it came about that the “first integral restoration” of the famous Hall of Mirrors in Versailles, the focal point of French national sentiment, was financed by the Road and Bridge Construction Company VINCI. This immense project will, as a matter of course, be closely observed by all state cultural bodies as well as an international advisory board. However, the new ‘patronage of competence’ is more than just a financial model. VINCI delivered expert opinion with regard to statics; offered technical knowledge and organised the construction site. Ennobled to *Grand Mécène du ministère de la Culture et de Communication* the construction company now enjoys a high social reputation and uses its prominent position for self advertisement. A company which could cope with Versailles can expect further prestige state assignments. Welcome as it may be that the commerce industry has discovered that the preservation of cultural assets has an image factor, nevertheless the danger is all the greater when the responsible authorities lose control. The recently established private foundation *Stiftung Denkmalschutz Berlin*, offered to restore the Brandenburg Gate, a building charged with symbolism, free of cost, and thus presented itself for the first time in the public arena. The necessary capital was obtained by letting the advertising space on

the canvas tarpaulin to *Deutsche Telecom*. The contract for the restoration was given to a company which, to date, was unknown in specialised circles. The result: the foundations were reinforced and 15,000 stones were replaced to erase all traces of the fight for Berlin. No holds were barred to achieve a clean image. The unveiling of the Gate was so magnificently stage-managed by the initiators, that criticism from specialists had no chance against the public’s spontaneous outburst of admiration: beautiful!!! And so light and friendly!!!

It is high time to consolidate the position of scientifically trained and ethically sound conservator-restorers throughout Europe. Only in a legally secured position can they protect our cultural heritage from promotional non-sense, unnecessary and damaging intervention, ignorant destruction of cultural assets and the replacement of historical tradition with fakes. In view of the responsibility held by conservator-restorers for Europe’s heritage, critical consideration is needed to assess whether it is sensible to introduce a BA study course according to the requirements of the Bologna declaration on Third-Level Education in Europe. What function can these new ‘second grade restorers’ perform or be permitted to perform? Accompanying art in transit? Supervising exhibitions? Monitoring the environment in churches? Isn’t a comprehensive training necessary for an awareness of risks and knock-on effects? Won’t the short training course without practical experience create cheap dogsbodies? Is it possible in daily practice to avoid assigning them work for which they are not qualified? And do we want to prevent BA graduates from establishing themselves on the open market? It should give pause for thought that medical faculties demanded special alternative regulations for their courses from those stipulated in the Bologna declaration. Out of a sense of responsibility!

(can be printed (abridged version also), request specimen copy)

**Ira Mazzoni**

2005



## Professional Profile Project

**Project members:**

**Cornelia Weyer (coordinator),**

**Tanja Røskar Reed, Sabine Kessler (until May 2005), Cecilia Rønnerstam**

The Professional profile project was started in 2004 in connection with the European “Directive of the Parliament and of the Council on the recognition of professional qualifications (13781/22004-C6-0008/2005-2002/0061(COD))”, then in the making.

Conservation-restoration was from the very first beginning not included in the draft of this EU directive. The reason is that our profession is not regulated in most European countries as are the professions considered: doctors of medicine, nurses, dental practitioners, veterinary surgeons, midwives, pharmacists, and architects. The consultant lawyer to E.C.C.O, Vincent Negri, encouraged us to try to either attach our profile to the basic document in a second step or use national engagement and create ourselves a “platform” for use of the EU parliament. A platform is defined as: “a set of criteria of professional qualifications which are suitable for compensating for substantial differences which have been identified between the training requirements existing in the various Member States for a given profession”.

E.C.C.O. welcomed the idea to create a professional profile for our profession and especially so, as it was seen as an opportunity perfectly suited for further cooperation with ENCoRE, the European network organisation of higher educational institutions in the field of conservationrestoration.

In the months following the General Assembly 2004 in which the project was positively decided on, E.C.C.O. with Cornelia Weyer as coordinator of the project group collected and evaluated professional profiles that already existed in member associations. On that basis, at the Lisbon Meeting

of October 9/10<sup>th</sup> 2004 the E.C.C.O. Committee drafted the professional profile’s annex papers 1–3. They were then forwarded to ENCoRE, which drafted articles 1–3, annex paper 4 and an amendment, all in a wording closely following the EU draft for the regulated professions named above.

On January 29/30<sup>th</sup> 2005 both organisations’ presidents, then Ylva Player-Dahnsjö and René Larsson, as well as Ulrich Schiessl, ENCoRE, and Cornelia Weyer, E.C.C.O., met at Düsseldorf. An improved text was written now, being further developed after the meeting and finally brought to the General Assemblies of both organisations in February and March 2005.

At that stage it became visible that, although they follow the same ideals, the focus of high education institutions and associations differ in some essential aspects when it comes to real life. ENCoRE revised the paper again on its General Assembly taking place on February 25<sup>th</sup>, eliminating e.g. the list of specialisations that E.C.C.O. considers to be necessary in order to represent the whole field of conservation-restoration including those specialties that have so far not permanently been educated on university level, like musical instruments. The E.C.C.O. General Assembly on March 11<sup>th</sup> 2005 decided therefore that the paper was not far enough developed to be voted on at that stage. Further intensive work on the text followed. On the Naples meeting of June 18/19<sup>th</sup> a version better reflecting our needs was developed but not fully completed (please find this version attached). Spread to ENCoRE and all E.C.C.O. associations it was open for further discussion.

Meanwhile, on May 11<sup>th</sup>, the EU parliament had adopted the directive and E.C.C.O. was informed that there were hardly any chances to attach our profile to the basic text any more. Once again we had to learn that deregulation is asked instead of further regulation!

On this background, that asked for rethinking our strategies, the Committee decided in Brussels (Meeting of October 22<sup>nd</sup>/23<sup>rd</sup>) that before further

effort was taken to put the remaining delicate parts of the document into words a personal meeting was to be organised with a larger group of E.C.C.O. and ENCoRE committee members.

The most delicate parts of the document are the following:

- the importance given in the development of professional competence to training on the one and practical experience on the other hand;
- academic training and BA restorers/MA conservator-restorers – how to deal with the consequences of the Bologna process;
- time schedule for compensation provisions if training is lacking in a professional biography;
- the British and Irish accreditation system as a special way of measuring quality.

The ENCoRE board spontaneously accepted the invitation, and E.C.C.O. and ENCoRE are going to

have that meeting on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. It is our hope that this meeting will

- augment the mutual understanding of differing positions and
  - help develop a joint viewpoint on the actual situation of the profession including the practical consequences of the Bologna Process.
- This can only derive from shared convictions already laid down in several papers and from an attitude of responsibility and care for those competent professionals that form the associations membership.

All member associations of E.C.C.O. are requested to further discuss the matter of the professional profile with their membership and bring along their argumentation to the General Assembly taking place on 3<sup>rd</sup> of March 2006!

**Cornelia Weyer, VDR**

*Committee member*



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## E.C.C.O. Legislation Working Group

Report of meetings and activities 2005–2006

M. Martelli C. (Coordinator),

V. Negri (Consultant),

M. van Gompén, C. Weyer, T. Røskar Reed

### Background

The legal and professional responsibilities of the conservator-restorer – in comparison to the other parties involved in the preservation and conservation of cultural heritage – have been studied by the APEL project and published in June 2001. This was in the occasion of E.C.C.O.'s 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Together with the APEL study, a printed guideline *“Recommendations and Guidelines for the adoption of common principles regarding the conservation and restoration of cultural heritage in Europe”* has been published.

This document constitutes a first step towards the creation of a European common language in the field of legislation for c-r activities on cultural heritage, and sets parameters for the profession in relation to other professions involved in the field.

E.C.C.O. is aware that existing laws and regulations on conservation of cultural heritage are still not where we would like them to be. The complexity of the subject and the need of a guarantee of the quality of the interventions require that laws should be made on purpose for the field, and possibly standardised for all European countries, but in the absolute respect of sovereignty of each nation and their cultural identities.

The E.C.C.O. “working group on legislation” has been created with the aim to bring forward the issues started within the APEL project.

### Meetings

#### Leefdaal (Brussels) – March 1–2 2004

It was discussed at this meeting, that since the APEL publication, legal matters have already changed in several EU countries, and that it would therefore be important to obtain abstracts

of new laws, decrees and acts that regulate the profession. It is also needed to compare them and obtain an overview on the minimum standards required at present for the conservator-restorer profile. To achieve these goals it was proposed to prepare a feasibility study to gather information



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

on national laws on conservation-restoration of cultural property and define the “missions” of conservator-restorers (e.g., required professional qualifications, conditions of access to the profession, carrying out of the profession).

It was proposed as well to promote the work done with APEL at the European Council and at the European Community thus preparing a *renewal* of the APEL guidelines in the form of a European Recommendation to inform, at national levels, the existence of laws on conservation. The possibility of arranging an international congress on the subject was also discussed.

#### Athens (Greece) – April 20–24 2004

The APEL project was presented and discussed at the ICOM-CC Interim Meeting.

#### Rome (Italy) – 23–24 June 2005

The long term idea is to elaborate both „guidelines“ for a law for the recognition of the Conservator-Restorer, and a “common draft law” for the conservation/restoration of European cultural property.

