

**POHJOISMAISEN KONSERVAATTORILIITON SUOMEN OSASTO ry**



**NORDISKA KONSERVATORFÖRBUNDET - FINLAND RF**

**NORDIC ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATORS – FINLAND**

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2019**

The Nordic Association of Conservators Finnish Section ra (NKF Finland) was founded in 1963 and is a member organization of the Nordic Association of Conservators (NKF). The cooperative body that oversees NKF is the Federation Council, which consists of the Council's chairman and the chairman of each organization that is a member. NKF has about 1200 members in the Nordic countries.

The Nordic Association of Conservators Finnish Section functions as a link between conservators and Finland's cultural heritage sector. The association monitors training in the field, promotes conservation activities and the professional qualifications of its practitioners. The association seeks to monitor the social benefits of the profession and regulate the use of the conservator title.

According to a decision made by the Finnish Ministry of Education, the title Bachelor of Arts (conservation) – Konservattori AMK in Finnish – is protected. The term 'conservator', on the other hand, is task related and can be used without limitation, thus enabling untrained individuals to potentially interfere with culturally important objects or sites. The aim of clarifying this situation is one that NKF Finland shares with the European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers (E.C.C.O.), which is also concerned with resolving the matter at the European level. NKF Finland is a full member of E.C.C.O.

### **Membership**

At the close of 2019, NKF Finland had 298 members, of which 170 were full members. The membership consisted of 155 regular members, 97 student members, 12 retired members, 3 honorary members, 11 associate members, and 5 community support members.

In 2019, the association's Board of Directors held 7 meetings, 2 of which were email meetings. Anni Tuominen was Chairman of the Board and Mari Saari its Vice Chairman. Other Board members were Stina Björklund, John Gayer, Katri Lahti, Mari Lenck, Katariina Ruska-Jauhijärvi and Erika Tiainen. The Chairman of the Board chaired all the board meetings. Liisi Hakala served as the Board's Secretary, Riina Uosukainen as the Membership Secretary and Emmi Heinonen as the association's Treasurer.

Oy Soinio & Clo and Päivi Allinniemi audited the association's 2019 accounts.

### **Annual meetings and training days**

The association held two regular meetings and one extraordinary meeting. The association's spring meeting was held in Helsinki at the Design Museum on 26 April 2019. For those attending the meeting, the opportunity of taking a guided tour of the museum was also available. The autumn meeting was held in connection with the training days that were held at Suomenlinna in Helsinki.

The extraordinary meeting, at which the association's delayed financial statements were approved, occurred at Central Library Oodi in Helsinki 27 August 2019.

The training days took place in the Tenalji von Fersen banquet hall at the fortress of Suomenlinna, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, 21-22 November 2019. The training days' theme was Endangered Cultural Heritage Sites. The event was carried out in cooperation with the Governing Body of Suomenlinna. Attendance amounted to 108 people. The program comprised 11 presentations. A site visit was also included as part of it.

## Information

The association's most important and only official means of distributing information is *Konservaattori*, the association's journal. In 2019, issue numbers 132 and 133 were published; 300 copies of each were printed. The journal's working group comprised Heidi Alanen, Susanna Belinskij, Aura Colliander, Elviira Heikkilä, Ilona Osara, Saara-Maija Pesonen, Anniina Hatakka and Elina Wirkkala. The working group is responsible for the journal's editorial content, design and other's aspects related to the publication. The publication can be accessed on the association's website. In addition to being distributed to the association's members, complementary copies of the publication are also forwarded to the association's partners.

NKF Finland, together with the other members of the Nordic Association of Conservation publish NKF's journal *MoK* (Meddelelser om Konservering) once a year. This science-based journal features peer-reviewed articles. Tina Lindgren is NKF Finland's contact person for the journal. *MoK* is published electronically at [www.nordiskkonservatorforbund.org/](http://www.nordiskkonservatorforbund.org/). Due to a lack of contributions, *MoK* was not published in 2019.

Details about the association and its activities is available from the association's website [www.konservaattoriliitto.fi](http://www.konservaattoriliitto.fi). It also includes a list of those members who provide conservation services along with their contact information. The members' pages of the website allow members to keep their contact details up to date and assists the association in the distribution of information about its activities. The members register is maintained by Yhdistysavain (Association Key), a web service. Invoices for the membership fee are sent by email.

