

# News in Conservation

The e-paper of the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works



## Tijou Screen Conservation and Holding Repairs

NHIG (National Heritage Ironwork Group) Bursary student placement at Hampton Court Palace

By Bethan Griffiths & Tracy Simmons

'An inspired start to the course' was how student Alex Coode described the first work placement at Hampton Court Palace on the NHIG Heritage Blacksmiths Bursary programme and given the stature of the ironwork within this notable heritage environment, who



Jo Adkins removing paint to expose hidden corrosion

would argue? Taking into account the sensitivity of the site it is a mark of the enthusiasm of its custodians, Historic Royal Palaces (HRP), that they are positively exploring the potential for doing the same for our second, and last year of students in 2012.

HRP have been involved with the bursary programme since the early stages of the planning and funding application and Adrian Phillips, their Surveyor of the Fabric, said:

"As custodians of an extensive portfolio of historic ironwork, including Jean Tijou's magnificent screen for William and Mary's gardens at Hampton Court Palace, Historic Royal Palaces are delighted to be able to help and support the NHIG's Heritage Blacksmith Bursary with the Heritage Lottery Fund Skills for the Future programme. We are very much aware of the skills gap and the lack of formal standards and we fully support the specific aims of the programme to enable access to advanced education and training

for blacksmiths. We are committed to a long-term programme of conservation and restoration work for the large quantity of park and garden railings at Hampton Court. These are extraordinary heritage assets, which can provide a unique opportunity for learning and advancing skills development in this craft and so the aims and objectives of NHIG and Historic Royal Palaces are very well aligned. With a long-term programme and investment in our heritage ironwork planned, we anticipate that our partnership in this initiative will develop with further support in a variety of ways over the coming years."

By working together NHIG and HRP were able to establish a work placement for the entire group of eight Bursary students on the Tijou Screen as part of their advanced learning curriculum. They worked under the supervision of Hall Conservation Ltd, the appointed conservators to the Tijou Screen, at a ratio of 1:4 for four weeks as part of the overall eight-week conservation programme.

Under the strict guidance of Hall Conservation, our students learned about the first and most essential requirement of any conservation project – to carefully inspect and record the object, in this case

Issue 27, December 2011

### Conservation and Religion

The main feature in this issue deals with religious rites and the need to link preservation needs to ancient traditions. Read the article on page 6 to 8

### Sharing and Interacting

A great workshop in beautiful Greece, and the conservation plan for an ancient Chapel in Zakynthos. Found out more on page 9 to 11

### Hot off the Press!!

Find out what has happened around the world in our News in Brief section on page 3–5

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twelve large and very complex screens. Surveying and recording something of the scale and complexity of the Tijou Screens is painstaking and demanding, so it was a new and rigid discipline for most of the students, more used to hands-on practical work.

A key objective of this project was to involve all the students in the process of working out the practical methodology of the work required. As with any conservation survey there is a general rule to guide the work but no precise instructions, as each project is different. This project gave the students the opportunity to work as a team and contribute to creating an individual system that would be effective and consistent. Having worked together to devise a strategy, it then had to be put in practice, reviewed as a team and revised slightly on occasion.

The survey took almost the whole of the placement time, but gave the students a thorough grounding in observation, recording and research. However, it wasn't all passive inspection and recording as many elements had to be removed, tagged and stored so that hidden sections could be cleaned and condition assessed for appropriate treatment. There was time for all the students to be involved in some reconstructive repair, but unfortunately, not enough time for them to follow through on all the different aspects of treatment and reassembly...maybe something for next years students!



*As part of the recording process the screens were photographed in detail, here David Johnston holds up an information sheet that identifies the image.*

### Project Background

The twelve panels of elaborate wrought iron were designed by Jean Tijou in 1690, probably to stand in the Great Fountain Garden. On the completion of William III's Privy Garden in 1702, the panels were taken from Tijou's workshop on Hampton Court Green and erected where they stand today. In 1731, the panels were moved to the Pavilion Terrace, further away from the palace and along the Barge Walk. In 1861, they were moved again, this time to the new Victoria and Albert Museum where they underwent extensive repair and probably replacement. They were returned to the present position in 1901.

Our current programme of conservation and restoration is only the latest of many undertaken over the three centuries to preserve this unique and

important ironwork. Even though many components have been replaced over generations, each element is removed, recorded, cleaned and restored before being replaced. In 1702 the panels and rails were painted grey and were later gilded. This finish has been reproduced as faithfully as possible in previous restoration projects.