National organisations members of E.C.C.O. would be able to use this documents in their lobbying for national laws. Now, the world has moved on, and



some countries have even developed national laws regarding the conservation/restoration of cultural property.

The documents should contain indications about the level of education, the competencies of Conservator-Restorers, the control organs, etc. in the respect of EU directives with the final goal of a European ratification of the document.

The first step should now be to discuss and define exactly what points a law on this subject should contain.

We all need to start addressing the aspects emphasized by the APEL project such as: the lack of appropriate legislation; the lack of precise definition concerning the term „conservation-restoration“; the lack of recognition and understanding concerning the ramifications of the conservation/restoration profession; and the lack of funds for adequate conservation-restoration consultation during the early stages of planning, monitoring, and implementation of standards; etc

All involved organisations should communicate relevant news in the national legal framework (laws, regulation etc.).

However there is still an urgent need for countries worldwide to reflect on the recommendations put forth by the APEL project. Consequently, countries may either adapt their existing laws or simply use the APEL project as „initial national draft law“ where no national laws exist.

A meeting was held at ICCROM (one of the main APEL partners) and the following two strategies were defined:

**Short term:** E.C.C.O. APEL consultant, lawyer Vincent Negri, would be entrusted to prepare a document to be addressed to the European Council with the request of a table of discussion in order to produce recommendations about the *conditions of access and exercise of the profession of C-R in Europe*.

**Long term:** APEL project could be followed up starting a research program to be proposed to various European universities, specialised in legisla-

tion on cultural heritage. The aim of the research, to analyse the *conditions of access and the exercise of the profession of C-R in Europe*. A group of 7 countries has been suggested for a first pilot project, as representative of the situation and whose countries are endowed with specific laws for conservation-restoration: Greece, Malta, Slovakia, Italy, Germany, Belgium, and France. Results of the project would be used, later to apply an official funding request to the EC, in order to continue the analysis in all remaining European countries.

### Rome (Italy) – December 7 2005

Meeting with EU parliamentary Dr. Stefano Zappalà

One of ARI's bureau members has offered the possibility to reach Zappalà through acquaintances. Stefano Zappalà is promoter of the European Directive on Professional Qualifications. A meeting was requested and four members of the ARI board attended.

We have asked some explanations about the professions that were included and about the possibilities to amend to the directive, and we have expressed all the interest to obtain recognition of the professional qualification at a European level.

Zappalà answered that there are two possible ways to obtain this:

- Try a professional recognition at a national level, through the national professional body (like other professions do when they have a 'Professional Order', a specific legal initiative is necessary).
- Obtain a European recognition and the insertion in the Directive. With this, then other initiatives can be carried out at national level.

His advice is to follow the second possibility because the first one is really long and difficult.

The request about whether the directive could be amended was specifically posed to Zappalà who answered that the Directive is formulated to receive in the future all the professions that would fulfil the requirements and would be accepted.

The request has to pass through a European representative organization. He suggested moving through E.C.C.O. requiring the opening of a platform. The platform needs to be based on specific



indications about the minimal requirements to access the profession and to exercise it, therefore 'education' and competence profiles' should be made.

He offered his legal staff in Brussels for a meeting to evaluate the problem and try to look into possibilities on how to solve it. He was interested to enlarge the number of professions under his directive, and offered a possible contact with the General Director of the Internal Market in the European commission.

Two important questions came on mind:

Why is On. Zappalà so interested?

We had the impression that his interest is that his political carrier would be helped by an increasing number of professions that could achieve this recognition.

Does E.C.C.O. fulfil the requirements to be able to formulate this proposal?

E.C.C.O. is not representative at the moment considering the number of member countries, but is the unique European institution to represent the profession.

### Rome (Italy) - January 12-13 2006

The base and the content of the document to be written by Dr. Vincent Negri were discussed in a two day meeting at ICCROM. The document will be used for different purposes in accordance with E.C.C.O. decisions. Dr. V. Negri will send a résumé of the results of the discussion.

During the meeting a brief discussion was held with C. Antomarchi and R. Varoli Piazza from the ICCROM staff and the suggestion of the possibility to organize an *international colloquium* on the juridical dimensions of the conservation and restoration in Europe (national and European laws), came forward.

What follows is a very first draft of objectives of the colloquium and a possible strategy.

#### Objectives:

- To know how national legislations deal with all questions related to conservation and restoration of cultural property (juridical definition of C-R, conditions of access and of exercise of the profession, regulation of C-R, etc.)

- To develop and diffuse the knowledge of E.C.C.O. expertise and its mandatory institutional dimension, in order to promote E.C.C.O. as a reference institution for all questions related to C-R and its juridical aspects.
- To develop a common European culture showing national diversities in relation to C-R.

#### Strategy:

- Define priorities to build up the program for the colloquium
- Set up an organisational committee and /or a scientific committee
- Find partners (economical) to organise the colloquium (Conseil de l'Europe, ICCROM, others)
- Identify personnel/resources (jurists, conservator-restorers professional network, administrative responsibilities, etc) to intervene in the colloquium
- Organise the colloquium (in STRASBOURG ?)
- Publication of proceedings.

Another important idea is that all the existing documents concerning the profession (Pavia document, E.C.C.O. Guidelines, APEL recommendations, etc.) should be gathered and published in a joint publication with other important documents from other organisations in the field (E.C.C.O., ICCROM, ENCoRE, etc). This way many of these documents, known only by a very small number of professionals, could become more public and set up the basis of a future legislative framework.

**Monica Martelli Castaldi**

*Working group Coordinator*



## ICON – UK Merger Update

The merger of the UK E.C.C.O. member groups UKIC, IPC and SSCR has continued throughout the summer and autumn of this year, and with the two other bodies the Care of Collections Forum and the Photographic Materials Conservation Group. Functions of the old bodies have gradually been transferring to the new Institute of Conservation, which now has the brand name 'Icon'. SSCR members were the first to have successfully transferred, through the membership process, and UKIC members have gradually been doing so from February until the autumn by which time the majority had transferred. IPC's members began to transfer in early October and it is anticipated that by January the membership transfer will be complete.

In the Spring, staff of UKIC were transferred and moved to the new Icon offices at 1 London Bridge, and in June a Chief Executive was appointed, Alastair McCapra. In October Icon held a public promotion event at which a government Minister gave an excellent speech in support of the merger and congratulating conservators on taking the lead in promoting conservation in the UK. Soon after this, the first Icon Newsletter was released. A temporary web site was set up and can be viewed at [www.instituteofconservation.org.uk](http://www.instituteofconservation.org.uk)

On November 22<sup>nd</sup>, the Icon Interim Management Board held its last meeting and signed off the many different and complex tasks that it had managed since its first meeting late in 2004. In addition to the branding exercise, the fruits of which will soon be visible on a new website, new financial administration, banking and accounting systems had been set up and an exhaustive new membership data-base and communications system commissioned. This last will be fully operational in January. On the same day as the last Interim Board, the annual Conservation Awards event took place, for the first time under the aegis of the new Institute and sponsored by Sir Paul McCart-

ney. This was a well-attended and lively public event, about which you can see more by going to [www.consawards.instituteofconservation.org.uk](http://www.consawards.instituteofconservation.org.uk)

The two major initiatives operated by merging partners UKIC and IPC, the Conservation Register ([www.conservationregister.com](http://www.conservationregister.com)) and the PACR accreditation scheme ([www.pacr.org.uk](http://www.pacr.org.uk)), have continued to flourish and have transferred to Icon, which now owns both.

Throughout November, elections have been held for the first chairman of Icon's full Board of Directors. The results were revealed this week – the chair will be held by Anna Southall. Anna started her career as a conservator-restorer and then moved into conservation and museums management at the highest levels. The Interim Board chair was held by Carole Milner, to whom we are all very grateful for her leadership throughout this period and in the convergence discussions during 2003 and 04.

The first Annual General Meeting for Icon will be held on the 6th of December in Birmingham. The chairman and new Board members will take up their offices on this day. The meeting will be the first formal Icon membership event and can be seen as Day 1 of the new Institute. Our first full year will be from April 1<sup>st</sup> 2006, by which time all legal and financial vestiges of the old bodies should have been dissolved and Icon will stand on its own two feet with, we believe, a bright future ahead of it. We all wish to continue to be involved with ECCO thereafter and my colleagues and I look forward to being able to meet our European friends again as fully-fledged Icon representatives.

