

POHJOISMAISEN KONSERVAATTORILIITON SUOMEN OSASTO ry



NORDISKA KONSERVATORFÖRBUNDETS FINLÄNDSKA SEKTION rf

NORDIC ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATORS FINNISH SECTION

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

The Nordic Association of Conservators Finnish Section was founded in 1963. The main goal of the Association is to follow the teaching of conservation, promote the development of the conservation profession and further the professional competence of the conservators.

The Association also tries to monitor the social benefits of the profession and the usage of the title 'Conservator'. The degree title 'Conservator' (Konservaattori AMK) has been protected by the Ministry of Education. However, the working and professional title of 'Conservator' has not been protected by any means and there is no system to prevent an unqualified person from working on significant cultural property.

At the end of 2016, the Finnish Section of the Nordic Association had 276 members. This comprised of 172 full members, 13 of which are retired conservators and 4 of which are honorary members, 87 student members, 12 subsidiary members and 5 community support members.

The Board of the Association assembled 7 times in 2016, including two email meetings. The Chairman of the Board was Jaana Kataja and the Vice Chairman of the Board was Mari Saari. The members of the board were: Marleena Vihakara, Mari Lenck, Maarit Jones, Anna Rajainmaa, Satu Haapakoski and Stina Björklund. The Secretary for the Association was Kaisa Kantanen, the Membership Secretary was Taru Mäkitalo and the Treasurer was Emmi Heinonen.

General Meetings and training days

Two General Meetings were held in 2016: the spring meeting on a ferry from Helsinki to Stockholm on the 17th March and the autumn meeting in Helsinki on the 4th November. There were 60 members present at the spring meeting and 41 at the autumn meeting. In Stockholm on the 18th March several field trips were arranged: the Royal Library, the Museum of Modern Art, Vasa Museum and the collection and conservation facilities of the Livrustkammaren in Tumba. The spring training day, on the same date as the spring meeting, was held at the premises of the HAM Helsinki Art Museum. The HAM staff gave presentations about the design, technical implementation and maintenance of the Yayoi Kusama *In Infinity* exhibition. This training day was also attended by the staff of the regions art museums in the Uusimaa province.

Information / Publicity

The main channel and the only official channel of information for the Association is the magazine *Konservaattoriliiton lehti*, which was published four times in 2016 (Issues 124-127). The paper has a print run of 300 copies and the working group responsible for the magazine consists of Marleena Vihakara, Anna Rajainmaa, Satu Haapakoski, Erika Tiainen and Stina Björklund. This working group is jointly responsible for

the editing, layout and other issues relating to the distribution of the magazine. During 2016 the appearance and structure of the magazine was renewed. The new design was commissioned from a company called SuomiDesign. *Konservaattoriliiton lehti* was published online simultaneously with the printed publication, thereby making the information available to as many people as possible. The magazine is sent free of charge to: E.C.C.O., ICCROM, the Finnish Museums Association, the Union of Academic Museum Employees in Finland, Tartu University Library, IIC Library in London and other Associations of the Nordic Association of Conservators.

The Association co-publishes the magazine MOK (*Meddelelser om konservering*), once a year, in conjunction with other Nordic Conservation Associations. This is a scholarly magazine focusing on the field of conservation and some articles are peer-reviewed. The Finnish delegate for the magazine was Tina Lindgren. The Association shares the website (www.nordiskkonservatorforbund.org) with other Nordic Conservation Associations. The magazine *Meddelelser om konservering* has been published online simultaneously with the printed magazine at this web address since 2014.

The Association has a website (www.konservaattoriliitto.fi) which contains information about conservation and the Nordic Association of Conservators. The site also has contact information for the conservators who provide conservation services. The site is managed by Liisa Helle-Wlodarczyk and Pia Klaavu. The technical platform of the website is outdated, and this has caused it to be temporarily out of service. The renewal of the site starts during 2017. The Association has its own page on Facebook, and also Twitter and Instagram accounts.

