

**POHJOISMAISEN KONSERVAATTORILIITON SUOMEN OSASTO ry
NORDISKA KONSERVATORFÖRBUNDETS FINLÄNDSKA SEKTION rf
NORDIC ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATORS FINNISH SECTION ra**

ANNUAL REPORT 2013

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 2013, the Finnish Section of the Nordic Association had 253 members. This was comprised of 143 full members, 4 honorary members, 81 student members, 19 subsidiary members and 6 community support members.

The Board of the Association assembled 13 times in 2013, including two telephone meetings. The Chairman of the Board was Nina Jolkkonen-Porander and the Vice Chairman of the Board was Liisa Valkeapää. The members of the board were: Liisa Helle-Wlodarczyk, Marleena Vihakara, Jaana Kataja, Katja Luoma, Sami Supply and Kaisu Voutilainen. The Secretary for the Association was Laura Sallas, the Membership Secretary was Anna Aaltonen and the Treasurer was Henna Koskinen.

General meetings and training days

Two general meetings were held in 2013: the spring meeting in Vantaa on the 15th March and the autumn meeting in Turku on the 8th November. Two training days for the members were also held at the same dates.

The spring training day was held at the premises of the Conservation Training Programme of Metropolia University of Applied Sciences at Vantaa. The topic of the day was E.C.C.O's Competences for Access to the Conservation-Restoration Profession booklet. Jaap van der Burgh from E.C.C.O was present as the main speaker; the other speakers were Riitta Koskivirta and Tuula Auer. Representatives of the trade unions Ulla Mättö (Museoalan ammattiliitto) ja Jaakko Korpisaari (Akavan erityisalat) were also present.

At the autumn training day in Turku the topics were the new permanent exhibition at the Castle of Turku and the conservation work undertaken at the Masku church. During the day these venues and also the Kankainen estate were visited. Lectures were presented by Mats Sjöström, Nina Lepokorpi, Maarit Hirvilampi, Sari Selkee, Riikka Saarinen, Tanja Huikuri and Emilia Kallinen.

Information / Publicity

The main channel of information for the Association is the magazine *Konservaattoriliiton lehti* which was published four times in 2013 (Issues 112-115). The paper has a print run of 300 copies and the editors were Marleena Vihakara and Tuija Toivanen. The second issue of the year (number

113) was the first issue to be printed in full colour and therefore the celebration journal. At the beginning of 2013 it was decided to publish each edition of *Konservaattori-lehti* on the internet within one year of the printed publication, thereby making the information available to as many people as possible. At the autumn general meeting it was decided by the members of the Association to abandon the year's delay and publish the magazine online and in print simultaneously. This reform still requires some fine tuning and work will continue on this in 2014. 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 a bi-annual magazine, *Meddelelser om konservering*, with other Nordic Associations. This is a scholarly magazine focusing on the field of conservation and some articles are peer-reviewed. The first edition of 2013 was a general issue and the second was a themed issue focusing on the conservation of plastic. The Finnish delegate for the paper is Liisa Valkeapää.

The Association has a web page (www.konservaattori.fi) which contains information about conservation and the Nordic Association of Conservators. The page also has contact information for the conservators who provide conservation services. The web page is managed by Liisa Helle-Wlodarczyk and Pia Klaavu. The Association also has its own page on Facebook which is being kept up to date by Liisa Helle-Wlodarczyk and Liisa Valkeapää.

The Association also shares the web page (www.nordiskkonserverforbund.org) with other Nordic Associations. The pages have been remodeled and the new pages were launched during 2013.

Another important means of communication is the conservators' e-mail list (konservaattorit@lists.oulu.fi), which is maintained by Jari Heinonen. The list enables conservators to contact a large group of colleagues through one e-mail address.

International activity

The European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organisations A.I.S.B.L (E.C.C.O.) delegate for 2013 was Sami Supply.

The Federal Council of the Nordic Association for Conservators annual meeting was held on the 15th October 2013 in Gothenburg. The Finnish participants were the Chairman of the Meeting Tina Lindgren and Nina Jolkkonen-Porander.

