

National Report Austrian Restorers Association (ÖRV, Österreichischer Restauratorenverband) 2014

The yearly **General Assembly** of the ÖRV took place on October 7th, 2014 in conjunction with the opening of the exhibition "what remains", which was shown at the exhibition space of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. The exhibition displayed intermediate "waste" products generated during conservation processes as autonomous artefacts, thus trying to communicate the work of conservator-restorers to the general public in a fresh, surprising way.

On November 13th, an **extraordinary General Assembly** was convened to coordinate proposals for a change in the statutes concerning the limitation of the board members' term of office. The passages in question have been amended and it is now possible to extend the term of office at request after 9 years (3 periods of 3 years each).

The new statutes read: "In principle, the term of office of all Board members shall be limited. The term of the President shall be limited to a maximum of four consecutive periods of 3 years each. The other Board members should belong to the Board for a maximum of 3 consecutive periods of 3 years each. An extension of the term of office of the President or a Board member for another 3 years can be decided only at the written request of the Board or of a full member of the General Assembly. A simple majority decides the matter."

Changes were made mainly because very few people want to join the Board and replace members who have to leave. The new version of the statutes can be found on the homepage of ÖRV (www.orv.at).

There were only minor **changes in the Board** in 2014: Andreas Hartl (specialized in conservation-restoration of paper and modern/contemporary art) had been Board member since October 2013 and was co-opted into the Board in May 2014.

The current Board is now comprised of:

Beate Murr (paper conservator at the Museum of Applied Arts): president

Anke Schäning (paintings conservator, senior artist at the Institute for Conservation-Restoration, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna): vice president and editor

Sigrid Eyb-Green (paper conservator, senior artist at the Institute for Conservation-Restoration, Academy of Fine Arts Vienna): E.C.C.O. delegate, delegate to the Austrian Normalisation Institute, editor

Sabine Formánek secretary, keeper of minutes

Michael Formánek: treasurer

Edith Oberhumer (textile conservator, Museum of Applied Arts): website support

Markus Santner (mural conservator, Federal Office for the Protection of Monuments): contact between ÖRV and Federal Office for the Protection of Monuments

Susanne Beseler (stone conservator in private practice)

Beate Sipek (mural conservator in private practice)

From 27th until 29th of March 2014, a **symposium on “Hazardous Substances in Museum Objects”** was held at the Technical Museum Vienna in cooperation with the ÖRV and AUVA insurance company. Proceedings of the symposium will be published in 2015 and distributed amongst all ÖRV members.

On October 3rd and 4th 2014, the 24th **Biannual Conference** of the ÖRV took place at the “Semperdepot” of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna. The theme of the meeting was "Paths & Goals: Decision-making Processes in Conservation". Proceedings of this conference will be published in June 2015 and will be distributed amongst all ÖRV members.

ÖRV publishes a yearly journal titled **ÖRV Journal**. The 2014 issue contains papers based on Seminar and Master Thesis of both Austrian Conservation Trainings (Academy of Fine Arts and University of Applied Arts) and includes reports of some ÖRV-events. The Journal is now printed in colour and can be ordered through the ÖRV website.

In 2014, the series of lectures (“**Jour fixe**”), introduced in 2008, has been successfully continued. The program included special guided tours through the newly re-opened “Kunstkammer” (Art Chamber) of the Kunsthistorische Museum, and through the new permanent carpet exhibition at the Museum of Applied Arts (MAK), which was opened in April 2014 on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the MAK. The paper conservator Christel Pesme (Basel) gave a presentation on implementing a lighting policy for sensitive

collection items in June at the Academy of Fine Arts. In September a seminar with Gangolf Ulbricht on the identification of historical papers took place once again in cooperation with the Institute for Conservation and Restoration of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna.

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