**Chris Woods**

*outgoing chairman of UKIC,  
and Trustee/Director of Icon  
December 2005*

## ACRACV

### The Asociación de Conservadores y Restauradores de Arte de la Comunidad Valenciana

The Asociación de Conservadores y Restauradores de Arte de la Comunidad Valenciana. (ACRACV) held their general elections at the end of 2004, resulting in the election of a totally new Board of Directors. The new President is Manolo Marzal, a known conservator both nationally and internationally. The new representative for E.C.C.O. is Christabel Blackman, an Australian painting conservator with Spanish nationality. We have now moved our headquarters to a great central location in the heart of the old city of Valencia. Our main objective is to be supportive to all the professionals involved in the fields of restoration and conservation of works of art. We have been organizing intensive courses for over 15 years, starting with the workshop of Gustav Berger, "Lining Techniques" (1990). People come from all over Spain to attend our courses. We instigated the first congress of the IIGGE, which we successfully hosted in Valencia. So far this year, we have given an afternoon lecture on Museum Infestations, and a four day course given by René de la Rie on the latest investigations of low molecular weight varnishes – two days of lectures were attended by eighty people and the more intensive workshops gave us a practical insight into these new techniques, with Jill Whitten and Robert Proctor. Within the ENCoRE guidelines, the Spa-

nish Government is working towards changes in professional education through their project AMECA. At the moment, degrees and diplomas will be recognized in the future, although it is a complicated situation. Presently, we would like to see a greater representation of our professionals in decision making, especially, in the public sector. Generally, there is a great lack of coordination between the universities, public or private sector. There is little or no inter-museums collaboration. Needless to say, the professional also lacks transparency and equal opportunity for professionals. Major works that are tendered out to private companies are usually undertaken by inexperienced and inexpensive labour. Apart from the lack of continuity of work for the more veteran professionals, obviously what loses out on the long run is the cultural patrimony. However, nobody publicly criticizes bad jobs done by unqualified people for fear of future professional intimidation. Valencia possesses an enormous wealth in cultural patrimony and we endeavour to conserve it with all due respect. We would welcome the idea of an annual meeting between the directors of the various European members of E.C.C.O. and suggest that such meetings be hosted each year in a different member country, to be able to fully appreciate their particular results and problems. We offer Valencia as the host city for a possible 2006 meeting. A warm greeting is sent to our fellow members from us all in Valencia. Manolo Marzal (President ACRACV) Christabel Blackman (representative for E.C.C.O.) christabel1@terra.es; acrav@yahoo.com; marzal\_man@gva.es

Varnish Workshop at IVAM, Museum of Modern Art Valencia



© Edith Touré

from left to right: Jill Whitten, Manolo Marzal, Robert Proctor, Christabel Blackman



## APROA-BRK

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



**F**OR APROA-BRK, this year has been marked by the creation of our ethics Council. It has not been so easy to have our members understand the need to create such a council and the sense of its mission.

It was essential for the credibility of our attitude towards ethics to be overseen by an governing body that can insure a confidence link between the partners of the conservation/restoration.

The role of this Council is to pursue a study in ethics, as well as caring for its respect and to try and obtain common agreements in case of conflicts.

During many meetings of our Committee we have debated on coming up with a founding document acceptable to our members. One of the crucial points concerned the composition of this ethics Council. Finally, it was decided that it would be composed of six members and two associates; it shall represent the different tendencies and professional status of the members of our association. Each member has been able to follow the evolution of our debates and to participate through our Bulletin, or through a special evening organized to debate several themes.

The creation of this ethics Council has finally been adopted in March, 2005 at a special General Assembly, and it has been operational since last August.

Our Association organized two study days this year, the 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> October, which was dedicated to the problematical of lacuna in conservation/restoration. These symposiums are for our members a particular occasion to extend their permanent education, as well as to make new contacts while having coffee breaks and lunches. Eighteen

lecturers will present different treatments or types of problems in sculpture, painting, glass, gardens, paper, metal, gilding, mural painting, horology, furniture, archaeology and textile. Following our traditions, these two study days will end with a reception for all participants.

We also organise an annual activity for all our members, and this year we will visit the MIM, the musical instrument museum in Brussels. We shall visit the workshops and the collections with the conservators/restorers in the museum.

In the frame of the life long learning process for our members, we have started to organise this year, a symposium that shall take place at the beginning of 2006, and will be dedicated to the use of gels in conservation/restoration. The program will cover three full days, one dedicated to theory and two for practice. Our two different language groups, Dutch and French, shall each have a specific lecturer.

We have noticed how easily we can spend much time and energy on dealing with our own internal functioning, and we loose sight of our external aims and duties of our Association. The end of the year 2005, and the year 2006 are promising to be more open to the problem of recognition of our profession, to the visibility of our national association, or yet to the integration of new members in the working groups and in our Committee.

**Etienne Costa**

*President of APROA-BRK*

## ARP

### Associação profissional de conservadores-restauradores de Portugal

This report covers the period from August 2004 to August 2005.

Last year's E.C.C.O. fall meeting took place in Monte Estoril and was organized by ARP's delegate, and by the weather conditions as well!

At the meeting, ARP reported the need for E.C.C.O.s intervention on a decision taken by the Minister of Culture, which was to reconvert unemployed teachers into the conservation profession, by tailoring a two year course. Shortly after the meeting, an official letter was written to E.C.C.O. asking for its intervention. Ylva Player Dahnsjöh, was prompt in forwarding an official negative statement to be presented to our Minister. This, however, did not have a positive outcome and the course started last November with no entrance exams. We have recently (1998) raised the number of years of conservation courses, to 5 at Universidade Nova and at the Polytechnic of Tomar. The entrance exams have always been a difficult trial for the selected candidates, and this political decision from our Minister seemed to us out of proportion, not only because of the above reasons, but also because it was intended to create a new employment for unemployed teachers in a field that is under a serious unemployment scenario. 90% of the conservator-restorers work is as freelancers and do not contribute statistically for the increase of the unemployment list.

The Scientific Journal, *Conservar Património*, edited by ARP, did manage to be published in early February of 2005, and we are very proud with the good reviews received from The Getty, ICCROM, from an Internet site in Japan of a paper conservation studio and also from colleagues and institutions in Brazil. The second volume is well underway, and we hope to publish it in October. For those who would like to have more information on our publication, they can consult [www.arp.org/revista](http://www.arp.org/revista) and click on the English version, that is if you have difficulty in reading

Portuguese! Papers are also accepted in English, French and Spanish versions.

A law has been discussed and approved by the parliament, this last April, regulating the Bologna process and adapting it to the Portuguese higher education, situation. The first cycle will be called *licenciatura* and the second cycle, *mestrado*. The polytechnic education institutes will not be able to give doctorate studies (PhD), leaving it to the universities. Portugal's two universities and the polytechnic who impart conservation-restoration education, have begun to meet in order to decide how they are going to adapt their present study programs to the Bologna process. At the moment they seem to have agreed to establish a 3 + 2 cycles. ARP was present at this meeting and spoke of the E.C.C.O.-ENCoRE Position Paper, but no decision was taken as to the admission of non conservation candidates for the second cycle. Nevertheless it was said that such candidates would have to possess a first cycle in a related field and would perhaps be subjected to a brainstorming year or semester, containing courses that would be thought essential.

Although ARP's delegate has stepped down from E.C.C.O.'s Committee, which was announced last year, she is still very much interested in continuing to update the database of the conservation education institutes that are recognized by the E.C.C.O. member organizations. This database was constructed in Microsoft Access and only works for PCs that have this program installed. In the future, we will try to convert it to other database programs in order to try to and make it more accessible for those who have had difficulties accessing the information.

**Board of Directors**

*Lisboa, 31<sup>st</sup> of August 2005*



## GRUP TÈCNIC.

### Professional Association of Cultural Property Conservators of Catalonia

Since 1983 our Association works untiringly for the social and professional recognition of Conservators in Catalonia and Spain. Promoting the preservation and the necessity of conservation of our Cultural Heritage as irreplaceable inheritance is another task of our Association.

Three years ago, jointly with another Catalan Association (ARCC), we set up a committee which the objective to obtain the right to create a professional order. This entity has to be created through a law voted at the Catalan Parliament. This year we have presented the statement to the Parlia-

ing the Cultural Heritage of Catalonia, where the expression “conservator” is absolutely missing. They agree with our ideas and we hope that our request will soon become a reality.

Since then, every year, we celebrate a meeting called „The Profession Under Debate“. These assemblies are the occasion for many professionals of the Catalan conservation world, to expose and to discuss the restlessness of the profession. Some of the subjects approached are the present situation of education in conservation, the Code of Ethics, the Heritage Laws, the future of conservation within the Department of Culture of the *Generalitat* (government) of Catalonia, as well as the professional intrusion and how to eradicate it.

At a Spanish level, a conservators platform (P.A. C.R.E) has been created this year. This platform represents the universities, the schools, the insti-

The board during one of its weekly meetings (from left to right): Rosa Marina Ruiz, Meritxell Ferrer, Mireia Campuzano (vice-president), Consol Marcó (secretary), Alex Masalles (president)



ment's President. At the present time, we are meeting with the different political groups with the purpose of explaining the present situation and obtaining their approval for the establishment of our professional order. It is important to say that we have informed the politicians of the necessity to develop and to change the laws manag-

tations and the different conservators' associations of Spain. The reason for this creation has been the elaboration of a joint document to defend in Spain the professional exercise and to make evident the necessity of a regulation and of a unique and university grade in accordance to the European system.

Since 1987 the *Grup Tècnic* publishes the quarterly *Full informatiu* (Newsletter). It has technical articles, news on the state of the profession, reviews of new publications, information on new technologies applied to conservation, as well as other news of cultural scope, courses, seminars, congresses, etc. This Newsletter is our means to spread our ideas on Cultural Heritage preservation and to inform all the partners, museums, associations, universities, schools and institutions of our activities.

The *Grup Tècnic* also organises a biannual professional meeting called the *Reunions Tècniques*. The next meeting will take place in March 2006 in Barcelona and it will be our tenth reunion, this time on the subject of Preventive Care. These meetings are made to ensure communication between professionals from Spain as well as foreigners, a place where to interchange experiences.

