

Issue 53, April 2016

International Criminal Court's first cultural destruction trial



Sankore Mosque, Timbuktu

THE HAGUE - The International Criminal Court (ICC) has opened the first trial for destruction of cultural monuments against Ahmad al-Faqi al-Mahdi, a jihadi leader accused of destroying ancient monuments in Timbuktu.

The man is accused of demolishing ancient monuments that formed part of the UNESCO World Heritage site including mediaeval shrines, tombs and a mosque dating back to the 15th century.

'Early bird' registrations open for IIC Los Angeles Congress –

Go to page 26 for details on how to register!

The Antiquities Coalition: Combating #CultureUnderThreat

Deborah Lehr and the role of the Antiquities Coalition on the fight against cultural crimes. Article on pages 8-12

Helping heritage to survive –

NiC's interview with Dominica D'Arcangelo about her work at *Heritage Without Borders*. Full feature from page 13

Protecting heritage in times of armed conflict

Peter Stone on the challenges of preventing damage to heritage in times of war. Read article from page 18

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The decision to prosecute is an important one for the ICC as the last high profile trial dates back to the Balkan war when warlords were charged for the destruction that took place in Dubrovnik, damage to the ancient bridge at Mostar and the National Library in Sarajevo.

The ICC is governed by the Rome Statute and is the first permanent, treaty-based, international criminal court established to help end impunity for the perpetrators of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community. It is an independent international organisation, and is not part of the United Nations system. Its seat is at The Hague in the Netherlands. Although the Court's expenses are funded primarily by member states, it also receives voluntary contributions from governments, international organisations, individuals, corporations and other entities. The United States, Russia and most Middle Eastern countries are not member of the ICC.

It is notoriously hard for the ICC to prosecute individual or groups in conjunction with cultural destruction crimes as demonstrated by the lack of action against



Reconstruction of the Ben Essayouti Library, Timbuktu

the perpetrators of acts such as the demolition of the Bamiyan Buddhas in Afghanistan, or more recently the destruction of Palmyra in Syria and Nineveh in Iraq.

Timbuktu became a target for jihadi militia in 2012 when an Al-Qaeda inspired rebellion headed by the Ansar Dine group resulted in the destruction and looting of ancient sites considered blasphemous. Ahmad al-Faqi al-Mahdi is accused of destroying ancient mud-brick buildings and the desecration of the Sidi Yahya Mosque containing the Sidi Yahya's - the Mosque first Imam - mausoleum. During the rebellion 4,000 ancient manuscripts were also lost, stolen or destroyed ([News in Conservation, Issue 34 February 2013](#)) until Ansar Dine was finally pushed out of Timbuktu with the intervention of French forces. In September 2015 Faqi was captured in Niger and sent to the Netherlands to stand trial.

Ahmad al-Faqi al-Mahdi is the first member of an Islamist armed group to appear before the court and also the first person to be put on trial by the ICC in relation to the Mali conflict.

A UNESCO-led team has already rebuilt many of the mausoleums that were destroyed in Timbuktu during the conflict.

News in Conservation is published by
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Conservation of Historic and Artistic
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ISSN 1995-2635

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Deadlines for next issue
(June 2016)

Editorial: 1 May 2016

Advertising: 15 May 2016

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Editorial

Welcome to *NiC*'s second thematic issue on the destruction and trafficking of cultural heritage.

Last year, prompted by the incessant delivering of news about the situation in the Middle East that dominated the media and the public opinion, we felt that it was our duty to open up a discussion about cultural heritage. A year on, and unfortunately the bad news has kept coming, leaving me in no doubts that a second issue on the theme of cultural heritage in danger was needed.

This issue looks at the theme of heritage in times of conflict from a different angle, exploring aspects such as trafficking, looting and the markets that these activities fuel.

The first contribution comes from Deborah Lehr, founder of **The Antiquities Coalition**, a non-profit organisation working with governments across the Middle East to fight against antiquities trafficking and its use in funding terrorism and organised crime.

Following on, *NiC* interviewed Dominica D'Arcangelo from **Heritage Without Borders** to get an update on their activities in post-conflict countries.

Peter Stone, UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace at Newcastle University talks about the challenges of preventing damage to cultural properties in conflict zone.

I hope you will agree that the work that these organisations and these people do is inspiring and needs to be showcased, shared and celebrated and hopefully this issue of *NiC* will represent a little contribution to doing just that.

Barbara Borghese
Editor

“Trafficking Culture” is now an international research consortium



©Carlos Yo CC BY-SA 4.0 via Wikimedia Commons

A sculpture from Placeres, now at the Museo Nacional de Antropología in Mexico

GLASGOW - *Trafficking Culture* is an international research consortium that produces evidence-based research into the contemporary global trade in looted cultural objects.

Initially established as a four-year academic research venture, the Trafficking Culture Project is funded by the European Research Council and has now been made into a permanent project. During its first four years of activities Trafficking Culture made significant progresses in understanding global antiquities trafficking, producing foundational evidence-based research not just for the academy, but for policy makers and other stakeholders.

Progressing further, Trafficking Culture is now an international research consortium with researchers based at various institutions throughout the UK and in New Zealand. Project members will be working together on research projects, publications including a forthcoming co-authored book, and the website where information and updates about the work will be regularly posted.

The project is now offering a free online course on *Antiquities Trafficking and Art Crime*; the course will allow participants to explore the important issues involved in this research area and discuss the topic with course leaders and other students.

For further information about Trafficking Culture and for a list of their current projects visit the website at:

<http://traffickingculture.org/projects/>



News in Brief...

UNESCO and Italy create task force to protect cultural heritage in conflict areas

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The Iraq National Museum

ROME - Italy and UNESCO have agreed to the creation of an Italian-led task force for the protection of cultural sites and ancient artefacts in areas of war or conflict around the world. The task force will have a dedicated training centre for cultural heritage experts which will be located in Turin.

Italy first proposed the agreement in October 2015 receiving the backing of 53 countries and the UN Security Council. The Task Force's main goal will be to assess the risks and quantify the damage to cultural heritage in crisis areas, devise action plans, perform technical supervision, provide training courses for local staff, assist with the transport of movable objects to safe shelters and strengthen the fight against looting and the illegal traffic in

cultural artifacts. The new agreement also establishes the *International Training and Research Centre on the Economics of Culture and World Heritage*, a specialised centre that will be based in Turin, where experts in the cultural-heritage-protection sector will be able to receive training. "Terrorists want to erase diversity and pluralism," Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni said at the opening ceremony, noting how this is especially the case in crisis areas. The task force will operate as a 'cultural version' of the Blue Helmets, the UN's peacekeeping forces. It will be initially composed of police detectives specialising in art theft, archaeologists, art restorers and historians.

Dario Franceschini, the Italian Minister of Culture was present at the ceremony to sign the agreement. Irina Bokova, UNESCO's Director-General said: "The establishment of a Task Force bringing together cultural heritage experts and the Italian Carabinieri Police force specialising in the fight against the illicit trafficking in cultural property will enhance our capacity to respond to future emergencies".

One main difference with the Blue Helmets is that the task force will not take part in any military operation focusing instead on the prevention of art trafficking and repairing the damage caused by crises and natural disasters.

France returns looted antiquities to China

PARIS - The Musee Guimet has discreetly returned four solid gold antiquities that were received as donation by billionaire luxury tycoon François Pinault. The objects were looted from China and bought by unaware Pinault which personally handed over the four 2,000-year old solid gold birds of prey heads to the Chinese embassy in Paris.

Mr Pinault, the owner of luxury groups Gucci and Saint Laurent among others, had donated the 7th century BC items to the Paris museum in 2000 but it later transpired they were looted in 1992 from the tomb of a noble of the Zhou dynasty in Gansu province.

The gold sculptures, said to be worth €1 million (£710,000), were not easy to repatriate as, according to French law, gifts to museum are considered irrevocable. In this case the French authorities "retroactively annulled" the gifts and returned them to the donors.

Chinese authorities had requested the return of the artifacts 10 years ago to no avail, but continued to discreetly demand their restitution via diplomatic channels.



A visitor photographs objects recently returned from France at the Gansu Provincial Museum

© Photo/Xinhua

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Training Workshop on illicit trafficking of cultural objects

HA NOI – The Vietnam National History Museum hosted a workshop in December 2015 providing guidance for the ratification of the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing Illicit Import Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property and the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects and highlighting actions to combat illicit trafficking in cultural property in Southeast Asia.



Bayon, Angkor, Cambodia

In recent years, the social-economic growth of the region and the rapid expansion of the art market, in particular through the internet, have created a high demand for cultural objects thereby increasing the danger of illegal trafficking of cultural artifacts originating from countries that do not have suitable measures in place.

The workshop was addressed to cultural officers, customs officers, police forces and museum professionals from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines and Vietnam.

The objectives of the workshop were:

- working towards the ratification of international instruments, especially the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import and the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects;
- providing technical assistance for the development of effective national legislation to protect movable cultural heritage;
- strengthening local mechanisms to protect cultural heritage sites from being looted, in particular at the levels of police and customs;
- building capacity in inventory-making and in the use of operational tools;
- raising awareness about restitution procedures;
- creating national and sub-regional networks of stakeholders involved in the protection of cultural heritage; and
- strengthening current regional outreach and education campaigns.