The association's Facebook page, administered by the association's board members, serves as another channel of information. The association also maintains Instagram and Twitter accounts.

The conservators' mailing list [konservaattorit@lists oulu.fi](mailto:konservaattorit@lists oulu.fi), moderated by Jari Heinonen, serves as unofficial information channel that serves conservators who are and are not members of the association. It is an excellent channel for discussing matters related to the profession.

The Nordic Association of Conservators also hosts a common website for its five sections [www.nordiskkonservatorforbund.org](http://www.nordiskkonservatorforbund.org).

## International activities

The annual meeting of NKF's Federal Council was held in Copenhagen, Denmark on 2 November 2019. NKF Finland was represented by Chairman Tuominen. Topics addressed at the meeting included the activities of the member sections during the previous year, the Federal Council's finances, future training events and conferences, as well as the future of *MoK*, NKF's journal.

NKF is the Nordic IIC group of The International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC). IIC was founded in 1950 and is based in London. Tiina Sonninen, IIC Council Member, is NKF Finland's IIC contact person.

NKF Finland is a full member of the European Confederation of Conservator-Restorers' Organizations (E.C.C.O.). E.C.C.O. currently consists of 22 full and 3 associate member organizations. It aims to develop the conservation profession at the European level. NKF Finland and its members are committed to adhering to the E.C.C.O. Code of Professional Conduct. The E.C.C.O. General Assembly was held in Zagreb on April 1, 2019. John Gayer, the association's E.C.C.O. representative, attended the meeting.

NKF Finland is a member of Europa Nostra (EuNo). EuNo is the European cultural heritage NGO that aims to protect Europe's cultural heritage and provide a strong network for debate. The organization presents annual awards for the best projects in the protection of cultural heritage, promotes conservation policies and high standards in cultural heritage protection activities, and strives to campaign against all threats to sensitive buildings, sites and landscapes. Katariina Ruuska-Jauhijärvi is NKF Finland's EuNo contact person.

NKF Finland is a member of the CEN / TC 346 Monitoring Group. In Finland, the SR 216 Monitoring Group for the Preservation of Cultural Heritage acts as the national expert body for standardization in its field. The remit of the monitoring group is the same as that of CEN / TC 346, the only European standardization committee responsible for preparing standards for the preservation of cultural heritage. The standards it develops concern renovations, conservation, lighting, energy efficiency, packaging and transportation, preservation of collections, indoor and outdoor climate measurement and conservation processes. Riitta Koskivirta represents NKF Finland in the national monitoring group.

## **Office**

The association has no physical premises. Facilities are rented on an as-needed basis. The association has a post office box.

## **Other activities**

NKF Finland is a member of the Advisory Board for Metropolia University of Applied Sciences' Conservation Program. The board monitors the standard of education and seeks to bring education and working life closer together.

NKF Finland offers a grant to support members' participation at conferences or a workshop. In 2019 one member was awarded a grant to attend a conference.

The association supports working groups active in different areas of conservation. The working groups operate and plan their events independently. It is possible for them to receive a grant for their projects. The Asbestos and Harmful Substance (AHA) Working Group is active. Riina Uosukainen is this working group's representative.

In the autumn of 2019, NKF Finland together with Finland's Union of Academic Museum Employees prepared a joint statement titled "The professional title indicates the special expertise in a particular field." The statement addresses the widespread practice of recruiting people for positions in which the required level of education and skills do not relate to what is indicated by the job title. This statement was published on NKF Finland's website, emailed to its members and forwarded to recruitment personnel in relation to two different types of situations. In one, the conservator's abilities were below what was indicated by the job title, and in the others, it concerned employees who were working under the title of Conservator, but lacked the requisite conservation education/training.

## **Financial Summary for 2019**

In 2019, the Ministry of Education and Culture awarded the association a general grant of EUR 10 000 for annual activities.

NKF Finland's financial statements registered a surplus of EUR 6 344. The 2019 membership fees were EUR 50 for full and associate members, EUR 42 for student members and EUR 125 for community support members.

Although NKF Finland's accounts are on a stable footing and balanced, the association's financial situation is entirely dependent on the grant awarded by the Finnish Ministry of Education and Culture.

Approved by the association's Board of Directors 4 March 2020.