Catalonia and Spain are now living times of political transition. The *Grup Tècnic* will work hard to seize the opportunity of this moment and hopes to obtain a maximum of advantages for the profession in what concern education and the professional recognition of conservators. We hope shortly notify the creation of the conservators order.



## IADA

**Internationale Arbeitsgemeinschaft der Archiv-, Bibliotheks- und Grafikrestauratoren  
International Association of Book and Paper Conservators**



The association currently has 516 members in 18 countries. The central aim of the IADA is to offer professional development and active exchange between colleagues, represent professional interests of their members and promote students. The IADA sees its role, on an international level, in creating a network of paper conservators by transfer of knowledge, in the publication of professional articles in its magazine, in the organisation of international conferences, in the offering of workshops and in partnerships of European projects. The IADA is one of the founding members of E.C.C.O., consenting to its statutes and code of ethics.

The IADA committee was busy organising two successful conferences this year.

In May 2005, the symposium “This will stick forever. Attaching and Releasing” was held in cooperation with the Technical Association of Paper and Printing Industry Hungary (PnyME). Up to 200 participants from 17 nationalities met in the Hungarian National Library (National Széchényi Library) in Budapest. The first two days were given to papers on all aspects of adhesives, visits to workshops took place on the third day. The IADA and the PnyME were happy initiating this conference and creating a platform for new contacts and discussions between Eastern and Western paper conservators.

To support the discussions on restoration of the fire and water damaged collection of the Anna Amalia Library in Weimar (HAAB), the IADA organised in cooperation a conference in Leipzig in June 2005. Papers on disasters and their prevention were given during the three day meeting. 180 participants of 13 nationalities discussed the massive problems the HAAB and the library world

IADA Meeting 2005, Leipzig. © IADA





face after the loss of the precious UNESCO cultural heritage and its consequences for the future.

Most papers given at the two conferences are published, either in German or English, in the issues of the “PapierRestaurierung”, the quarterly publication of the IADA.

Furthermore, the association is continuing to organise practical workshops for its members. “The identification of historical papers” given by Dipl. Ing. Gangolf Ulbricht, took place in the “Centro del Bel Libro” in Ascona and again the successful course on “Restoration of Transparent Papers”, given by Hildegard Homburger was held in Berlin. For 2006, courses on the restoration of papyrus and on fans are planned in Ascona to continue the cooperation of the two institutions.

Some time was given over the last year to the design of a new website. In the near future, the IADA will present its new image to the public and offer more information to its members.

The committee is starting to organise the XI Conference of the IADA in Vienna from 17<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> September 2007. It will also be a celebration for the 50th anniversary of the association, certainly an age to be proud of.

#### **Committee board:**

**Markus Klasz** (president), Vienna, Austria

**Renate van Issem** (vice president), Göttingen, Germany

**Julia Bispinck** (treasurer), Berlin, Germany

**Andrea Pataki** (secretary), Stuttgart, Germany

**Birgit Reissland** (editor), Amsterdam, Netherlands

**Alexander Aichinger**, Vienna, Austria

**Manfred Anders**, Leipzig, Germany

**Irene Brücke**, Berlin, Germany

**Anna Bülow**, London, Great Britain

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## ICHAWI

### Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works in Ireland



This was a busy year for ICHAWI as the Institute continues to articulate and develop its role and sense of purpose. Exposure to a business mentoring scheme through 'Business2Arts' has led ICHAWI to produce a Strategic Business Plan, which is hoped will position the Institute to attract additional funding from sympathetic sources. As a non-profit making organisation, such funding would ultimately be channelled into the training of conservators and the promotion of conservation-related activities and would ease over reliance on any one source of funding. Currently, the Institute relies on membership fees, courses and seminars for income, while the Heritage Council has been very supportive.

Formal contacts with other organisations having an interest in or involvement in the presentation, preservation and management of Ireland's material heritage have been established through the foundation of the Irish Heritage Practitioners Forum. The Forum, which will meet four times a year, hopes to foster and promote the exchange of ideas and information through training, discussion and publication. It will ultimately lobby for increased interdisciplinary co-operation.

The Irish Professional Conservator's and Restorer's Association, IPCRA continues to publish its newsletter which is an up-to-date magazine of cultural events, conferences and conservation articles. Apart from committee meetings the members meet twice a year to visit conservation projects or to attend the AGM.

#### ACCREDITATION

Accreditation continues to be the focus of much of the Institute's activities. Two more members were recently accredited bringing the total membership up to 26. There are an estimated 74 further practising conservators who need to be at-

tracted into ICHAWI, and the Board is seeking active ways to get these conservators to apply. Mentoring of applicants is now undertaken as a matter of course while a training session for assessors is to be given by Susan Bradshaw, PARC Training Officer, this coming autumn. It is important that parity of esteem is maintained between the accreditation procedure of ICHAWI and that of the recently formed Institute of Conservation in the UK. The Irish accreditation procedure includes a recognised expert in their relevant field as an external assessor and these to date have usually been from the UK. The Irish accreditation process follows closely the PARC guidelines.

#### TRAINING

Considering that there are only two formal training courses in Ireland for the training of conservators, it is with great regret that ICHAWI was informed of the loss of the B Sc degree in Furniture Conservation awarded by the Galway/Mayo Institute of Technology. The downgrading of this course was also brought to the attention of the E.C.C.O. committee at the meeting in Naples and it was agreed that E.C.C.O. would support ICHAWI in seeking to have the course reinstated. ICHAWI continues to run courses and seminars both for conservators as part of their CPD and for professionals working in heritage related activities. ICHAWI is seeking to have these courses accredited.

#### E.C.C.O.

The Professional Profile produced by E.C.C.O. has given considerable food for thought. There is much discussion about a proposed, back-dated, cut off point for the professional training of conservators-restorers. Tentative feedback from members of ICHAWI would suggest that a prolonged period of hands on practice is considered a definite requisite to becoming a conservator-restorer and that this needs to be accommodated within the training process.

**Susann Corr**

*ICHAWI E.C.C.O. Delegate*

## Komora reštaurátorov, Slovenská Republika

### Chamber of Restorers, Slovak Republic

The Chamber of Restorers (CR) holds its general assemblies usually in March. This year, we not only entered the second decade of our existence, but were proud to announce to the members of CR that we were elected to become a new full member organisation of E.C.C.O.! To be able to report on the development of our attempt to become an equal partner to the organised European conservator-restorers' organisations, the assembly had to be held a few days later – on 8 April 2005. The Board of the CR evaluated the activities from 2004 and proposed what should be done in 2005.

The Boards' annual report had to mention the fact that the requested monthly meetings of the Board now have to be held every week. The agenda to be dealt with is often very demanding and requests a

lot of private free time of the Board members. The report introduced the most important activities: In April 2004, we managed to contact Edith Touré, vice-president of E.C.C.O., residing in Vienna (the distance between Bratislava, our capital and Vienna is about 60 km). She kindly agreed to a proposed meeting in the office of the CR in Bratislava. The dialogue was very friendly and extensive. We learned about the process of acceptance of a new member, all requested criteria and documents.

The following meeting took place on 22. 10. 2004 in Vienna.

Fulfilling of our mutual Contract about Cooperation with the Department of Restoration of Works of Art at the Academy of Fine Arts and Design in Bratislava (VŠVU) continued in May 2004. The Chairman of the Board, J. Dorica, and Boards' member, T. Lupták, held a lecture for the students of restoration in the presence of some of the teachers about the CR, its meaning, mission and function, followed by a fruitful informal discussion. This cooperation and organising of such meetings with students, our future colleagues, considers the Board of CR to be very important and useful.



Seminar on Restoration in Bojnice Castle, 2004



The CR offered the Department of Restoration space for presentation of some theoretical diploma works of students at the restorers' seminars of the CR.

In May 2004, the CR co-organised with VŠVU and Chamber of Architects a Seminar on Authors' Rights, with international experts present from Belgium, Denmark, Germany and Slovakia. It is us who rescue and sometimes wordily return objects of cultural heritage back to life and the result of the public reflection is that our work stays anonymous: nobody knows that we exist, or that we have done something. It is only up to us in the future to try and legislatively change this undesirable state.

The summer months of 2004 were spent in intense preparation of materials needed for our application for membership in E.C.C.O.. Much trans-

#### Seminar on Restoration in Bojnice Castle, 2004



© Komora Restaurátov, Slovak Republic

lation work had to be done; restorers' organisations abroad had to be contacted. After studying our materials, and our explanation of some of our principles, the Danish and Norwegian organisations agreed, and sent their letters of recommendation.

Also, during this we had a lot to do with the preparation and organisation of the IV. International Restorers' Seminar, Bojnice castle. The publication of the lectures collected from the year 2003 had to be realised. In the Bojnice 2004, 68 colleagues and guests took part; the lecturers were from Slovakia, Belgium, Czech Republic and Hungary. Work on the next seminar started straight after that one finished. We decided to change the

place from Bojnice castle to a cooperation with the Šariš Museum in Bardejov.

