

## National Annual Report 2013/14 from the Nordic Conservation Association – Norway (NKF-N)

NKF-n has continued with a range of different activities in the 2013/14 period. After the 2013 annual meeting, NKF-n board decided to help the conservation profession in Norway with a limited amount of financial support for organising local events aimed at increasing the expertise of our members. Applications for conferences and workshops that are additional to what NKF-N can organize are sent to the central committee. Each application is assessed on its own merits and if they fulfil the requirements, NKF-N will support them with a small grant. Support can only cover costs relating to travel and accommodation for invited speakers/teachers, or the rental of venues. So far, NKF-N received three proposals for seminars, two of which were given a grant. The cleaning seminar with Paolo Cremonesi in Oslo was a great success where so many volunteered that they had to switch to a larger venue. A three-day course on digital x-radiography for conservators in May 2014 also received funding. Dr. Sonia O'Connor and Tom Sparrow from the University of Bradford held the course at the Museum of Archaeology in Stavanger. The Board is pleased that NKF-N has the ability to support such events and looks forward to receiving more applications. To facilitate the application process, guidelines and application forms can now be found on the website.



From the course on digital radiography held at the Museum of Archaeology, Stavanger in May 2014.

The NKF-N central committee has also supported regional groups that have organized their own meetings. The central committee furthermore organized two meetings in Oslo in 2013, the first in the spring at the Vigeland museum on outdoor sculpture, and the other a Christmas meeting at NIKU (Norwegian institute for cultural heritage research) discussing crisis, insurance and salvage assessment. Both were very successful with over 40 participants. Other events in 2013 where NKF has participated include the continuing education course in Gothenburg on the topic of "Media and Cultural Policy", October 17 2013. In this event, NKF leaders from the different Scandinavian countries presented the situation in their country.

The Norwegian Arts Council's decision to cease funding the Norwegian network for storage and conservation has been a source of major discussion in 2013. Thus, a working group was set up by NKF-n to formulate a response. The group submitted its report in June 2014. On the basis of this, the NKF-n central committee concluded that it wants to support some form of academic network, since there is a great need for building capacity in Norwegian conservation. MiST, a regional museum organisation based in Trondelag, organized the mapping of needs, and a member of NKF-n central committee took part in this work. The majority of those answering this enquiry were in favour of establishing a network.

In 2013, the job situation for conservators in Norway, especially those recently qualified, was raised by a number of members as a major concern. The situation, especially for those who are entering the profession, has become more difficult as fewer jobs are available. Although conservators in Norway are not struggling as much as in some other countries, NKF-N has observed that many paintings conservation students graduating from Oslo University, Norway's only graduate course, remain unemployed. NKF-n continues to monitor the situation and where possible support the profession.

The last thing to mention in this report is the central committee's hard work in recent years to organize and ensure good retention of NKF-N's archive. To achieve this we have held three work-group weekends, during which the records and papers generated by NKF-N from its inception have been sorted and entered into an archive system. To sort through years of correspondence covering topics such as salary and status of conservators in museums has been fascinating and confirms that it is a rich source of our intellectual history. This has been demanding work and the central committee wishes to thank those who volunteered and spent several weekends on this project.

Jeremy Hutchings and Hege Hollund 17<sup>th</sup> of February 2015