Trainers taking part in delivering the workshop included representatives from the UNESCO 1970 Convention, the 1995 UNIDROIT Convention, INTERPOL, UNODC, and French customs (DNRED) as well as from the UNESCO Offices in Ha Noi, Bangkok and Jakarta. The workshop was organised thanks to generous support by the Government of the Netherlands.

FATF publishes report on ISIS financing

PARIS - The Financial Action Task Force (FATF) has recently published a report focusing on the financial resources exploited by ISIS to fund its operations, highlighting how cultural heritage trafficking is one of the lucrative sources for the terrorist group.

FATF is an independent inter-governmental body that develops and promotes policies to protect the global financial system against money laundering, terrorist financing and the financing of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The FATF Recommendations are recognised as the global anti-money laundering (AML) and counter-terrorist financing (CFT) standard. For more information about the FATF, please visit the website: www.fatf-gafi.org

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Change in law to crack down on looting in Israel

JERUSALEM – A final ruling of the Israeli Supreme Court upheld new regulations and legislation instigated by the Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA), aimed at revolutionising the protection of Israel's cultural and historical treasures in the face of plundering and illicit antiquities trading.

Israel is known for its archaeological wealth and its rich resources have attracted interest from the booming antiquities trade industry, and, unfortunately, its illicit 'dark side'.

Amir Ganor, Head of the Unit for the Prevention of Antiquities Robbery at the IAA said: "Israel is among the few "provenance" countries in the world that is rich in archaeological artifacts and that legally allows a trade in antiquities; antiquities are the historical and cultural property of the people and the country; they belong to the nation and the public. The value of these artifacts lies in the message they bring from the past and their great importance to the historical and cultural research of all mankind, rather than as a vehicle for making money and personal gain by a handful of interested antique dealers".

According to IAA estimates, every year thousands of ancient objects are robbed and looted from archaeological sites around Israel and find their way to the local and international antiquities markets illegally.

The new regulations, along with increased enforcement, will make it difficult for antiquities dealers to add items, that did not originally have legal provenance, to their commercial inventory and gain export licences.



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Ashkelon National Park, site of repeated looting

Jordan's archaeological sites revealed from the air



© APAAME via Wikimedia Commons CC BY-NC-ND 2.0

Jarash Macellum

AMMAN – The Aerial Photographic Archive for Archaeology in the Middle East (APAAME) is a long-term research project directed based between the University of Western Australia and Oxford University. Since 1997, the APAAME team, have been photographing Jordan's archaeological sites using military helicopters. The resulting archive contains over 91,000 images the majority of which are displayed on the archive's [Flickr](#) site.

The images were collected for research and documentary purposes and include a collection of historic aerial photographs dating to the first half of the 20th century. These images preserve important records of Middle Eastern archaeological sites and whole landscapes now dramatically altered.

The records include locations such as the coastal city of Aqaba and the iconic architecture of the ancient city of Petra, often indicating recent damage and destruction.

The changes to Jordan's landscape and archaeological damage can be seen in a number of images, sometimes highlighting the work of looters operating in archaeological sites. Images show that Early Bronze Age cemeteries, for example, are dotted with pits revealing site looting.

To learn more about the work of APAAME visit: <http://www.apaame.org/>

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#Unite4Heritage launches in Qatar

DOHA - #Unite4Heritage is a global movement backed by UNESCO that aims to celebrate and safeguard cultural heritage and diversity around the world. Launched in response to the unprecedented recent attacks on heritage, the campaign calls on everyone to stand up against extremism and radicalization by celebrating the places, objects and cultural traditions that make the world such a rich and vibrant place.

Qatar is the latest nation to get on board, with the launch of the initiative in cooperation with the Ministry of Culture and Sports and the Qatar Museums.

The opening ceremony took place at Barzan Tower, one of Qatar's heritage sites, with welcome addresses by Mr Francesco Bandarin, Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO, HE Dr. Hamad bin Abdulaziz Al-Kuwari, former Minister of Culture, Arts, and Heritage and Mr Ali Jassim Al Kubaisi Chief Archaeology Officer at Qatar Museums.

The campaign will last for three months, and various activities including workshops, exhibitions, lectures and talks, and field trips on cultural heritage in Qatar will be organised by different partners that are contributing to the project. Institutions taking part include: the Museum of Islamic Art, the Qatar National Library, University College London Qatar, the Musheireb Museums and the Qatar Tourism Authority.

To learn more about #Unite4Heritage visit: <http://www.unite4heritage.org/>



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INTERPOL meeting on Stolen Cultural Property takes place in France

LYON - The 13th Meeting of the INTERPOL Expert Group on Stolen Cultural Property took place in March at the INTERPOL Headquarters in Lyon, with 30 participants from USA, Europe and Middle East representatives from Lebanon and Syria.

The focal point of the meeting was dedicated to the current situation in Syria and Iraq and to the transit and destination routes used for trafficking. Issues discussed centred on the need to find ways to restrict the financing of organised crime and terrorism from the Middle East. The UNESCO Resolution 2199 of 2015 on the illicit funding of terrorist groups and the current status of work in its implementation were also discussed.

Among the participants was Prof. Dr. Maamoun Abdulkarim, Director-General of Antiquities and Museums in Syria. He talked about the current situation in his country, highlighting the fact that during the past five years illegal excavations and theft of cultural artifacts have increased, and the profile of looters and smugglers has changed. The situation deteriorated further with the arrival of ISIS and their well-known campaign of destruction and looting of archaeological sites as a means of financing their activities. He also argued that the International community has a duty to help target looting by adopting the UN Resolution 2199 of 2015 and the need for neighbouring countries to control borders to prevent the smuggling of Syrian cultural property.



Interior - Temple of Bel

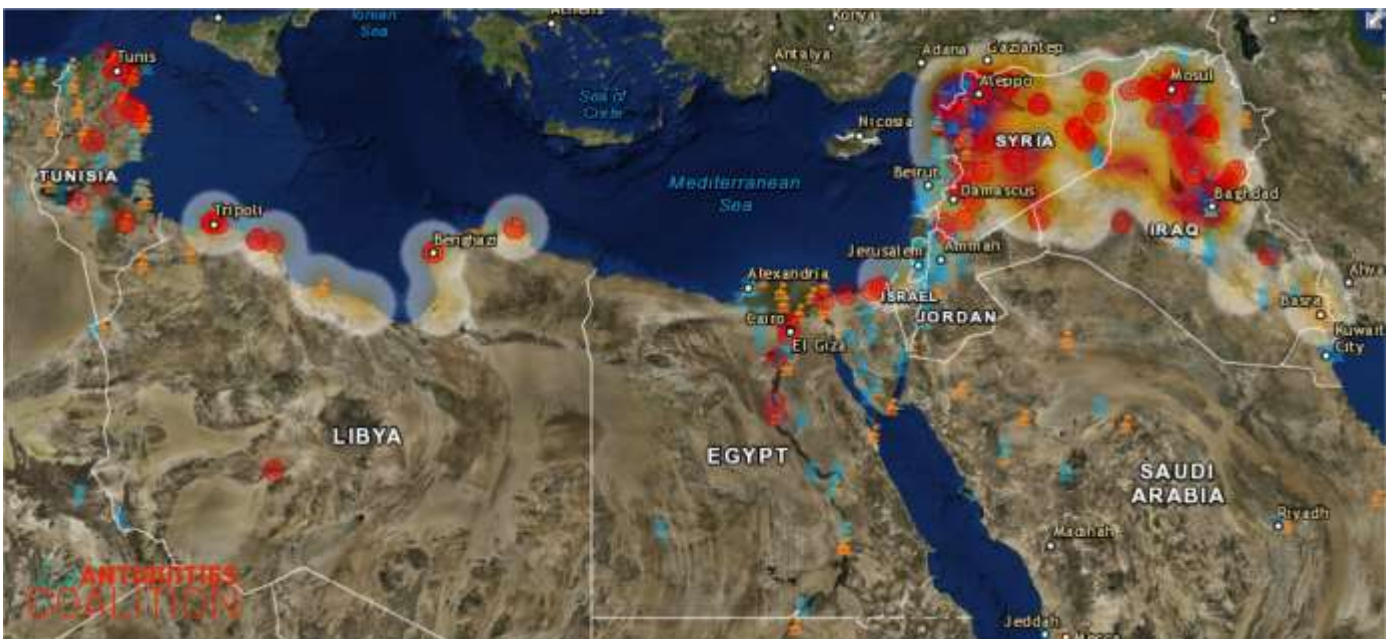
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The Antiquities Coalition: Combatting #CultureUnderThreat

By Deborah Lehr,
Chair and Founder, The Antiquities Coalition

Since the breakdown in civil society that resulted from the Arab Spring, and with the rise of violent extremism, the world is facing the most significant and systematic destruction and looting of heritage in the modern era. The illicit trade in cultural goods is a multifaceted issue, cutting across national security, finances and economics, international law and heritage and conservation.