Later on, the Ministry of Culture in SR contacted the CR in the matter of cooperation with organisation of an international restorers' conference. The Slovak Republic is in 2005 the chair of the Central European Initiative (CEI) and the Ministry proposed this conference to be one of the carrying events by this occasion. The CR offered the already agreed term with the Šariš Museum in Bardejov and proposed as the central theme of the conference: "Methods of restoration from the view of the executor – restorer". Contributions to this theme should come from restorers from Slovakia, Czech Republic, Hungary and Austria.

The Board of CR negotiated with the general director of the Slovak National Museum, PhDr. P. Maráky about the possibility of publication of articles about restoration in the magazine *Heritage and Museums*, but there was no concrete agree-



ment achieved for many reasons. The negotiations will be continued. We also spoke about the problem of conservation/restoration of collection objects in museums and galleries with the closely connected problem of education of high school level experts. Today, the situation in museums and galleries allows people to conserve/restore without a licence, and without any specialised schooling. In Slovakia, there is no schooling system for educating conservators for example in archaeological finds. This is an area which is has not yet been solved.

We were invited to a restorers' seminar in Austria. The participation fee was 130,- €, we asked for a reduction – but, unfortunately, the fee was for us

too high, and we were unable to attend. It is important for us to keep contact and take part in events like this in future, and we hope that arrangements could be made for funding to be made available so that all participants can attend.

This year the CR took part in the international restorers' seminar in Budapest. Two of our colleagues presented their lectures. Hungarian colleagues presented themselves at our seminar in Bojnice. This mutual cooperation from both sides is highly appreciated.

In April, the CR took part in the preparation of COST, a group G8 workshop.

This organisation for cooperation in science and technologies with its seat in Brussels held its meeting in Slovak National Gallery in Bratislava. The CR was represented with J. Dorica together with Dr. M. Hain from the Institute of Measurements of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.

Another important activity of the Board of CR is the close cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of SR. This continuous type of cooperation concerns mainly the help of MC SR by fulfilling of our professional needs and possibilities, consulting or solutions of legislative matters. This results in financial support of the MC SR by publishing a collection of lectures from our seminars and cooperation by realisation of the support system for protection of cultural heritage, named Let's Repair Our House /Opravme Si Svoj Dom/. The MC SR is also the scene to deal with the disagreement between CR and the Heritage Office of SR in understanding the Heritage Law. This is a very serious matter and its solution continues also with the newly elected Board of the CR.

By the General Assembly was the resigned Board re-elected with small personal changes. The new Chairman is now Tomáš Lupták, Academic Sculptor. Vice-Chairman Bedřich Hoffstädter, Academic Painter and Jozef Dorica, Academic Painter, were re-elected and the Board has now two new faces in Mgr. art. Juraj Puškár and Mgr. art. Barbara Davidson. Also the Advisory Board and the Disciplinary Commission were reconsidered in the held elections.

In May 2005, the CR organised lectures for students of the Department of Restoration with the

themes: "Heritage legislative in a restorers' practise" and "E.C.C.O."

The CR received a great gift from VDR in form of their publications about conservation and restoration of heritage.

The following summer months, accept for continuing with the usual negotiating agenda and preparation of the publication of the collection of lectures from the Bojnice Seminar 2004, were spent with planning and organising the above mentioned International Conference about Restoration. This will be held 21.–23. September 2005. Ms Edith Touré from E.C.C.O. will be giving a lecture, and it is possible that Mr Michael van Gompén, Chairman of E.C.C.O. will also come to visit the conference with its unique "in situ" lectures, held in the Greek-Orthodox wooden churches in the East of Slovakia.

Finally, in the name of all members of the Chamber of Restorers, I would like to thank all of you who have supported us on the way to membership in E.C.C.O.. We hope to be able to contribute to the positive future development of our common interests!

**Mgr. art. Barbara Davidson**

*member of the Board of CR, E.C.C.O. delegate*



## NKF-dk

**Nordisk Konservatorforbund – Danmark**  
**Nordic Association of Conservators – Denmark**

This report covers the period from October 2004 to October 2005. The new name applies to the organisation formerly known as „Nordisk Konservatorforbund/Den Danske Afdeling“ or „IIC Nordic – The Danish Section“. But time was up for changing into a more contemporary name. The goal of the organisation is, as before, to promote the professional and political interests of the conservator-restorer's profession. The knowledge about our profession is to be enhanced via collaboration with relevant organisations and by promoting professional meetings, seminars and the like.

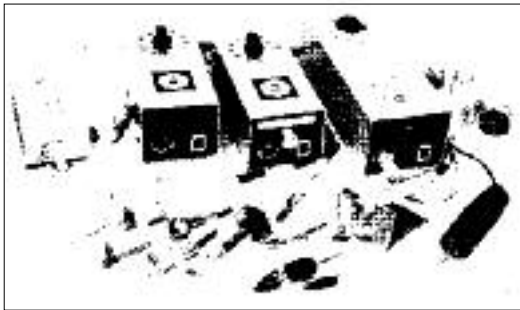
NKF-dk has arranged an array of arrangements for around 300 of its members. In April, we took part

in the jubilee for H.C. Andersen attending a tour at the H.C. Andersen Museum in Odense. In October, NKF-dk, with the help of devoted individuals, organised the biennial post educational seminar under the Nordic Association of Conservators. The topic was hot stuff of present preservation endeavours, that is „preventive conservation“, and it was an extremely well attended series of talks and exercises on „the physical characteristics of the storage buildings“. A post print „Magasinbygningens fysik og funktion“ has been published, and is available at [kasserer@nkf-dk.dk](mailto:kasserer@nkf-dk.dk), or to be reviewed at

[www.nkf-dk/magasinseminarpostprint2004.pdf](http://www.nkf-dk/magasinseminarpostprint2004.pdf).

Our newsletter, „Bulletin“, has appeared twice. The newsletter has a mainly organisational content, but also ties the working groups of NKF together. We have active working groups on archaeological items, painting frames, furniture, textiles, paper & photo, storage rooms and exhibition, climate & transport. Our homepage is linked to a mailing list and still has a very satisfying high

### Elektrowerkzeuge für Restauratoren – auch direkt vom Hersteller



**Heizspindel mit Reglergeräten**  
 Drei Ausführungen von Reglergeräten (230 V) verschiedener Leistungsklassen. Anzahl (Anzahl/Leistung) in Heizspindel – Mittelspindel – Mini – Litzspindel – Heizspindel – Hand-Spindel – Bohrmaschine. Außerdem Zubehör wie Belüftungsaufsatz, Teichleuchte und Spachtelmaschine.



**Tageslicht- und Atelier-Leuchte**  
 Diese neuzeitliche Halogen-Dampflampe wird wegen ihrer rauschfreien Farbwideregabe bei Gemälden, Grafik- und Skulptur-Restaurieren ebenso geschätzt wie in Druckereien und Ateliers. Drei Modelle: mit schwenkbarem Fuß-Gestell, als Wand- oder Tischleuchte. Auch stellt als Freistehende UV-Leuchte als Leuchtwerkzeug-Andere.



**Ultraschall-Miniwäscher – WAA/III II**  
 Kleingerät zur Ultraschallreinigung. Es eignet sich in der Restaurierung hervorragend für die Verunreinigung von Klebmittelresten und Lösungsmitteln wie Wasser, Ethanol und Benzin. Zu den vielfältigen Anwendungsgebieten zählen u.a. Färbung von Metallen, Bekämpfung und Färbegegenstände. Die hohe Produktion des Gerätes, sehr kleines Gewicht mit kleinsten Flüssigkeitsmengen wird über die stufenlos einstellbare Druckluftmenge reguliert. Das handliche Gerät zeichnet sich durch eine einfache, bequeme Bedienung, große Zuverlässigkeit, vielfältige Anwendbarkeit, unproblematische Reinigung und einen günstigen Preis aus.



Herstellung und Vertrieb:  
**Günther Engelbrecht GmbH**  
 82544 Thanning, Gräfin Justitiastrasse 3  
 Telefon: 08176/202, Telefax: 08176/7458

number of hits. The common Nordic magazine, "Meddelelser om Konservering", generated two issues containing articles on paintings, air pollution and a theme on damages due to fire. The peer reviewed articles appear in English, or in the Nordic languages with English summary.

NKF-dk has been an active member of the working group under the Ministry of Culture, which was set up to formulate a set of guidelines for the preservation and handling of objects of cultural heritage. Our chairman has been the main editor, and the standards have recently been sent out for a hearing among the Danish museums and preservation professionals. NKF-dk is still engaged in the work within the European project on standards concerning cultural heritage, CEN. Denmark hosts the working group "Environment, WG 4 and we are as well represented in the mirror committee of CEN.

The museum Moentergaarden hosted the general assembly in April. After the GA 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.

Furthermore, Jens Aagaard continues as our webmaster. Mai Stief Ajstrup is editor in chief of "Meddelelser om Konservering". Tina Kramer Molkte is chairman of Nordisk Konservatorforbund, Lise Ræder Knudsen has been the NKF-dk representative in CEN, but Michael Højlund Rasmussen will take over. Michael Højlund Rasmussen is also at the board in the network for preservation under the new merger of museums, the „Organisation of Danish Museums“. Karen Borchersen is member of a networking group on cultural matters within the trade union organizing the masters and Ph.D.s of conservation-restoration. Vivi Lønborg Andersen is our representative in the union organizing the bachelors of conservation-restoration. And Per Hadsund is our member in the working group for post educational training

of conservator-restorers at The School of Conservation, Copenhagen.