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

The Association joined the Europa Nostra (EuNo) in 2011. The delegate for Europa Nostra is Katja Luoma.

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.

Other activities

The Nordic Association of Conservators Finnish Section had its 50th anniversary in 2013. A variety of activities were organized to celebrate the anniversary year. An exhibition about conservation toured to many locations around Finland. Quite a large group of conservators from different conservation fields gathered together to plan and realise this exhibition which focuses on conservation. The exhibition consists of several showcases featuring the tools needed in the conservation process. Large posters describe the special branches of conservation and the education available/necessary to work in the field of conservation. Smaller posters contain pictures of objects before and after conservation, as well as information about the conservation treatment. The exhibition continues to travel in a number of facilities in 2014.

Conservation is not a well-known profession in Finland, so stepping forward was deemed important. In addition to the exhibition, new informative brochures about The Nordic Association of Conservators and conservation in general were printed. Postcards featuring pictures of a variety of types of damage that had occurred to objects were also printed. The members of the Association can hand out these brochures and postcards to clients and other people at events or meetings. The handing out of these brochures and the so called "damage cards" can be also seen as a preventive conservation method by raising awareness of issues before they can occur.

Another part of the anniversary year activities was keeping a blog <http://konservaattoriliitto.blogspot.fi>. There were 12 writers and 32 updates. On the blog conservators from different field of conservation told about their work.

In April a group of members of the Association took a field trip to Gotland. The functions of the Riksantikvarie-ämbetet and Byggnadshyttan were introduced.

At the beginning of the year the Chairman of the Association approached nearly 200 museums with information about the 50th anniversary of the Association. Consequently, 71 museums wished to congratulate the Association by granting a free entrance for the members of the Association.

The anniversary year was also celebrated with a ceremonial banquet in Helsinki in the autumn. The total of 80 members and two guests from the Union of Academic Museum Employees in Finland were present. The Chairman of the Association gave a speech. The Board of the Association had chosen two new honorary members and their names were released at the party. The achievements of Helena Nikkanen and Tuulikki Kilpinen were presented to all guests. During supper there were musical performances and slide show presenting conservation related photos from the time before the Association was formed.

In 2013 two 100 euros stipends were given to the student members of the Association who graduated in December 2012. Also, to honor the anniversary year the members of the Association were given the chance to apply for special stipends meant for further education courses and conferences. For these purposes ten 300 euros stipends were given.

The Association was asked for statements regarding the European Committee for Standardization's (CEN) proposed standards. The Finnish Standards Association SFS ry held a meeting on the 5th September 2012 where a national CEN TC 346 - Conservation of Cultural Heritage follow-up group was formed. The group met twice during 2013, on the 24th January and on the 26th September in Helsinki. Riitta Koskivirta is the representative of the Association in this group.

The Association has several working groups from different fields of conservation, for example textile, paper, building and archeological materials'.

In May 2013 the working group for the building conservators (Konsti) met at the National Museum and discussed the present situation and future development needs of the colour research. The working group has also expressed its concern about the future of the building conservation education's future. Konsti has own e-mail address (pkl.konsti@gmail.com) from where subscription to their information mail-outs can be received.

The textile conservators' working group TEKO met in Lohja in May at the facilities of the Arvotekstiilipalvelu Tupulatäkki Oy. The main theme of the day was potassium borohydrate bleaching of cellulose fibers. Jaana Kataja from the Museum of Kymenlaakso spoke about this subject to 13 other members of the working group. TEKO has own e-mail list (tekons@googlegroups.com).

Economy

The Ministry of Education gave the Association a 13 000 euros operating grant for distributing information to the members and for purchasing non-governmental organisation (NGO) services.

In 2013, the financial statements reported that the Association was operating at a deficit of 6912 euros. The membership fees remained unchanged during the year 2013: 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 200 euros for the membership to EuNo, 620 euros for the membership to the Nordic Association of Conservators and 898 euros for the membership to E.C:C.O. The costs for the production of *Meddelelser om konservering* were 3609 euros.

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

The Board of the Association 20th of February 2014