To combat this state of affairs, the world needs innovative solutions that bridge the gaps between these perspectives. We at the Antiquities Coalition aim to act as a binding force between diverse communities involved in the fight against crimes of culture, bringing together leaders and their expertise to drive informed, actionable, and collaborative solutions.

Since our founding in 2013, we have worked with public and private sector groups across the globe to empower communities and countries in crisis, expand the international community's understanding of patterns of cultural looting, and develop solutions to protect culture under threat. We believe that the fight against cultural crimes must be fought on several fronts. Our team deploys five primary tools: convening, collaboration, on-the-ground capacity building, technology-based information campaigns, and solutions-oriented research.



The Antiquities Coalition, the Middle East Institute and Ministers from ten Arab League states convene in Cairo for the #CultureUnderThreat Cairo Conference May 13-14, 2015.

Collaboration between regional governments has been critical in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) in order to create the necessary political will in this fight. We have convened government officials beyond just the antiquities or culture ministries to foster diplomatic cooperation and international dialogue to help individuals, organisations, and nations collaborate, strategise, and reach consensus during times of crisis. The first convening of these regional governments took place May 13-14, 2015 at the #CultureUnderThreat Cairo Conference, which was co-sponsored by the Antiquities Coalition, the Middle East Institute, the Arab Republic of Egypt and the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Ministers from ten MENA nations gathered in Cairo over two days and announced an action plan in the fight against culture under threat.

That action plan, the Cairo Declaration, was the first communiqué of its kind in historic preservation. It commits the ten signatory countries to specific actions that will help protect and preserve their heritage, as well as raise awareness globally about the plight of conflict antiquities. The Cairo Declaration also called for the formation of a task force of regional leaders to address heritage threats. The MENA task force will convene for its first meeting in the summer of 2016 for working group sessions on active solutions at the second annual regional #CultureUnderThreat Conference. The 2016 conference will be expanded to include all members of the Arab League, and will again convene at the Ministerial level to ensure that the political will remains strong in this fight.

On September 24, 2015, the Antiquities Coalition organized a U.S.-based #CultureUnderThreat Forum in New York that brought together Foreign Ministers, former heads of state, Ambassadors, and senior government officials from around the world with leaders of arts institutions, archaeological associations, and experts in terrorism to address the looting and trafficking of antiquities, and halt a major source of funding for terrorism. Convened by the Asia Society, the Antiquities Coalition, UNESCO, and the Middle East Institute, the forum produced a "Call to Action" for the international community to join forces in a strategic effort to halt the trade in conflict antiquities and, in doing so, cut off potential sources of terrorist revenue. One of the outcomes of the New York Forum was the formation of the #CultureUnderThreat Task Force.

Capacity building: combatting cultural crimes on the ground

To stop the looting and destruction of cultural heritage at the source, communities and countries need a strong base of knowledge and tools to safeguard their cultural heritage and enforce rule of law. Given thin financial resources and ongoing threats to security, many governments in countries in conflict do not have sufficient capacity to protect their heritage. There are many excellent organisations and experts doing good work in this field, such as Amr Al Azm and Michael Danti with American Schools of Oriental Research (ASOR) Cultural Heritage Initiatives, and Katharyn Hanson with the University of Pennsylvania Cultural Heritage Center.

Convening and collaboration: fostering cross-border dialogue in the Middle East

The fight against looting and cultural crimes impacts stakeholders from the public and private sectors in countries across the world. Yet, the expertise and contributions of these actors too often remains isolated.

Our organisation unites a wide range of experts including archaeologists, business leaders, criminologists, lawyers, and specialists in money laundering, security, and terrorist financing and then connects them with key decision makers in the public and private sectors. We give these diverse groups a chance to learn from one another and help develop innovative solutions for safeguarding cultural heritage.

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We try to address this gap by facilitating collaboration between experts, non-governmental organisations and governments to build on-the-ground capacity to drive solutions that combat looting.

One of the most effective ways to build capacity is through public-private partnerships. In March 2014, we finalized unprecedented public-private partnership between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the International Coalition to Protect Egyptian Antiquities (ICPEA) to support the Egyptian government's efforts in the fight against cultural racketeering in Egypt. This public-private partnership is the first ever undertaken by the Egyptian Ministry of State for Antiquities. It is the strongest effort yet to focus the power and ingenuity of academic, business, and cultural leaders and provides a vehicle for sharing best practices, resources, and information to fight cultural racketeering in Egypt. The partnership established a range of capacity-building measures, including the establishment of cultural property inventories, greater physical site protection, and small business initiatives for economic development.

One of the outcomes of this partnership was the announcement of the design and implementation of a museum registrar training programme so that Ministry staff can equip the next generation of Egyptians with the tools to secure their nation's ancient cultural legacy, to be completed in partnership with American

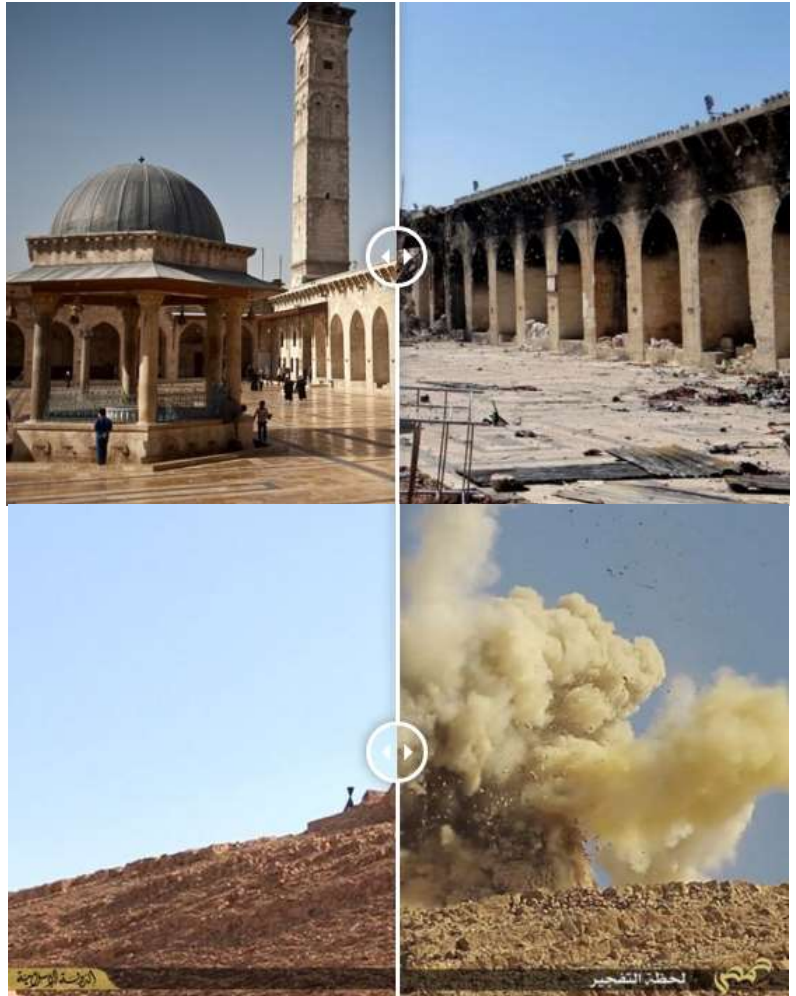
Research Centers in Egypt (ARCE) and Egypt's Ministry of Antiquities. The partnership also calls for the creation of inventories, registries, and other databases, which serve as critical tools for safeguarding cultural objects; a complete catalogue of a country's artifacts is a prerequisite for protecting them.

Databases can help collections immediately identify what is missing and put the authorities and market on the lookout. For example, in May 2015, U.S. Special Forces in Syria found a cache of Iraqi artifacts that had been stolen from the Mosul Museum. Experts were able to trace them back to the Museum using their registration numbers and return them safely to Iraq. Databases also ensure that illegal artifacts can be identified even once stolen and sold. The U.S. government stopped the auction of a 17th century Flemish tapestry in 2014 after it was revealed to be on INTERPOL's "Most Wanted Works of Art" list. Similarly, databases help customs officials track, identify, and repatriate stolen objects.

This initiative will be critical for combatting the illicit trade in antiquities at acquisition sites, borders, and points of sale, as well as for repatriation efforts and legal prosecutions against traffickers.

Technology-Based Information Campaigns: Building Awareness

Tools for visually understanding the often complicated issues of the illicit antiquities trade and threats to cultural heritage serve as a vital resource in disseminating information. The Antiquities Coalition reaches outside of the heritage sector to co-ordinate with counterterrorism organisations, policy groups and heritage experts to develop visuals resources on the trade as a means of raising awareness about cultural racketeering.