For further information please visit the addresses:

**[www.nkf-dk.dk](http://www.nkf-dk.dk)** and

**[www.nordiskkonservatorforbund.org](http://www.nordiskkonservatorforbund.org)**

October 2005

**Helle Strehle**

*NKF-dK repr. to E.C.C.O.*



## NKF-FIN

**Pohjoismaisen Konservattoriliiton Suomen**

**Osasto ry**

**Nordiska Konservatorförbundet -**

**Finska Sektionen**

**IIC Nordic Group - Finnish Section**



Full members 2005: 143

**The board:** Jari Heinonen, chairman  
 Riitta Koskivirta, vice chairman  
 Anna Häkäri  
 Maria Järvinen  
 Pia Klaavu  
 Ulla Klemelä, treasurer  
 Nina Robbins  
 Sari Selkee

**General secretary:** Pirjo Taipale

**Members' secretary:** Katariina Johde

**E.C.C.O. delegate:** Suvi Leukumaavaara,  
 treasurer E.C.C.O

The Annual Spring Meeting of *IIC Nordic Group - Finnish Section* was held in Helsinki on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March in the Ateneum Art Museum (part of the Finnish National Gallery). 22 full members and 6 student members attended the meeting.

Prior to the meeting, members went on an excursion to the Helsinki City Archives and their newly renovated conservation department. Afterwards, a tour in the National Museum of Finland was organized to see the interesting exhibition *Good enough for a museum?*, led by conservators of the National Museum of Finland and exhibition designers. Working groups' meetings were held before moving to the Ateneum Art Museum.

The meeting opened with two lectures: Summary of the exhibition *THEME 05 - Challenges of collection activities; Collections - a passive repository of objects or living cultural heritage?* (<http://www.fng.fi/fng/rootnew/fi/kehys/Teema05/default-eng.htm>); and a lecture about the situation of the

national project on art collections by *KEHYS* (frame), the Art Museum Development Unit in cooperation with the three Finnish National Gallery forming museums: Ateneum Art Museum, Museum of Contemporary Art Kiasma and Sinebrychoff Art Museum (<http://www.fng.fi/fng/rootnew/en/kehys/default.htm>).

Matters discussed at our Annual Spring Meeting were possible actions for making the profession of conservator better known in Finland (one of the main topics in NKF-FI at the moment), case studies of conservator's role or position in Finnish museums and possibilities of co-operation between NKF-FI and *The Union of Academic Museum Employees in Finland* ([http://www.museoalanammattiliitto.fi/index\\_en.htm](http://www.museoalanammattiliitto.fi/index_en.htm)) in order to raise conservators' salaries to correspond to their education and tasks.

In 2005, the Ministry of Education of Finland granted NKF-FI 4.400 euros for international activities and for obtaining association services.

The Annual Autumn Meeting was decided to take place on the 14–15<sup>th</sup> of October in Seinäjoki Polytechnic, after the writing of this report, and the theme will be building conservation.

NKF-FI publishes the newsletter *Konservattoriliiton lehti* 4 times a year.

Editors of the newsletter are: Henni Reijonen, Tuomo Raappana, Päivi Kyllönen and Heidi Wirlander.

Representative for Finland for the newsletter *Meddelelser om Konservering* is Sara Lindberg.

The website [www.konservattoriliitto.fi](http://www.konservattoriliitto.fi) has undergone a change and currently hosts a discussion forum.

*E.C.C.O. representative*

*Treasurer E.C.C.O.*

**Suvi Leukumaavaara**

Suvileukumaavaara@yahoo.com



## NKF-N

### Nordisk konservatorforbund – den Norske seksjon

#### IIC Nordic Group – Norwegian section

Membership status pr. 31.12.04:

Full members.....132

Associate members..... 59

#### Boardmeetings

The board has had 8 meetings during the period between the April 2004 GA and the April 2005 GA. Since then, the board has met 4 times.

The board consists of: Anne Grethe Slettemoen, chair; Anne Håbu, vice-chair; Barbro Wedvik, treasurer; Anja Sandtrø, secretary; Guro Hjulstad and Morgan Denlert, committee members; Jin Ferrer and Gry Landro, deputy members.

The board continuously works on administrative matters regarding information to members, outreach and information to the public, applications for financial assistance, contacts with other conservation and museum related organisations, and planning member meetings.

#### Member meetings and GA

The 2004 autumn meeting was held at the Munch Museum on the 28<sup>th</sup> of October. Conservators Ingrid Skard Skomedal, Lily Vikki and Ellen Dahl presented their dissertations from the School of Conservation in Copenhagen.

For the Christmas meeting, the NKF-N members were invited to the new labs and offices of the Norwegian Institute of Cultural Heritage (NIKU). The participants were given a tour of the premises and treated to a lecture by NIKU conservator, Jørgen Solstad.

The first meeting of 2005 was held at the conservation studies at the University of Oslo where Jeremy Hutchings presented the new masters program. There was also a tour of the conservation laboratories.

The spring meeting and 2005 GA were held on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April at the offices of the Directorate of Cultural Heritage. Four papers were presented by Vegard Vike, Cecilia Rønnerstam, Endre Fodstad and Mille Stein/Inger Grimstad prior to the GA.

#### Newsletter and website

NKF-N publishes the newsletter Norske Konserveres twice a year, and has an active e-mail list, where NKF-N board and members publish listings of courses, jobs, seminars and other relevant information.

The NKF-N website 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

Chair Anne-Grethe Slettemoen  
anne@slettemoen.no

E.C.C.O. representative Tanja Røskar Reed  
tanja.reed@aaks.no



## NKF-S

### Nordiska konservatorförbundet – svenska sektionen

### Nordic Association of Conservators – Swedish Section



The board as elected at the General Assembly in April 2005:

Lars Björk (chair, permanent member)  
 Gunilla Törnvall (secretary, permanent member)  
 Daniel Kwiatkowski (treasurer, permanent member)  
 Lennart Andersson (permanent member)  
 Yang Sook Koh (permanent member)  
 Charlotte Ahlgren (deputy member)  
 Jenni Lindbom (deputy member)  
 Cecilia Rönnerstam (deputy member)

The general assembly was held in Stockholm in April 2005. The suggestion from last General Assembly on introducing new member categories was voted for. In effect, this means the NKF-S has reintroduced a former system of three categories, in accordance with the other Nordic countries. The categories are Full Member, Associate Member and Member Institution. The entrance level for full membership has been adjusted into a completed Bachelor's degree in conservation (formerly applicants needed one or more years of work experience as well). The board is aware that this is not in accordance with E.C.C.O.'s Guidelines and Recommendations, which expects full members to have a Master's degree in conservation. On the question of how to meet these standards, the board of NKF-S is awaiting the outcome of the application of the Bologna Declaration on Swedish Universities. The University of Gothenburg, hosting the Swedish conservation training programme, is currently adjusting their degree system according to the new European standards. The new system will probably be working from 2007, after which it will be in the interest of NKF-S to adjust the level of entrance qualifications. NKF-S

currently has 351 members, of which 128 are full members.

The NKF-S member's paper, *Realia – tidskrift för konservering*, will not be published in 2005. The former members of the editorial board all entered new challenges in the beginning of the year. While looking for someone to take over the publication of *Realia*, there has also been discussion on making the paper web based.

Much effort has been put into getting the NKF-S page of the NKF homepage on the internet up and running. Hopefully the page will work before the end of 2005.

Finally, the NKF-S has been awarded a substantial amount of money through a fund after the late conservator Gunnar Bothén. Mr Bothén left rather clear instructions for how to use the assets, and the board has spent much time finding the best way to place the fund, yielding the most interest while at the same time being at low risk levels. The money will be available for full members of NKF-S, and may enable NKF-S to fund conferences and courses, an area of limited development in the history of NKF-S.

**Cecilia Rönnerstam**  
*Board member of NKF-S*

# ÖRV

## Österreichischer Restauratorenverband

The Committee:

**Stefan Kainz**, president

**Peter Kalsner**, vice-president

**Christa Hofmann**, general-secretary

**Hilde Neugebauer**, vice general secretary

**Doris Hess**, treasurer

**Martina Ruttin**, vice-treasurer

**Edith Touré**, ECCO-delegate

**Angela Sixt**

**Anna Buelacher**

Approximately 186 ordinary members in all recognised specialisations

Dear colleagues, member organisations of E.C.C.O., E.C.C.O. board and committee,

**W**e are now (today I am sitting down to write this report for E.C.C.O.) at the end of September, and it is time for a summary of our activities since last fall.

We are always very happy to read the quarterly reports of the other member organisations and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for sending them to us regularly.

The ÖRV General Assembly took place in June 2005. Beforehand, a Symposium took place on art loans – a major problem for all museums and their conservator-restorers. The main reason for this Actual reason was the discussion was the loan (from the Albertina) of the famous “Rabbit” drawing by Albrecht Dürer, which was being lent to the Prado in Madrid, which happened even though the experts had decided that it was too fragile to travel abroad.

The problem of preventive conservation concerning fragile objects (light, transportation, etc.) has

raised and could not be solved. The interests of the museums to show their treasures had been given priority.

