



ANNUAL REPORT 2014

Preamble:

The Malta Association of Professional Conservator-Restorers (MAPCo-Re) was founded in 2006 and became a registered member of the Malta Federation of Professional Associations on the 31st October 2007. MAPCo-Re's first General Meeting was held on the 31st January 2008.

2014 was a year in which MAPCo-Re has worked hard towards the goal of obtaining professional warrants for conservator-restorers. This involved various ongoing meetings with the minister responsible and taking an active part in the National Forum for Cultural Heritage.

We are greatly thankful for all the support MAPCo-Re received to present a concrete discussion on the retention of the Heritage Malta's Diagnostic Laboratories and their equipment. This was a great concern for the professional status of conservator-restorers in Malta. The online petition created and the support from the Malta Federation of Professional Associations [M.F.P.A.], the European Confederation of Conservation-restoration Organisation [E.C.C.O.] and other academic professionals, all contributed towards a common goal, which seems to have been achieved, since most of the equipment was retained by Heritage Malta and is currently being used to undergo various conservation scientific projects.

We thank the European Confederation of Conservation-restoration Organisations [E.C.C.O.] and the Malta Federation of Professional Associations [M.F.P.A.] for their support. We must especially thank all the participating members for supporting and help us with our activities.

Achievements of 2014:

- Meeting the Parliamentary Secretary on Justice, Culture and Local Government (Dr Owen Bonnici). This meeting was very focused on the ‘warrants’ issue and the possible amendments to the Cultural Heritage Act. MAPCo-Re made several suggestions and showed concern on the grandfathers’ clause. Most suggestions are being considered and MAPCo-Re is in direct contact with this ministry. MAPCo-Re also voiced its concern on the Heritage Malta’s Diagnostic Laboratories and their equipment. It was emphasised that conservation without science can eventually develop into a craft and we will not be progressing as in other countries but rather regressing professionally. The minister was well aware of our voiced concerns and pointed out that he was presented with a difficult situation, where the country required urgently a Forensic Scientific Laboratory to investigate various pending cases in court and due to the new legislation on abuse substances, the equipment was required. The MAPCo-Re committee pointed out that they understand the urgency and concern but insisted that any such decision must be well informed and must not be solely done to dismantle an established laboratory to form another. The minister was also informed that the current Malta National Laboratories, already had similar or replicated equipment to the ones found at the Diagnostic Scientific Laboratories (D.S.L., Bighi). It was also stated that most of the equipment was over 10 years old and may be considered obsolete for the concepts of modern day science but was still useful for conservation studies. The minister stated he would look into every concern and encouraged MAPCo-Re to also assist Professor JoAnn Cassar with her discussions on the matter, as the professional representative for the Ministry of Justice, Culture and Local Government.
- Meeting the Minister of Education and Employment (Mr Evarist Bartolo) and discussing once again the professional requirements as well as discussing the possibility of assistance with continuous professional development (CPD). The minister was also informed about the concerns on the Heritage Malta Conservation Division, Diagnostic Laboratories and their equipment. The minister stated he will delve into the concern. He also emphasised his worry about the educational set up for conservator-restorers being closed down locally. He emphasised that he sees scope for MAPCo-Re to be involved in establishing professional ethics and possibly guidelines with educational institutions (such as the University of Malta [U.O.M.] and the Malta College of Arts, Science and Technology [M.C.A.S.T.])
- Attending the monthly council meetings of the Malta Federation of Professional Associations [MFPA], as well as the monthly public Lectures. During the Annual General Meeting of the M.F.P.A., the president of M.F.P.A. stated that he wanted to thank three members of the executive council for their dedication, awareness building and striving for a professional standard. One of these three individuals was James Licari (President MAPCo-Re).
- Formally corresponding with various government authorities as well as following up the petition to stop the Diagnostic Science Laboratories (DSL) at Heritage Malta from being removed from the Bighi Conservation Division at Heritage Malta.
- In direct communication with the European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers organisations [ECCO] who also supported the latter mentioned undertaking.
- Organising social activities for our members and friends.

- Advising various NGOs on conservation-restoration projects.
- Attending other public consultation meetings and fora on cultural heritage.

Proposed achievements for 2015:

- Assisting Heritage Malta on the retention of the Diagnostic Scientific Laboratories, within the Conservation Division.
- Encouraging the scientific availability to conservator-restorer professionals, externally to Heritage Malta, through a competitive supply of scientific services.
- Consolidating the agreements and discussions with the various local authorities, and NGOs.
- Attending the monthly council meetings of the Malta Federation of Professional Associations [MFPA].
- Keeping an open communication with the ECCO committee and possibly collaborating with them on various projects.
- Undertaking an academic conference on conservation-restoration.
- Organising various social activities for our members and friends, to build the community spirit.
- Acknowledging the achievements of our members and colleagues.

The Committee would like to thank all and we hope to contribute towards the conservation of our collective past for the present and future generations.

The MAPCo-Re Committee 2014

James Licari (President)
Lindsay Galea (Secretary)
Michael Formosa (Treasurer)
Valentina Lupo (Public Relations Officer)
Simon Dimech (NGO Officer)
Amy Sciberras (Events Organiser)



Financial Accounts 2014

MAPCO-RE (Acc. No. 040-126229-001)

Date	Details	Withdrawals	Deposits	Balance (DR=Debit)
1-Jan-2014	Balance Brought Forward			847.61
28-Jun-2014	Credit interest	0.22		847.83
28-Jun-2014	Tax	0.04		847.79
29-Sep-2014	Credit interest		0.21	848.00
29-Sep-2014	Tax	0.03		847.97
31-Dec-14	Balance for Year Ending 2014			847.97