Before and after the destruction

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In January 2016, the Antiquities Coalition published the #CultureUnderThreat Map to illustrate the widespread destruction of heritage in relation to known hot spots of terrorist' holdings on a regional basis. The interactive map currently shows nearly 700 heritage sites throughout the 22 states of the Arab League, which can be filtered by type (areas under threat or control of militant groups; cultural heritage sites that have been attacked, targeted, or destroyed; museums and locations of UNESCO World Heritage sites). It reveals at least 240 heritage sites that have been deliberately targeted or destroyed by Daesh and other terrorist groups. These sites include artifacts from the ancient, Graeco-Roman, Islamic, and modern periods alike.

Infographics have also served as an important visual resource in the effort to raise awareness on the breadth of culture under threat and the criminal groups that can be funded by cultural racketeering. In 2015 the Antiquities Coalition partnered with counter-terrorism expert Malcolm Nance and the Terror Asymmetries Project (TAPSTRI) to illustrate the vast amount of weaponry that \$1 million (£710,000) in looted antiquities could fund. With the value of antiquities from the MENA region ranging from thousands to millions of dollars, the potential funding for violent extremists or a terror group like Daesh is insurmountable.

We have also gathered a series of images to pay tribute to cultural heritage lost to conflict and crime in the Middle East and North Africa since the 2011 Arab Spring. By illustrating the region's iconic monuments and sites then and now — before, during, and after this period of turmoil, terrorism, and outright war — we hope to convey the enormity of the ongoing crisis.

Solutions-oriented research

Cultural racketeering is a multi-billion dollar industry that funds organised crime, armed conflict, and terrorism. Post-revolution looting in Egypt contributed to more than \$3 billion (£2.1 billion) in losses by 2014 according to research conducted by TED-Prize winner and satellite expert Dr. Sarah Parcak. Her satellite analysis, confirmed by on-the-ground surveys at select sites, found that illicit digging at previously known archaeological sites had increased 500-1000% since the January 2011 revolution. But when compared to similar transnational crimes — from arms running, to drug smuggling, or even the illicit wildlife trade — there is much we still do not know. The Antiquities Coalition is working with leading experts, including the University of Chicago, to better quantify and qualify the illicit trade in cultural goods, in order to develop efficient, effective, and informed solutions for safeguarding our shared cultural heritage.

Culture in Conflict: Where can ISIS get \$1 Million?

TERROR GROUPS SUCH AS ISIS AND THE AL NUSRA FRONT ARE FUNDING THEIR MARCH OF DESTRUCTION THROUGH THE LOOTING AND TRAFFICKING OF ANTIQUITIES

ANTIQUITIES SPANNING 10,000 YEARS OF HISTORY ARE AT RISK FROM THIS CULTURAL RACKETEERING

ONE OF THESE MASTERPIECES FROM THE CRADLE OF CIVILIZATION CAN BRING AS MUCH AS \$1 Million ON THE INTERNATIONAL ANTIQUITIES MARKET

What ISIS can buy with \$1 Million

\$1,000,000 CAN FUND THOUSANDS OF ILLICIT WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION FOR TERRORIST GROUPS IN SYRIA AND IRAQ.

11,667 AK-47s and **2.5 million** Bullets

OR

1,250 Rocket Launchers and **5,000** Rockets

#COMBATLOOTING

*March 2015 weapons pricing data provided by Terror Asymmetries Project on Strategy, Tactics and Radical Ideologies, Madison NY
*Antiquities pictured are images from the ICOM Emergency Red List of Syrian Antiquities and Red List of Iraqi Antiquities
*Terror groups may only receive a portion of the final end value of an auctioned artifact

ANTIQUITIES COALITION

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We released one of our most extensive efforts — a case study tracing looting in Egypt — in January 2016 conducted by Antiquities Coalition’s chief of staff Katie Paul. The data used in this study was sourced from social or traditional media reports from activists, reporters, government sources, and archaeological experts.

Breaking down the individual reports of looting and trafficking into demographic data, site classifications, and illicit activities taxonomies on a month-by-month basis from 2011 to 2015 revealed clear and recurring patterns of heritage crime in the country. Studies of cyclical threats to cultural activity are critical for countries like Egypt that face the challenge of too many cultural crimes and too few resources to track and fight them. A better understanding of the typical patterns of attacks allows governments to anticipate looting and other cultures crimes based on instances of conflict and crisis in the country, helping them to calibrate their response in the most effective and resource-efficient way possible.

We are currently working to apply and expand our research on patterns of heritage crime to other countries facing rapidly expanding cultural criminal activity and limited government resources. For example, our executive director Tess Davis is currently conducting a historical case study of illicit antiquities trafficking during the Cambodian Civil War, in the hopes of identifying patterns of heritage destruction that may have implications for other armed conflicts.

Following our ministerial summit in New York on September 24, the Antiquities Coalition and its forum partners launched the #CultureUnderThreat Task Force to develop and drive U.S.-focused solutions to cultural cleansing and racketeering during armed conflict. We are now working with a diverse group of experts — including leaders from the worlds of heritage, business, law, policy, security, and technology — on this initiative. The task force report will be published in April 2016.

The Bottom Line

Cultural crimes not only impact the heritage and conservation communities; they ravage the governments of source countries, contribute to the plight of communities in conflict areas, and threaten the very foundation of international security and peace.

Given the wide-ranging and devastating effects of campaigns of cultural racketeering and cleansing, international groups such as ours need to promote collaboration between involved parties from a range of backgrounds. There are no easy solutions to this crisis, but the stronger and more united our international response is, the more effective it will be.



Deborah M. Lehr is an accomplished global business strategist who has supported leading global firms and organisations to grow their presence in the world’s most complex markets. Deborah has applied her business acumen and policy knowledge to launch the Antiquities Coalition, a non-profit organisation based in Washington, DC, USA that works with governments across the Middle East to fight against antiquities trafficking and its use in funding terrorism and organized crime.



Heritage Without Borders – Helping heritage to survive.



NiC's interview with Dominica D'Arcangelo

In June 2014 NiC introduced the work of Heritage without Borders (HWB) with an article on the work the organisation was carrying out in Kosovo ([News in Conservation, Issue 43, 2014](#)). Since then NiC has continued to follow the work of HWB closely and is pleased to include, as part of this special issue, an interview with Dominica D'Arcangelo, Co-founder, Co-director and Trustee of the organisation.



NiC - Can you give us an overview of your organisation's structure?

Dominica D'Arcangelo - Heritage Without Borders is a UK registered charity. It has a Board of Trustees who ensure that it is accountable and being run in order to achieve our aims and objectives. I operate as the Chief Executive Officer. My responsibilities include fundraising, project managing our international work and strategically developing the charity. Fortunately, we do not have many overheads. The Institute of Archaeology, University College London provides us with an office space. All of our international work is executed by highly motivated volunteers. This ensures that our project budgets are spent as much as possible directly on projects and not on costly administrative overheads.

NiC - Dominica, on HWB website you list an impressive array of projects you have so far completed; can you take us through the process of selecting these locations?

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Dominica D’Arcangelo - We do have a very exciting list of past projects in wonderful locations. Primarily our concerns for selecting a project are dependent on the local partners rather than location itself. The success of our projects relies heavily on collaboration and partnership working. We endeavour to make a real difference in the places that we work, and to do this we need to be confident that the local support is reliable. HWB does not dictate what ‘help and support people need, rather we respond to need by formulating a team with the most appropriate expertise. Fundamentally we work with people who want to work with us and our volunteers in a mutually beneficial way.

NiC - What are the main challenges when dealing with areas that have been affected by conflict?

Dominica D’Arcangelo - HWB can mobilise highly-skilled volunteers with the right, positive attitude to international work. We do not see ourselves as the ‘experts,’ but as collaborators in the field. When meeting people in places where conflict may have had a relatively recent impact, we are on a very steep learning curve. In general, HWB and our UK volunteers are a privileged bunch who have not been directly involved in wars or conflict in our lifetime. Our volunteers’ main challenge is to be active in their own listening and learning and to use their skills to collaborate with colleagues to help solve real problems that they face with regards to interpreting and accessing their cultural heritage.

As well as anticipating our volunteers’ challenges like language barriers and dealing with sensitive issues, I like to also ask myself and my volunteers the flip sides of your question: ‘What are the main challenges that our colleagues find when they work with UK volunteers?’ What can we contribute? How can we contribute efficiently and have the broadest impact? I openly acknowledge that the benefits of international working are mutual and 2-way. We get back as much as we give, if not more! Sometimes, our most valuable contribution is to give people the confidence to act on what they think is right.

NiC - Are some of the areas you have worked in considered dangerous?

Dominica D’Arcangelo - We are not able to work in locations and regions that are insecure. We have a duty of care towards our volunteers and we are not equipped to give the right level of training required when people work in zones which are in active conflict. Our international partners tend to have local knowledge that goes a long way to keeping our volunteers safe and secure. However, contexts *can* be unpredictable. During a project in Mitrovica, Kosovo in 2013, a bomb did go off in the city. Fortunately, no one was harmed.

NiC - What is HWB’s position with regard to the situation in the Middle East?

Dominica D’Arcangelo - We try to remain as neutral as possible with regards to politics. However, we do feel strongly about access to heritage being a human right. The destruction of heritage sites and objects is a tragedy for all humankind. Personally, I do strongly believe that the security of individuals is far more important than the security of artefacts or heritage objects. Furthermore, we all know that the context in the Middle East is not homogeneous.