The main field of actions of ÖRV in Austria are the following:

- Contact with related professions (curators, art historians, architects)
- Everyday practices
- Internal communication among members
- External communication, the medias
- European topics via E.C.C.O.
- Education
- Legal recognition of the profession

These topics are shared with most of the other conservators-restorer organisations, the weight being somehow distributed in different ways.

In 2005, the restoration award “Die goldene Lupo” (Luftpolsterfolie = air bubble wrapping) – created for the 20th anniversary of ÖRV – will be part of a gala in late November. Three prizes will be given to professional conservator-restorers, and for students as well. The selection is done by a jury, and the laureates are chosen by the members of ÖRV present at the gala. We are looking very much forward to this event.

Our quarterly review, *Mitteilungen*, has been transferred to the internet, it can now be downloaded as an attachment. This decision has been approved by our members, since 70 % have internet access. We still print out a certain number of the issues for our members without access to electronic media and as well for the archive. Please let us know if your organisation is receiving it by mail.

The president of ÖRV Stefan Kainz and the E.C.C.O. delegate Edith Touré were invited to the international conference of the Slovakian organisation in Bardejov from of September 20–24, 2005. Present were conservator-restorers from Hungary, Serbia, Slovenia, Check Republic, Slovakia and Austria.

As a side effect, a “paper of understanding” was signed by the four presidents of conservator-





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Annual Meeting of Komora Reštaurátorov in Bardejov, Slovak Republic

restorers organisations present at the meeting. It states the interests of all to commonly name the problems of conservation-restoration in the different countries. They supported the intention of a common strategy while imposing the conservator-restorers as a free profession.

Excursions were held to the wooden churches near Bardejov and to the centre of Bardejov with the gothic church St. Egyd.

The last conservator-restorers conference in Austria took place in the fall of 2004 in the capital of Lower Austria, St. Pölten. Its title was: “Mehr

Schein als Sein?“ (Retusche, Ergänzung, Rekonstruktion, Illusion) – the publication is available via our homepage.

With increasing interest, we follow the development of European laws, still being very sceptical if and when the realisation of our major topic, and the recognition of the profession of conservator-restorer, will be resolved in a near future.

We look very much forward to hearing from all of you, and are always happy to help with any kind of questions or problems in conservation-restoration matters.

We wish a successful convergence process to the future member organisations in Netherlands and United Kingdom.

Greetings from Austria,

**Edith Touré**  
*E.C.C.O.-delegate*

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**www.orv.at**

## SKR/SCR

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

### Congress and General Meeting 2005

The General Meeting and congress of SKR/SCR took place in cooperation with the Lucerne Museum of Transport on the theme: “Screw loose? Responsible approach to conservation and restoration of technical assets of our cultural heritage”. This topic was discussed for the first time between the representatives of the different specialisations involved in Switzerland, and was warmly welcomed by the participants. Following the flood damage, which had severely affected the Museum of Transport, congress participants were able to see the extent of the damage for themselves on site. Against this background, the decision was taken to set up a working group with a view to the creation of a national platform which will give the names of qualified experts and contact centres for possible intervention in a disaster.

New elections took place at the General Meeting. Because of the limitation on the term of office, Vice-Chairperson Monika Dannegger and Treasurer Heinz Schwarz had to resign from the executive. Manuel Hebeisen and Ulrike Bürger were newly elected. Membership of the new executive is as follows: Christian Marty (Chairman), Sebastian Dobrusskin (Vice-Chairman), Manuel Hebeisen (Treasurer), Ulrike Bürger, Valentin Boissonnas, Martin Ledergerber and Egbert Moll-Thissen. The association currently has 270 full members, 9 associated members, 9 honorary members, 131 members following training courses, 46 corresponding members and 10 patron members.

### Working group on procedures for calls for tender

In its capacity as a professional association, the SKR/SCR has been prohibited by law since

1<sup>st</sup> April 2004 from setting tariffs. The working group, therefore, drew up a paper entitled “Basic principles for the negotiation of fees”, which it presented to the 2005 General Meeting in Lucerne.

### Working group on the classification of employed specialists in conservation and restoration

At the end of 2004, the working group issued a guideline recommendation on classification for the attention of members. This paper is to serve all institutions, which employ conservation and restoration specialists as a basis for determination of the position, and classification of such specialists in their particular environment. The description of tasks, areas of responsibility and the resulting recommendations for classification and remuneration are intended to set a Swiss standard, and do justice to the nature of the profession. The paper will be found at: <http://www.skr.ch/grundlagen/skr.html>.

### Working group on the prohibition of advertising

The proposal put forth by the working group and the executive to the 2004 General Meeting to cancel the prohibition on advertising was declined; this year, a revised paper was unanimously adopted by the members. In the future, the members will be allowed to advertise their services in a moderate form.

### Working group on standardisation

The SKR/SCR has decided to set up a body to monitor the standardisation project entitled “Mobile and immobile cultural assets” (Conservation of Cultural Properties CEN/TC 346), which has begun at European level. The task of this body will be to follow the work of the experts, and to intervene if necessary. In addition to the SKR/SCR, the expert centre of the ETH Zurich and the Swiss Institute for Scientific Aspects of Art (SIK) are involved alongside the SKR/SCR. This will enable the decisions prepared by the commissions to be the subject of comments at the very least at expert level. If necessary, additions or changes may be made.





### **Basic and further training**

To make craftsmen in planning and implementing functions more aware of the needs of monument conservation and architecture, the association has set up, in cooperation with the Municipal and Cantonal Monument Conservation Service of Zurich, a pilot course on the topic of “Craft trades and monument conservation”. However, the association clearly stresses the fact that, through this training, which is intended to lead up to a Swiss federal certificate of aptitude, craftsmen must on no account become restorers, as it were by the back door. That being so, the organisers, i.e. the Monument Conservation Service, wanted to see broadly-based support from various interest groups and not just sponsorship committed unilaterally to the craft trades. It became clear that the SKR/SCR will have an important task to perform in this pilot course. On the one hand, the aim must be to put across the principles of conservation and restoration and on the other to show where the interfaces and boundaries with other disciplines lie.

**Christian Marty**

*SKR/SCR Chairman*

## VDR

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

### 1. Political activity in the professional field

#### Job protection and ‘Seal of Quality’

Because the implementation of a national job protection law in Germany (as in many other European countries) appears increasingly politically unrealistic, the VDR has, as described in last year’s annual report, been considering taking its own steps to ensure job protection and quality standards. With this in mind, the VDR Committee commissioned the Bureau to continue working on the concept of a ‘Seal of Quality’ for conservator/restorers submitted in the period under review.

The so-called ‘Seal of Quality’ should be awarded to members and non-members on the basis of the following criteria: university diploma, job experience, and professional competence. Although the university diploma is required to qualify, the important feature is that the ‘Seal of Quality’ places the emphasis on subsequent further professional development and continuing education. Qualification and quality are assured through a strict testing procedure. The concept thus orients itself toward the English accreditation procedure.

The former president of the UKIC, Chris Woods, introduced the British procedure, PACR, to the board of the VDR in its April session in 2004. As in Great Britain, a professional register of conservator/restorers with the ‘Seal of Quality’ should also be created in Germany, i.e. a list that corresponds in end effect to a list of tested conservator/restorers created under a job protection law.

#### **New courses of study, Bachelors and Masters in Restoration/Conservation**

The VDR continued its efforts for quality assurance in education within the context of the newly

established Bachelors and Masters programs (Bologna-Process). A working group of the VDR specially devoted itself to the task of developing accreditation guidelines for the new degree programs from the point of view of professional practice. In Germany, the new degree programs are to be tested and approved by so-called accreditation agencies. In addition to the university offering the degree program, both representatives of the students and (especially) representatives from the professional world participate in this procedure.

The result is the so-called ‘Competency Catalogue’ of the VDR, which summarizes the practical job requirements for the course of study. It describes the contents of both the Bachelors and the Masters degree programs. The VDR definitely considers the Bachelor to be a professional qualification according to the European requirements, but the degree holder should work under the guidance of experienced and qualified conservator/restorers and aspire to complete advanced training until reaching the Master level. The ‘Competency Catalogue of the VDR’ is already being used in the accreditation procedure at a German technical college.

#### **E.C.C.O.**

The collaboration of the VDR with the E.C.C.O. and ENcORE working groups on the topic ‘Professional Profile’ stands in close connection with both the abovementioned topics. VDR Vice President, Dr. Cornelia Weyer, was appointed the leader of the E.C.C.O. working group in the spring of 2005. The work of this group will be reported about elsewhere in the E.C.C.O. Reports.

The VDR considers it important that the document take into consideration the Bachelor of Arts restoration education program that has become a reality in Europe, although the Masters program, i.e. the five-year course of study, should continue to serve as the point of reference. Moreover, it should provide for measures enabling the equalization of non-academically trained members of the profession and describe the spe-





cific field of conservation/restoration in all its speciality fields. Beyond that, the VDR calls for a consequential professional and political implementation of the document through lobbying efforts in Brussels, as well as in the national EU member states. The VDR has begun national lobbying efforts regarding the 'Directive on the recognition of professional qualifications' of the EU commission in connection with the 'professional profile'. Furthermore, the VDR, SKR, and ÖRV exchanged information about their interests in a joint session in June 2005.

