

POHJOISMAISEN KONSERVAATTORILIITON SUOMEN OSASTO ry



NORDISKA KONSERVATORFÖRBUNDETS FINLÄNDSKA SEKTION rf

NORDIC ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATORS FINNISH SECTION

ANNUAL REPORT 2017

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 2017, the Finnish Section of the Nordic Association had 281 members. This comprised 170 full members, of which 13 are retired conservators and 4 are honorary members. The Association also had 95 student members, 11 subsidiary members and 5 community support members.

The Board of the Association met 7 times in 2016, including one meeting by email. The Chairman of the Board was Jaana Kataja and the Vice Chairman of the Board was Mari Saari. The board members comprised Liisa Helle-Wlodarczyk, Mari Lenck, Arja Koskinen, Anna Rajainmaa, Satu Haapakoski and Stina Björklund. The Secretary for the Association was Kaisa Kantanen, the Membership Secretaries were Taru Mäkitalo and Polina Semenova, and the Treasurer was Emmi Heinonen.

General Meetings and training days

In 2017, two General Meetings took place: the spring meeting in Helsinki on the 31st March and the autumn meeting in Vantaa on the 3rd November. There were 26 members present at the spring meeting and 36 at the autumn meeting.

The spring training day was held on the 20th and 21st of April in Jyväskylä in collaboration with the Jyväskylä University and their seminar 'Is the museum world ready for KonMari thinking?' The autumn training day took place on the same day as the autumn meeting and at the premises of the Collection and Conservation Center of the Finnish Heritage Agency. The Staff gave presentations about the move of the collections and about their work in the newly opened facilities in the Collection and Conservation Center.

Information / Publicity

The principal and only official channel of information for the Association is the magazine *Konservaattoriliiton lehti*, which was published two times in 2017 (Issues 128-129). The paper has a print run of 300 copies and the working group responsible for the magazine consists of Anna Rajainmaa, Erika

Tiainen, Stina Björklund, Susanna Belinskij and Elviira Heikkilä. This working group is jointly responsible for the editing, layout and other issues relating to the distribution of the magazine. *Konservaattoriliiton lehti* was also published online on the Associations web site. 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.

In conjunction with the Nordic Association of Conservators other sections, the Association co-publishes the magazine *MOK (Meddelelser om konservering)* once a year. This is a scholarly magazine focusing on the field of conservation with some peer-reviewed articles. The Finnish delegate for the magazine was Tina Lindgren. The Association, with other Nordic conservation associations, shares the Nordic Association of Conservators' website (www.nordiskkonserveratorforbund.org). The magazine *MOK* was also published online at this web address.

The Association has a website (www.konservaattoriliitto.fi) which contains information about conservation and the Nordic Association of Conservators. The site also includes contact information of 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 its renewal began in 2017. The Association has its own Facebook page, as well as Twitter and Instagram accounts.

Another important means of communication and discussion related to professional issues is the conservators' email list (konservaattorit@lists.oulu.fi), 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 information channel for the Association, because not all members are on the list and the list contains many non-members.

The Association also 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 took place on the 20th November 2017 in Copenhagen, Denmark. The meeting focused on the activities of member states during the previous year, the economy of the Federal council, the upcoming training days and congresses and the future of *MOK* Magazine. The Chairman of the Federal Council represented the Association in this meeting.

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 2017 was Mari Lenck.

The Association is a member of 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 process of standardisation, makes comments on proposals and determines the translation of 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 2017 was the address of the Finnish Museums Association, but our personnel is 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 Collection and Conservation Center of the Finnish Heritage Agency.

Other activities

The Association participates on the Advisory Board of the Metropolia University of Applied Science conservation studies program. The purpose of the Association's presence on the Advisory Board is to monitor the level of education, as well as bring education and working life closer to each other.

In 2017, the Association awarded two stipends to of its members for conservation studies.

The Association supports the activities of working groups from different fields of conservation. The working groups are independent and can apply for grants from the Association for different kinds of activities. For example, the working group of the textile conservators met at the Tampere Museums Collection Center. The theme for the day was textiles in need of rescue in museum collections. The working group for the textile conservators (TEKO) has its own email address (tekons@googlegroups.com), as does the working group for paper conservators (paperikonservaattorit@googlegroups.com). A new working group AHA (Asbesti ja haitta-aine –työryhmä) concentrating on asbestos and other contaminants began having meetings in 2017.

The Association took part in the Antique Fair together with the Metropolia University of Applied Science. The Chairman of The Association Jaana Kataja gave presentations on the conservation of home valuables. The touring exhibition celebrating the Associations 50th anniversary in 2013 was also shown at the Fair.

Economy

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

In 2017, the financial statements reported that the Association was operating at a surplus of 5125 euros. The 2017 membership fees were 50 euros for full and subsidiary membership and 42 euros for student membership. The fee for community supporter membership was 125 euros.

The memberships paid by the Association include 250 euros to EuNo, 386 euros to the Federal Council of the Nordic Association of Conservators, 1178 euros to E.C.C.O. and 900 euros to CEN. The costs for the production of MOK (*Meddelelser om konservering*) were 2764 euros.

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