I do know, from our experience of working with Middle East and North African curators to help broaden their public engagement skills, that collaborating closely with future leaders and those actually delivering programmes is an exciting privilege. The opportunity to engage in professional cultural exchanges delivers mutual understanding and improves the museum profession across continents. In our case, we found that fostering project participants (both from the UK and the Middle East/North Africa) resulted in continued collaboration and has ensured a legacy which follows on from an initial collaboration. Not only have our volunteers and project participants made new life-long friendships, but they have continued to build their skills and networks professionally as well.

NiC - Do you think there will be a time when HWB will be able to carry out projects in Syria or Libya? Is there any such plan on the horizon?

Dominica D’Arcangelo - There are absolutely no such plans on the horizon. We are not able to plan strategically very far into the future because of how our funding currently works. Also, we do not run rescue operations. This is not to say that we never will, but at the present time, we are running projects that train people to prevent long-term damage to collections. We are also doing a lot of work focusing on engagement with audiences – tasks such as interpretation and targeting specific audiences.

That said, the UK’s Government’s recently announced Cultural Protection Fund may help to facilitate organisations who aim to operate on ‘the front line’.

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NiC - How well do you think international organisations are working in preventing illicit activities associated with the destruction of cultural heritage (trafficking, illegal digging)?

Dominica D’Arcangelo - Destruction of cultural heritage is a complex matter presenting significant challenges to those working in that field. I do not feel fully qualified to comment on other organisations doing this work. But I can say that destruction of cultural heritage, such as trafficking and illegal digging, are symptoms of wider inequalities and social issues. No one can expect that the wider problems can be successfully tackled in a ‘vacuum,’ ignoring the root causes. The political and social decisions that we make every day has broad impact globally.

Our HWB volunteers gain immense personal and professional insight when they work with us internationally. They have transformational experiences that demonstrate first-hand how fragile yet powerful cultural heritage can be. Our volunteers and project participants change as a result of their interaction with HWB; they have new ways of seeing their place in a wider network of cultural heritage professionals.

NiC - Does HWB actively collaborate with other international organisations?

Dominica D’Arcangelo - We absolutely do and it is a critical part of our work. We have collaborated with The British Council and their various regional offices, University College London, London and University College London, Qatar. We have worked with other successful non-governmental organisations like Cultural Heritage Without Borders. We are always looking for partners with a similar approach to international work.

Spotlights on a HWB current project

Albania has a wealth of cultural assets, and most of them are of outstanding value in the Balkan region. However, many artifacts in Albania are in urgent need of preservation, restoration and management through the use of appropriate techniques and materials.

In response to such a situation, HWB has partnered with Cultural Heritage Without Borders in Albania (<http://chwb.org/albania/>) and the Ethnographic Museum in Gjirokastra to initiate a project that aims to build capacity in textile conservation. There is also an interpretation dimension to the programme to help develop a well-rounded range of practical skills.

Albania has a rich heritage of textiles and traditional costumes. Many of these collections are at risk due to complex issues such as their problematic environment, a lack of resources and understanding of how to prevent damage.

With a generous grant from The Headley Trust and The Clothworkers, HWB has worked for two years in the Ethnographic Museum in the UNESCO world heritage site of Gjirokastra, Albania.

In 2016, HWB will continue to build regional skills in textile conservation in Albania through work at the Ethnographic Museum in Kruja.

In 2015, three HWB volunteers worked with 11 participants from Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina. There were six museum professionals, comprising curators, ethnologists and conservators and five students at the end of a Masters Programme in Heritage Management from Tirana University.



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The two images on the left show a storage room before an intervention of re-organisation and after work had terminated. Its condition are greatly improved

The workshop delivered two strands of training: **textile conservation and museum interpretation**. Both were delivered in the same format, a combination of presentations and interactive sessions with demonstrations. Practical sessions and group projects followed to consolidate the learning and experience.

Practically, the volunteers lead a primary school session on site, which helped to demonstrate ways of engaging new audiences. Also, the display and storage conditions of the fragile textile collection was brought up to a higher standard.



Large scale cleaning of display objects in the museum.



Cleaning metal objects in the museum

HWB finds it difficult to quantify its impact, but the work we do aims to generate significant and mutually beneficial results. Through highly practical work on site in the Ethnographic Museum in Gjirokastra, for example, we have achieved the following:

- Made visible improvements to the Ethnographic Museum's Collection on display and in long-term storage conditions.
- The next generation of heritage professionals gained an insight into textile conservation and the importance of object conservation.
- Produced brochures for both adult tourists and to engage school children.
- Helped create a new network of museum professionals and post-graduate students from Albania, Kosovo, Serbia, Macedonia and Bosnia & Herzegovina who would not have met without this project.

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Learning and practicing stitching techniques

Heritage Without Borders could not carry out its projects without the willingness of highly skilled volunteers donating their time. We rely entirely on grants and donations to do our work.

If you are interested in learning more about HWB and would like to become a supporter visit:

<http://www.heritagewithoutborders.org/>



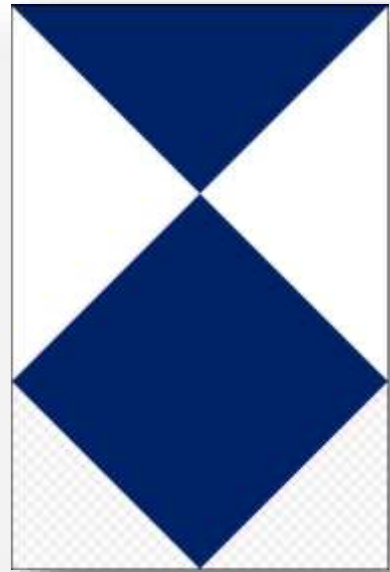
Dominica D'Arcangelo graduated with First Class Honours in archaeological conservation from UCL's Institute of Archaeology in 2006. She co-founded Heritage Without Borders in 2009 because of a passion for peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and international capacity building. Since then she has been responsible for the day-to-day administration of the charity; for project-managing international workshops; and organising international professional skills exchanges. She has worked on heritage sites in Turkey, Jordan, Greece and Bosnia & Herzegovina. Dominica has managed projects across the Middle East, South East Europe and Central Asia.

All Images in this article are used courtesy of Heritage Without Borders



The challenge of protecting heritage in times of armed conflict

by Peter G Stone



Peter Stone first presented the talk “The challenge of protecting heritage in times of conflict” in London as part of the IIC Annual General Meeting that took place in January 2016. The following is an article based on that talk.

While, undoubtedly, the major causes globally of destruction of cultural property/heritage are urban expansion, increase in land under cultivation, and the development of agricultural-related technologies, it is inevitable that armed conflict will have a detrimental impact on cultural property (i.e. tangible entities such as sites, buildings and moveable artefacts including books, archives, and art) and the wider cultural heritage (i.e. intangible heritage such as song, dance, and oral traditions remembered and ‘carried’ by individuals and communities). In war-torn places things get damaged and destroyed; non-combatants get killed. Most accept this as unfortunate but inevitable consequences of conflict. However, at least some of this destruction could be mitigated if the heritage community took appropriate action before conflict begins. This is not to condone any particular conflict; but to accept that conflict is going to take place and to acknowledge a responsibility to aspire to limit its impact on cultural property/heritage.

Following the large-scale destruction of the Second World War the international community developed the 1954 ‘Hague Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict’ which, with its Protocols of 1954 and 1999, remains the primary piece of international humanitarian law concerning the need for cultural property protection during conflict (CPP). CPP was returned to sharp focus during the 2003 invasion of Iraq when the loss of globally important cultural property was widespread.

In 2003 neither the USA nor the UK had ratified the Hague Convention. Partly as the result of pressure from the newly (2006) created USA National Committee of the Blue Shield (see below), the USA ratified the Convention, but neither Protocol, in 2009. At the time of writing the UK has still failed to ratify the Convention or its Protocols but claims to plan to do so in the next session of Parliament.

We study the past, to understand the present, to create the future. Simplistically, cultural property provides the stage for, and tangible evidence of, the wider cultural heritage; without cultural property it becomes significantly more difficult to conserve cultural heritage. Without the tangible evidence of the past - cultural property - the relationship between past, present, and future becomes increasingly difficult to sustain; when cultural property is lost, it is impossible to replace: just as an individual without a memory is a dysfunctional individual so a community



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In this US Department of State photo, a military tank is shown at the entrance of the National Museum of Iraq

or society without a memory – its cultural heritage - can become dysfunctional. Much of this cultural heritage is ‘held within’ cultural property. This is, of course, not to say that the memory encapsulated within cultural property is always a positive influence for good: the function, importance, interpretation, and uses of cultural property are frequently contested, and are not infrequently problematic. Nevertheless cultural property/heritage can be key factors in political, social, and economic post-conflict stabilisation and reconciliation, with the potential to foster intercultural dialogue, and frequently providing a stable base for economic development through

tourism. While many organisations, for example UNESCO, make significant contributions to this work, this article focusses on the activities of the Blue Shield.