Another important means of communication and discussion related to professional issues is the conservators' email list (konservaattorit@lists.oulu.fi), which is maintained by Jari Heinonen. This facility enables conservators to contact a large group of colleagues through a single email address. However, this is not an official channel of information for the Association, because all members are not on the list and the list also contains many non-members.

The update of membership information that began 2015 was continued in 2016. The Association uses email addresses to distribute official internal information. Membership invoices are also mainly sent via email.

International activity

The Federal Council of the Nordic Association for Conservators annual meeting was held on the 28th October 2016 in Hamar, Norway. The Finnish participant was the Chairman of the Board Jaana Kataja. The meeting focused on the activities of member states during the previous year, the economy of the Federal council and the upcoming training days and congresses.

The Association is a regional participant of The International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC). The IIC delegate is IIC Council Member Tiina Sonninen.

The European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations A.I.S.B.L (E.C.C.O.) delegate for 2016 was Mari Lenck.

The Association is a member of the Europa Nostra (EuNo). The delegate for Europa Nostra is Katja Luoma.

The Association is a member of the national European Committee for Standardisation's (CEN) TC 346 - Conservation of Cultural Heritage follow-up group SR 216. Riitta Koskivirta is the representative of the Association in this group. The task for the national SR 216 follow-up group is to serve as a national expert body considering the standardisation of conservation of cultural heritage. The SR 216 group monitors and influences the standardisation, comments the proposals and decides the translation of the standards. The CEN TC 346 is the only European Standardisation Committee in charge of the standards related to

Conservation of Cultural Heritage and Property. It decides and publishes the standards regarding the renovation, conservation, lighting, energy efficiency, packaging and transportation of cultural heritage.

The Facilities

The Association has no permanent office facilities, but locations are rented when necessary. The postal address for the Association is the address of the Finnish Museums Association, but our personnel are not present at this office. Consequently, post and other correspondence are forwarded to the correct person. The archives of the Association are kept at the *Toimihenkilöarkisto* and at the Metropolia University of Applied Science.

Other activities

The Association participates on the Advisory Board of the conservation studies at the Metropolia University of Applied Science. This Advisory Board began its activities in autumn 2016 after a long hiatus. The purpose of the Associations presence on the Advisory Board is to bring education and work life closer to one another and to observe the level of the education. The Association was also present at the school's Christmas party and spoke about the activities of the Association to the conservation students.

In 2016 two stipends were given to Association members for conservation studies. Three stipends were given to conservation students who completed their studies at the Metropolia University of Applied Science.

The Association supports the activities of working groups from different fields of conservation. The working groups are independent and they have possibility to apply for grants from the Association for different kinds of activities. For example, the working group of the textile conservators organised a study trip to Tallinn, Estonia in the autumn. The working group for the building conservators (Konsti) has its own email address (pkl.konsti@gmail.com) as does the working group for textile conservators (TEKO) (tekons@googlegroups.com) and the working group for paper conservators (paperikonservaattorit@googlegroups.com). Many working groups met during the ferry trip to Stockholm.

The Nordic Association of Conservators Finnish Section had its 50th anniversary in 2013 and to celebrate that a touring exhibition about conservation was produced. This year it was shown at the facilities of the joint cultural heritage center of the Länsi-Uusimaa museums in Tammisaari.

Economy

The Ministry of Education gave the Association a 12 000 euros operating grant for distributing information to the members and for purchasing Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) services.

In 2016, the financial statements reported that the Association was operating at a deficit of 321 euros. The membership fees remained unchanged during the year 2016: 48 euros for full and subsidiary membership and 42 euros for the student membership. The fee for the community supporter membership was 120 euros. Applications from pensioners are given 50% discount on the membership fee.

The Association paid 250 euros for the membership to EuNo, 298 euros for the Federal Council of the Nordic Association of Conservators, 1084 euros for the membership to E.C:C.O. and 900 euros for the membership of CEN. The costs for the production of MOK (*Meddelelser om konservering*) were 3512 euros.

Even though the accounts of the Association are balanced the Association is financially fully dependent on the grant given by the Ministry of Education.