### **CEN/TC 346, Standardization of the preservation of cultural heritage**

The European standardization authority CEN has set up a working group to develop standardization guidelines for the preservation of cultural heritage. These guidelines will then be valid in all of Europe (E.C.C.O. has reported about this elsewhere).

Because E.C.C.O. has declined to participate in the working group, the individual E.C.C.O. members must make use of the possibilities for national participation. A few of the E.C.C.O. members are officially participating in the working group; in Germany this is only possible through the national standardization institute DIN. Participation was previously impossible because the DIN had set such high financial demands that the participating federations could not afford it.

The fact that the CEN working group thereby remains without German participation (and without the participation of many other national associations in Europe) is an untenable state of affairs from a German point of view. We urgently request that E.C.C.O. take active steps to remedy this situation.

### **Cultural sponsorship, collaboration with foundations**

VDR Bureau member Jana Labahn will participate in a conference on Malta co-organized by the German Cultural Foundation of the *Länder* (KSL) at the beginning of October 2005 and introduce

the Federation of Restorers, as well as its goals and mission there. The VDR considers it important to exchange with international organizations that also occupy themselves with the preservation of cultural heritage and finds an opportunity to do so within this framework. Ms. Labahn will also present various restoration projects that require sponsorship.

### **Conservator/Restorer as appraiser**

The VDR wants to make it easier for its members to work as appraisers and consulting experts in the field of conservation/restoration. In Germany, this requires a public appointment and a swearing-in. The field of conservation/restoration is currently covered predominantly by art historians etc.; there are only a few conservator/restorers active in this area. The VDR would like to change this and will submit a field description to the responsible German Association of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHT), as well as appointment requirements from a conservator/restorer's point of view. A working group is currently occupied with drawing up this document.

## **2. Public relations work**

### **VDR Homepage**

The VDR is currently working on a completely new concept for presenting itself on the Web. The new homepage will be professionally designed to illustrate diverse topics about the federation and the topic of conservation/restoration. It will be presented at this year's 'Restorers Day' of the VDR and activated at the end of November, 2005. The VDR hopes its new web page will also open up better and faster contact and communications possibilities internationally. You can find the new web page under [www.restauratoren.de](http://www.restauratoren.de)

### **Trade fair 'Denkmal' 2004**

In October 2004, the VDR was represented for the



first time with a “*Gemeinschaftsstand der Restauratoren*” [a collaborative stand of VDR members] at the Leipzig trade fair ‘denkmal’. Also taking place there were 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.

The VDR stand was well presented. Some VDR members were also represented there and illustrated their work and their area of expertise. On the whole, however, our results were not fully commensurate with our efforts, prompting an internal VDR discussion about the whole purpose of participating in trade fairs. The question was also raised to what extent E.C.C.O. itself could take over the representation at (national and/or European) trade fairs.

### 3. Publications

“*VDR-Beiträge zur Erhaltung von Kunst- und Kulturgut*” [“Contributions to the Conservation of Art and Cultural Property”]

The VDR periodical, a series of articles appearing twice yearly since 2003, is well established and also enjoys European and international interest. Every issue contains English abstracts of the essays. At the moment, the 2/2005 issue is in production and will appear in mid-December of this year.

Prof. Ingo Timm, Berlin, remains the chief editor; Vice President, Dr. Cornelia Weyer is responsible for publications in the Bureau. The VDR office is happy to take orders and subscription requests.

Within VDR, there are thoughts about developing a European periodical jointly published with other European federations. Those interested can take part in an initial meeting in December, 2005.

### “VDR-Schriftenreihe”

#### ["VDR Series of Publications"]

The conference transcript of the “Mold” conference in Munich in 2001 appeared at the beginning of 2005. The conference volume of the Düsseldorf conference “Surface Cleaning” (Restorers Day, 2003) will appear under the auspices of Vice President, Dr. Cornelia Weyer, at the beginning of 2006. The next volume will be devoted to the topic ‘Painting Copies’ and will also appear in 2006. Members receive the monograph publication at a reduced price; non-members may purchase it in bookstores.

### 4. Projects and professional events

- Working group ‘Polychrome Bildwerke’  
“*Schichten trennen*”  
[“Separating Layers”] – symposium  
March, 2005, Munich
- Working group ‘Archäologische Ausgrabung’  
“*Dokumentation*”  
[“Documentation”] – symposium  
April, 2005, Weimar
- 4<sup>th</sup> Restorers Day of the VDR  
“*Raumkunst. Zusammenspiel von Materialien – Vielfalt an Aufgabenstellungen*”  
[“Interior Design: Interaction of Materials – Variety of Tasks”] symposium with general assembly  
14<sup>th</sup>–19<sup>th</sup> November 2005, Berlin

### Bureau and Management

Bonn, September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005



## VRS

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



In comparison to the business year 2004, which has been very work-intensive for the Association Restorers – Conservators of South Tyrol, the present year has been a rather quite one.

Two of our founding member (Ms Lucia Saccani and Mr Lugi Rella) have left the association in spring 2005, and, conversely, a new member has been accepted. The new member is Mr. Stefan Woerz from Germany, who completed an excellent education at the technical college for restoration in Hildesheim and has recently moved to South Tyrol. At present, our association consists of 18 members.

Unfortunately, our representative at E.C.C.O., Ms. Brigitte Esser, could not attend E.C.C.O.'s general meeting in March because of personal reasons and, unfortunately, we were not able to find a replacement on such short notice.

In spring 2005, our head Ms. Verena Mumelter met with Dr. Werner Frick, member of the provincial government and in charge of Commerce, Industry and Service Sector, in order to request a contribution. Our association is financed solely by the membership fees paid by the members. All expenses such as workshops with distinguished lecturers have to be covered by this balance and our activities are therefore limited.

Our association is working very closely with the Italian Restorer Association to look for a nationwide solution for the problems faced by this professional guild.

The Italian Restorer Association has also addressed a letter to the newly appointed Minister of Cultural Heritage On. Rocco Buttiglione to raise

awareness about the problems of this professional guild. The letter has been signed by our head as well.

Our association has been taking part in an international project for restoration, conservation and documentary collection of a temple construction in Bhutan. This project started in 2002, in co-operation with an Austrian team, and was successfully accomplished in spring 2005. For a few years our associate, Mr. Martin Pittertschatscher, has been operating together with the Austrian team at the temple construction Tongs Dzong, where he has been responsible for the conservation of wall painting. In addition to this, he has provided training to local restorers.

This project has been organised in collaboration between the Sovrentency Bolzano, managed by the Province Conservator Dr. Helmuth Stampfer and funded by the Province of Bolzano.

After the completion, a party was organised to celebrate this event. All participants involved in the project attended the event as well as the President of the Province of Bolzano, Dr. Luis Durnwalder.

At the end of August the architect, Friedrich Falch, and his wife arranged a reception in Landeck (Austria), where the successful accomplishment of this project was described, and information was released to the press. The reception was attended among others by the Governor of Tongsa Dzong, Mr. Dasho Lhab Doryi, the Project Manager, Mr. Kinley Wangchuk, and the Austrian Ambassador to India, Ms. Dr. J. S. Bastl. Our association was represented by our head, Ms. Verena Mumelter, and the restorer, Martin Pittertschatscher.

Our association will participate in a workshop taking place in the autumn 2005. The Committee for Building Research and the Foundation of Architects Bolzano is organising a weekend workshop for plasters on a worksite. The worksite is an ancient house on which special research has been carried out and, therefore, is an ideal object for further studies. Our members are demonstrating, and applying, different kinds of plasters and explaining the elements of them in detail.

Following last years activities, this year's symposium "Constructed Development 2005" will be held in co-operation with the Foundation of Architects. Our association is actively contributing to the event with lectures and topics for discussions. The climax of the seminar is a lecture performed by the Swiss architect, Mr. Arthur Ruegg, and the Swiss analytical chemist, Ms. Katrin Trautwein, regarding the topic "plasters".



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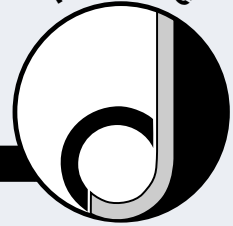


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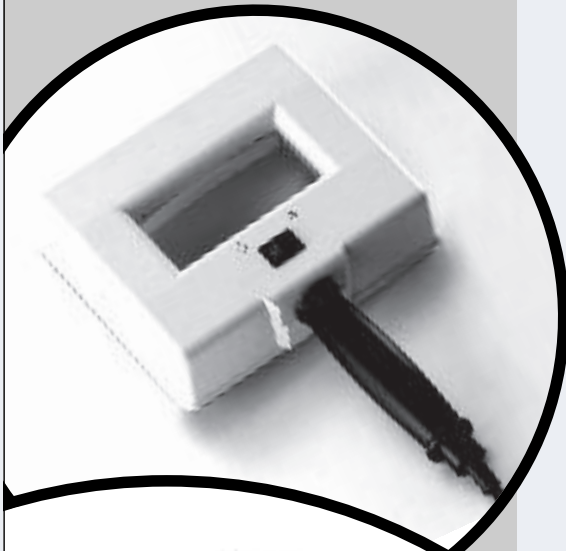
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