THE BLUE SHIELD

The Hague Convention identifies a Blue Shield as the emblem to identify property under its protection. The 1999 2nd Protocol established a 12 member Inter-governmental Committee to oversee its implementation and identified the Blue Shield, founded in anticipation of the 2nd Protocol in 1996, as an advisory body. The Blue Shield was created by the joint action of the International Council of Archives (ICA), the International Council of Museums (ICOM), the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), and the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA). Given the focus of these organisations, the Blue Shield reflects the tangible, object-based approach enshrined within the Convention. Since 1999 a number of national committees of the Blue Shield have been created with various degrees of activity and success.

The Blue Shield is referred to frequently as the ‘cultural equivalent’ of the Red Cross. There are, however, three key differences: First, the Red Cross has had some 150 years to establish a world-wide reputation; the Blue Shield celebrates its 20th birthday this year and is virtually unknown.

Second, the Red Cross has a multi-million pound budget; save for a time-limited, short-term, subvention for an office from the municipality of The Hague, the Blue Shield has no income at all except for limited travel funding for the author provided by Newcastle University in the UK.

Third, the Red Cross has a paid staff of some 12,000 people in 80 countries; the Blue Shield has no paid staff. It is worth stressing that, despite some suggestions to the contrary, colleagues working with Blue Shield completely, and without reservation, acknowledge and accept that CPP must come second to the Red Cross’ remit to help people. Finally, as the military and associated organisations are the primary actors in conflict, post-conflict, and environmental disaster the Blue Shield tries to work across all of these areas.

Much of the Blue Shield’s work has concentrated on encouraging the military to work more effectively regarding CPP and it promotes the ‘Four Tier’ approach that outlines when cultural heritage professionals should be working with the military and other emergency organisations: long-term; immediately pre-deployment; during conflict; and during post-conflict stabilisation. CPP is never going to be a primary priority for the military but over the last decade numerous Armed Forces have begun to understand that CPP is a clear military responsibility, and a legitimate activity, and that it can help them in their work.

Cultural property is damaged during conflict for at least seven reasons:

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[1] protection of cultural property is not included in pre-conflict planning;
 [2] it is regarded as legitimate 'spoils of war';
 [3] it becomes collateral damage;
 [4] through lack of military awareness;
 [5] through looting;
 [6] through enforced neglect (i.e. routine maintenance stops); and
 [7] as the result of specific targeting.

While perhaps the Blue Shield can do little about the last two of these at least with respect to [7], under the 2nd Protocol and under the Rome Statute, intentional damage and destruction is now a criminal act. However, the first five could, and should, be mitigated through a closer relationship between cultural property/heritage professionals and those groups most involved in conflict (politicians, the military and other emergency agencies, organisations, and NGOs) and through a better understanding by communities of the multifaceted value of the cultural property all around them. The Blue Shield has concentrated on these issues by: promoting its policies such as the Four Tier Approach; organising training courses for the military, customs, police etc.; liaising with the military to promote a better understanding of the need for CPP; providing lists of cultural property that should not be destroyed unless military necessity dictates for countries in conflict; carrying out during/post conflict assessment missions; and producing publications and exhibitions aimed at academic and general public audiences.



Iraqi Col. Ali Sabah, commander of the Basra Emergency Battalion, displays ancient artifacts Iraqi Security Forces discovered during two raids in northern Basra in 2008

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Our work is slowly making a difference. Many national committees carry out regular training for their own military. Other training has been done internationally – e.g. for the Cambodia, Lebanese, and New Zealand military, and for the UN forces in Lebanon. Following the publication of an article on the 'Four Tier Approach' in the *British Army Review*, a CPP working Group was set-up in 2014 and the British Army is on the verge of establishing a specialised unit with a CPP capability to be used whenever and wherever British forces are deployed overseas. After many years working with the NATO affiliated Civilian/Military Centre of Excellence (CCoE) the CCoE published in 2015 a 78 page booklet aimed at officers entitled *Cultural Property Protection Makes Sense* (freely available at: <http://www.cimic-coe.org/products/conceptual-design/downloads/ccoe-publications/makes-sense-series/>). UNESCO has commissioned us to produce generic training materials for the military and the right to cultural heritage is being prioritised by the new UN Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights.

The military are also active. In Europe in 2010 the Leadership Centre (Zentrum Innere Führung) of the German Bundeswehr organised the first of what has become an annual conference called 'Coping with Culture'. The annual meetings (so far held in Germany, the Netherlands, Poland, Austria, and Denmark) have predominantly brought together members of the armed forces of between 10 and 15 European countries, with a smattering of

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cultural experts, to discuss a wide range of cultural issues facing the military – including CPP. The fourth conference, held in Austria in October 2014, had a particular focus on cultural property protection and was run in cooperation with the Blue Shield. In the UK a symposium ‘Culture in Conflict’, primarily attracting military staff and associated experts, has been held annually for eight years and has begun to address cultural property protection on a regular. All of these, and other conferences, help to raise the profile and understanding of the importance of CPP within the military.

Cultural heritage experts are certainly never going to stop war, or even the destruction of cultural property/heritage during conflict; but if we work to influence, train, and provide support to the military we may be able to mitigate the extent of the damage.

Further reading

Stone P G, (forthcoming) 2016 ‘The challenge of protecting heritage in times of armed conflict’, *Museums International*,

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Stone, P G, 2005 ‘The identification and protection of cultural heritage during the Iraq conflict: a peculiarly English tale’. *Antiquity* 79: 933–43

Peter G Stone OBE, is UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property Protection and Peace at Newcastle University. Until recently, he was Head of School of Arts and Culture at Newcastle University (having been appointed in 1997) and before that appointed as Director of the International Centre for Cultural and Heritage Studies (ICCHS) in the School of Arts and Cultures in 2001. He teaches and researches in heritage management, interpretation and education. Between 1998 and 2008 he was Honorary Chief Executive Officer of the World Archaeological Congress. In 2003 he was archaeological advisor to the UK Ministry of Defence prior to the invasion of Iraq and is currently involved in research into the practicalities and ethics of cultural heritage experts working with the military. Peter was awarded an OBE in the 2011 Queen's Birthday Honours List for services to heritage education.



Archaeological Heritage in Palestine: the combat against looting

By Hamdan Taha

This paper was originally published in 'This Week in Palestine. Issue no. 184: 20-21, 2013' and is re-published here with the author Hamdan Taha's kind permission

Palestine represents a severe case of systematic plunder of archaeological sites, illicit trade and cultural properties. The relationship between illicit trade and systematic looting of archaeological sites in Palestine is well established. The current political situation under prolonged occupation and siege encourages the looting, destruction and illicit trafficking of Palestinian cultural heritage.

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Archaeological excavations at Mount Gerizim

In his fourteenth-century *Muqaddimah*, an introduction to his volumes on world history, the Arab philosopher and historian Ibn Khaldun wrote that treasure hunting is not a natural way to make a living and described the treasure seekers as 'ill-minded'. The phenomenon of tomb robbers was known in antiquity, and it was so widespread that it was taxed as an industry in the Mameluke period. This situation began to change in the course of the nineteenth century with the evolution of archaeology from treasure hunting to a scientific discipline.

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Palestine represents a severe case of systematic plunder of archaeological sites and illicit trade of cultural properties. The relationship between illicit trade and systematic looting of archaeological sites in occupied Palestine is well established. The current political situation, under prolonged occupation and siege, enables looting, destruction, and illicit trade of Palestinian cultural heritage. A thriving market in Israel is fed with looted objects from Palestine.

The re-establishment of the Palestinian Department of Antiquities in 1994 marks the beginning of a new Palestinian role in the protection of cultural heritage, which is viewed as an integral part of human heritage. But in the absence of a final agreement, Israel remains the military occupant in Palestine, and consequently bound by international law, especially the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

Palestinian law forbids the looting of archaeological sites. At the same time there is a growing Palestinian interest in cultural heritage and its role in nation building, since cultural heritage represents the history and the identity of the people, and is an important element for sustainable development. The Palestinian Department of Antiquities recognises the role of education and public awareness in confronting looting and the illicit trafficking of cultural properties in Palestine and the region.

Since 1967, it is estimated that more than ten thousand archaeological sites have been plundered, most of them ancient tombs that date to the Bronze Age, the Iron Age, and the Roman-Byzantine periods. Robbing archaeological sites in Palestine has been facilitated by modern technology, which has a more destructive effect, causing irreparable damage. Bulldozers and metal detectors are widely used. This phenomenon has reached an extremely dangerous level, putting archaeologists at risk of being left only with contaminated debris and demolished sites in the near future. Hundreds of archaeological sites have been looted and plundered, and there has been an active illegal trade in cultural properties. Many sites have been abandoned and left without any protection. Most importantly, there is a lack of public awareness of the significance of cultural heritage due to the heavy impact of political and ideological claims placed on archaeology by the Israeli settlement policy. Official Israeli policy stimulates the looting of archaeological sites and the illegal trade of antiquities in Palestine. The years of occupation have witnessed a great escalation in the volume of trade and damage caused to archaeological sites. The occupied Palestinian territory has turned into one of the most looted spots in the world. Hundreds of people are engaged in these illegal activities. It is now evident that illicit trade has a negative impact on the country's cultural resources, which are regarded as an important element in the socio-economic development of the country. This phenomenon, which brings some monetary benefits to a few at the expense of the public interest, can be countered by careful education – of children as well as adults – showing that antiquities form a significant, integral part of the history and main resources of the country. At the same time, education can lead to the recognition that looting and illicit trade can be prevented through legal and administrative measures.

Archaeological artefacts have their value as a part of an assemblage, and they lose their value when taken out of context without scientific control.

The new transformation in the role of archaeology evokes a chain of positive reactions within Palestinian society. The Department of Antiquities is seeking ways to ensure the protection of cultural properties against looting and illicit trade through legal means in co-operation with the tourist police, and also through promoting a modern understanding of cultural heritage, in close co-operation with the local community.

Dr Hamdan Taha is former Deputy Minister for Heritage, (2012-2014), and from 1994 to 2012 served as the Director General of the newly established Department of Antiquities in Palestine. He directed a series of excavations and restoration projects and co-directed the joint expeditions at Tell es-Sulatn, Khirbet Bal'ama, Tell el-Mafjar, Kh. El-Mafjar and Tell Balata. He worked also as a national co-ordinator of the World Heritage Programme in Palestine. He is the author of many books, field reports and scholarly articles. He is now an independent researcher.



Reviews

‘Enhancing Culture for Sustainable Development’ (CoMoCoSEE), Istanbul 25-26 February 2016

Within the framework of the Turkish Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe (CoMoCoSEE), Istanbul hosted the second Ministerial Conference on ‘Enhancing Culture for Sustainable Development’ on 24-25 February 2016. The following text has been made available by UNESCO and the full version can be seen [here](#).



Further enhancement of the regional cooperation in the field of culture and development was discussed and joint actions outlined to advance the implementation of the “Ohrid Regional Strategy for Cultural Cooperation in South-East Europe”.

Participants included ministers and heads of delegations of Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Greece, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Turkey. Italy and UNESCO also participated as observers.

In harmony with the Ohrid Regional Strategy for Culture approved in June 2014 at the previous meeting of the CoMoCoSEE, the Ministers of Culture of South-East Europe reaffirmed their commitment to further enhance

regional and bilateral cooperation on culture, creativity and cultural heritage as a driving force for dialogue, good neighbourship, social cohesion and integration of the region - in the spirit of mutual respect and peaceful and sustainable development for the benefit of all. The ministers expressed gratitude to the European Union (EU), UNESCO and the Council of Europe (CoE) for their continuous support and valuable contribution to the endeavours of the CoMoCoSEE.

The declaration adopted unanimously on 25 February 2016 establishes that the CoMoCoSEE Member States agree to work towards the reinforcement of co-ordination at all levels between the cultural and other sectorial policies, including tourism, that are relevant to the enhancement and promotion of the role of culture for

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development.

The overall objective is to create greater synergies and to develop an integrated approach towards the sustainable management and valorisation of culture as a driver for inclusive and equitable growth.

The improvement and implementation of statistical tools to assess and monitor the impact of culture for development shall be supported with the aim of further mainstreaming culture in development programmes, policies and strategies at all levels.

The CoMoCoSEE Member States shall reinforce cooperation and develop a co-ordinated approach to support the fight against illicit trafficking of cultural property, from

and through the region, in full compliance with the relevant international standards and resolutions.

The CoMoCoSEE Member States shall step up efforts to make best use of all relevant regional, cross-border and/or transnational EU financing programmes, and avail themselves, whenever possible and appropriate, of cooperation with UNESCO, the CoE and the EU. As a shared priority for future action, the CoMoCoSEE Member States support the idea of exploring the possibility to develop sub-regional activities on the fight against the illicit trafficking of cultural property, as well as on the sustainable valorisation of cultural and natural heritage, in co-operation with UNESCO.

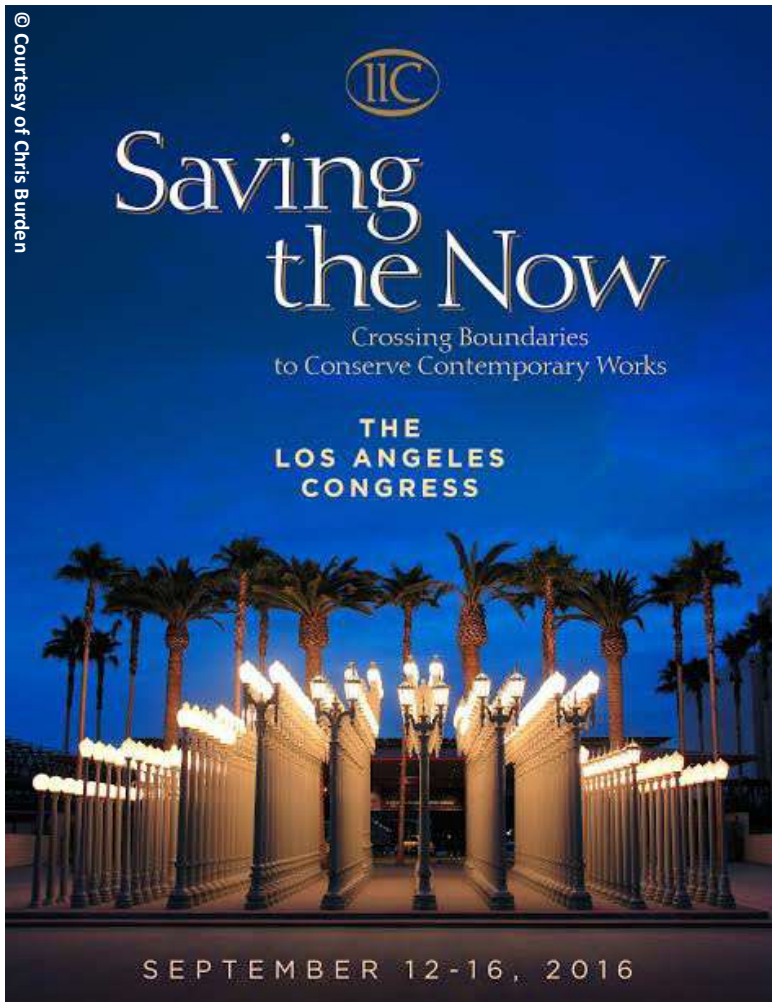


Topkapi Palace Istanbul

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IIC News



Early bird registration now open for the IIC 2016 Los Angeles Congress!

IIC is delighted to present the 26th biennial IIC Congress to be in Los Angeles, organised in collaboration with INCCA. Blessed with an energetic contemporary arts scene, it is entirely appropriate that Los Angeles is the location for the 2016 IIC Congress, on this diverse, complex, challenging and endlessly exciting area of creativity, energy and imagination. Reflecting one aspect of the rich and varied history of the city's architectural styles, the congress will be held at the historic Millennium Biltmore Hotel, situated in the centre of the vibrant cultural district.

Outline format

- Technical programme: 12th to 16th September (Monday to Friday)
- Tours in and around Los Angeles: 15th September (Thursday afternoon)

An exciting programme of social events is planned including two evening receptions in downtown Los Angeles and a spectacular Grand Event on Wednesday evening at the cutting-

edge and world famous Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA).

There will be a poster display, including the very popular student poster section, and a trade fair with leading suppliers and service providers in the field.

While parallel meetings will be held for members of the IIC Fellowship, representatives of IIC Regional Groups, student participants and grant recipients during the Congress week, there will also be the chance to meet the trade fair participants and sponsors at sponsored events throughout the week. The language of the congress and the Congress printed publications is English.

What registration brings you

The registration fee covers attendance throughout the event, including buffet breakfast and morning and afternoon refreshments every day of the technical programme, attendance at the both evening receptions and the printed Congress Preprints. There will be an additional fee for the Congress Grand Event on Thursday Dinner and for Guests and Partners as well as participation in Thursday's tours to experience the cultural scenes of Los Angeles. There will be day tickets available for each day of the Congress and special 'partner' tickets if registered participants wish to bring partners to the breakfasts and evening receptions. The registration fee is discounted for current members of IIC; consider joining IIC now, to save that money and get all the other benefits of membership straight away.

Register now!

You can register at the IIC web-site: www.iiconservation.org . We look forward to seeing you there!



IIC's first international training programme launched



One of the most important legacies of the IIC's 2014 Hong Kong Congress — the launch of IIC International Training Centre for Conservation (IIC-ITCC) - has demonstrated the long-term commitment of IIC to disseminate specialist knowledge and best practices in the heritage conservation field by building a global platform reaching across geographical and cultural boundaries.

The ground-breaking idea of establishing an overseas training institute of IIC in partnership with the Palace Museum of Beijing was first put forward by the Museum's Director, Dr Jixiang Shan, who presented the Forbes Prize Lecture at the 2014 Hong Kong Congress. Dr Shan's determination to foster exchange and advancement for the conservation profession at an international level dovetailed with IIC's wish to create a meaningful legacy for the Congress. It is hoped that, by linking the conservation expertise from IIC's global network to the Museum's wealth of cultural treasures and resources, the IIC - ITCC would serve as a collaborative platform focusing on the delivery of annual training programmes based on the missions and shared values of both organisations. An outline

agreement was quickly drawn up and signed between the two parties during the week of the Congress, laying down the foundations to allow the development of IIC-ITCC from an outline idea into a fully-functioning entity.

After a year of planning and preparation, the initiative came to fruition on 20 September 2015 when the first IIC-ITCC course was officially inaugurated at the Palace Museum and commenced its first week-long programme that went on until 25 September. The inaugural course, entitled "Scientific Approaches to Preventive Conservation", hosted 20 participants from different institutions across mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, India, Egypt, Qatar, Canada, Barbados and Mexico. Led by a team of nine distinguished lecturers from IIC and Palace Museum, they attended both theoretical and practical sessions, a number of group exercises and self-presentation sessions. The diversity of the participants' backgrounds and experience provided an engaging environment in which they could learn from one another's museum and cultural backgrounds and their differing approaches to familiar problems.

This first IIC-ITCC happened to coincide with the 90th anniversary of the Palace Museum this year, and we were privileged to be joined by the Conservation Department of the Palace Museum who hosted us for a morning of tours around their conservation studios and laboratories and an afternoon in their major exhibitions. We also had, on the same day, a session dedicated to condition assessments in various locations within the Palace, such as the

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Qianlong Garden. Participants in small groups were assigned specific tasks with guiding questions and the results of these were a fruitful analysis and exchange of views in an informal atmosphere, made just before the session concluded.

At this point we must convey our heartfelt thanks to the conservation and curatorial staff of the Palace Museum (whom we understand were already deeply committed to other special programmes as well as IIC-ITCC!). A great deal of preparation and logistics went into the smooth delivery of such a vibrant, interesting and rewarding programme; their hospitality is definitely one of the most memorable parts of our Beijing experience.

The staff of IIC-ITCC are already hard at work planning for the next course to be offered in November 2016. With a theme of “Non-destructive analysis”, a topic of profound interest to our colleagues across the world, it has been agreed that the 2016 programme will recruit 20-25 conservation practitioners, half of them from museums in China and the other half from other countries. Global perspectives will continue to be a regular feature of the training programmes that explore how different museums approach their conservation needs and challenges. While the IIC-

ITCC Academic Committee is at the stage of identifying the teaching approach for the next programme, we are thrilled to learn that the construction of a new Conservation Centre at the Palace Museum is now underway; with ample resources and improved machinery, and that its launch will no doubt contribute to an even better supporting resource for future IIC-ITCC workshops. In addition, more areas of the Museum will be opened for public viewing in the coming years, giving us yet stronger reasons to revisit Beijing!

All the course material, including a teaching video, will be made available for download to all who may be interested via the IIC website. In the meantime, IIC will focus on the impact and sustainability of the programme with a view to promulgating the spirit and missions of IIC, not only to our network of colleagues built up on this platform, but also to the wider conservation community in China, Asia-Pacific and beyond.



For information about the IIC International Training Centre and its workshops, please write to iicitcc@126.com or cpcliu@lcsd.gov.hk.

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IIC Membership fees for 2016 – 2017

Rates held for third successive year!

The levels of IIC Membership fees for each membership year are determined by the running costs of IIC and in reviewing this matter for the 2016–2017 membership year Council has decided that membership fees will be held at the same level as for the current year (2015 – 2016) – these rates had already been held over from the 2014 – 2015 membership year.

The figures for the membership year 2016 – 2017 have thus been agreed by IIC Council as follows:

Institutional £360

Fellow £100

Individual £70

Student £25

Reminders will be sent out to all members in May, and if you wish to join IIC please contact the IIC Office at: membershiop@iiconservation.org



Why wait? Become part of the IIC's community now!

Will you join us? Will you lend your talent, your experience, and your creativity to our shared cause? Those who have will tell you that a deep sense of satisfaction awaits you as a member of the oldest and most established conservation organisations in the world.

Our support of you depends upon your support of us. Become a member, be part of the international community that is IIC - and enjoy the benefits too!

To join go to <https://www.iiconservation.org/about/membership>

What's on + NiC's List

Call for papers

EuroMed 2016: International Conference on Cultural Heritage

31 October, 5 November, 2016
 Deadline: Monday, 2 May, 2016
 Cyprus
 For more information see:
<http://www.euromed2016.eu/>

Art & Archaeology 2016 Conference

11-14 December, 2016
 Deadline: Thursday, 30 June, 2016
 Jerusalem
 For further information visit:
<http://www.isas.co.il/art-archeology2016/>

16th Conservator - Restorers Professional Meeting in Slovenia - Call for Posters

Wednesday, 11 May, 2016
 Ljubljana, Slovenia
 For more information on submissions see:
<https://www.iiconservation.org/node/6214>

Gordon Research Seminar: Cross-Disciplinary Connections in Conservation Science and Technical Art History" – Call for Abstracts

30-31 July, 2016
 Deadline: Saturday, 30 April, 2016
 Maine, USA
 For more information on submissions [click here](#)

International Symposium on Technologies for Digital Photo Fulfilment with special focus on The Life Cycle of Photo Books

15-16 September, 2016
 Manchester, UK
 Deadline for abstracts submissions: 15 April 2016
 For further information [click here](#)

A comprehensive list of events taking place around the world, in and around the field of conservation. Write to news@iiconservation.org if you wish to add your event

ICOM-CC 18th Triennial Conference : Linking Past and Future

4-8 September 2017
 Copenhagen, Denmark
 Deadline for full papers submission: 18 November 2016
 For further information [click here](#)
[Conferences/Seminars](#)

Saving the Now: Crossing Boundaries to Conserve Contemporary Works : IIC 2016 Los Angeles Congress

12-16 September 2016
 Los Angeles, USA
 For more information [click here](#)

War and the Protection of Cultural Heritage Forum

Thursday, 21 April, 2016 - 14:00
 The Aula, University of Oslo, Oslo
 To register [click here](#)

Analysis and Characterisation of Wooden Cultural Heritage by Scientific Engineering Methods

28 -29 April, 2016
 Handel-Haus Halle (Saale), Germany
 For more information [click here](#)

Conference: Advanced Tools for Preventive Conservation

28-29 April, 2016
 Brussels
 For further details [click here](#)

Defence Heritage 2016 - 3rd International Conference on Defence Sites: Heritage and Future

4-6 May, 2016
 Alicante, Spain
 For further information [click here](#)

Wet Wood Conservation Colloquium

12-14 May, 2016

Germany

For further details visit:

<http://objektrestaurierung.abk-stuttgart.de/wet-wood/>**Problems connected with Keeping and Conservation of Collections in Museums**

12-14 October, 2016

Szreniawa, Poland

For more information visit:

<http://www.muzeum-szreniawa.pl/imuzeum/web/app.php/vortal/>**Gels in Conservation Conference Announcement**

16-18 October, 2016

London

For further information visit:

<https://www.iiconservation.org/node/6281>**Keep it moving? Conserving Kinetic Art**

30 June, 2016 to 1 July, 2016

Milan, Italy

For more information and to register [click here](#)**2016 ICAHM Conference - Archaeological Park as World Heritage Site – A Management Strategy for the Future**

2-5 May, 2016

Salalah, Oman

For more information visit:

http://icahm.icomos.org/oman_home.html**The Heritage of Displacement: Forced Migration in the Mediterranean through History**

Saturday, 14 May, 2016

Cambridge, UK

For more information [click here](#)**UMass CHS 2016 Conference 'Nature & Culture: Heritage in Context'**

16-18 May, 2016

Prague, Czech Republic

For more information visit:

<http://blogs.umass.edu/conferencechs/>**Emerging Technologies in Textile Conservation**

19-22 May, 2016

Sydney, Australia

For more information [click here](#)**Courses/Workshops****Salvage of Museum, Library and Archive Collections**

Monday, 23 May, 2016

The Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge

For more information visit:

<https://www.iiconservation.org/node/6298>**Ethnographic Collections, Preservation, Research, Conservation**

24 -30 August, 2016

Deadline: Saturday, 30 April, 2016

Campus Mutsaard, University of Antwerp, Antwerp

For more information visit:

<https://www.iiconservation.org/node/6296>**Getting Showcases Right for Collections**

Thursday, 2 June, 2016

London

For more information visit:

<https://www.iiconservation.org/node/6294>**Modern Resins for Varnishing and Retouching**

14-17 June, 2016

Deadline: Wednesday, 1 June, 2016

Maastricht, Netherlands

For further information see:

<https://www.iiconservation.org/node/6039>**XRF Boot Camp for Conservators**

8-11 November, 2016

Deadline: Friday, 13 May, 2016

Maastricht, Netherlands

For more info see:

<https://www.iiconservation.org/node/6272>

For more information about conferences and courses see the IIC website:

www.iiconservation.org