### Why this project?

The Tijou Screen appears to be in a period of accelerating decay with much rust spotting, plinth scaling and rust streaking. Whilst this is certainly true, a significant factor in its recent unsatisfactory appearance is the collection of water, mobilised dust and dirt, where dust has settled and washed through from the adjacent gravel paths creating unsightly streaking. The thorough programme of cleaning, oiling, waxing and spot painting that followed the survey has significantly enhanced the appearance and should improve the longevity of the ironwork. The first phase of a prioritised programme of repairs and stabilisation has also been implemented. This regime will be repeated on an annual basis prior to the onset of winter to help prolong the period between major repairs and redecoration cycles.

**For more information on the programme set up and course, visit the bursaries page at [www.nhig.org.uk](http://www.nhig.org.uk) 2012/2013 Bursary Application deadline 31st January 2012**

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## Editorial

Welcome to the December issue of News in Conservation – the one introducing the festive season!

We are very grateful for the generosity of our readers and the conservation community; we have received an amazing array of offerings so I hope you will enjoy reading about the projects that I have selected for this issue.

Interestingly, the projects and initiatives you will read about have two common denominators: sharing and interacting.

We will see how a workshop on the Greek island of Zakynthos brought together specialists from different fields and from different countries to learn about architectural conservation and above all to experiment successful “common living”.

The National Heritage Ironwork Group (NHIG) and Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) will tell us about their joint Bursary Student Placement at Hampton Court Palace, and off to a different island, we will discover what happens every year in Palermo (Italy) that could potentially threaten the integrity of a silver statue of the Virgin Mary.

I wish you all a very happy start to the New Year and hope to see you in 2012!

*Barbara Borghese*  
Editor

## News in Brief

### The Archimedes Palimpsest – New Exhibition Reveals Texts from the Ancient World

In 1999, the Walters Art Museum and a team of researchers began a project to read the erased texts of The Archimedes Palimpsest – the oldest surviving copy of works by the greatest mathematical genius of antiquity.

The Archimedes Palimpsest contains the remains of seven erased books, including the only surviving copy of two treatises – The Method of Mechanical Theorems and the Stomachion.

Palimpsests are recycled handwritten books; the word ‘palimpsest’ derives from the ancient Greek word palimpsestos, meaning scratched or scraped again.

This 13th-century prayer book was made by scraping the original text off the parchment paper, removing the binding, rotating the pages 90 degrees and rebinding the pages in book form. The monk that created the new book had used parchment from several books, the principal one a tome of Archimedes treatises on math, first written on papyrus in the third century B.C. and then copied into book form around the 10th century.

To be able to read the text, complex imaging techniques had to be employed. However, the condition of the book did not allow the work to be safely carried



*A typical page from the Archimedes Palimpsest*

out. The manuscript had to be stabilised so conservation work began, lasting 12 years.

In 2000, a team began recovering the erased texts using multispectral imaging.

To learn more about the Archimedes Palimpsest visit the dedicated web resource at <http://archimedespalimpsest.org/>

“Lost and Found: The Secrets of Archimedes” will run until January 2012.

*Source: Walter Art Museum*

### ICCROM-UNESCO International Storage Survey 2011

ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) and UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) have recently published the results of an international survey on the state of storage facilities of museums around the world. The picture emerging from the results shows that decisive improvements need to be made before collections in storage can be considered ‘safe’. The survey ran from June to September 2011 and was conceived as part of a joint activity between ICCROM and UNESCO on the Preventive Conservation of Endangered Museum Collections in Developing Countries.

The survey confirms that all over the world, museum collections in storage suffer from poor management, lack of maintenance, inadequate space allocation and equipments. It is estimated that an average of 90% of museum objects are in storage, and despite poor conditions, collections continue to grow.

In total 1490 responses were received with 136 countries represented in the sample. One in four museums described their storage areas as overcrowded to the point of impeding circulation of people and items.

Two thirds of museums indicated that the overall lack of space is a “major” or



“drastic” problem. The root cause of the situation is identified in the lack of management support for storage-related activities and scarce availability of trained staff. Uncertainty regarding storage responsibilities also creates concern among one in three museums and furthermore the lack of appropriate measures for collection security results in theft of objects from the collection.

For the last 20 years, ICCROM has worked to improve the condition of museum storage worldwide by organizing international training activities, developing assessment tools and raising public awareness. Last month, ICCROM and UNESCO launched RE-ORG (<http://re-org.info/en/register/why-storage-reorganization>), an online tool for storage reorganization. The storage reorganization methodology aims to help museum professionals to implement meaningful changes in their storage areas by providing a systematic, step-by-step approach to improve the collection's potential for use and access, while ensuring its long-term conservation. The initiative was developed by a task force of museum professionals from 15 countries. Online registration to RE-ORG is free and grants access to guidelines, assessment tools, an image database, and teaching materials.

For a full summary report of the survey's key findings please visit [http://www.iccrom.org/eng/news\\_en/](http://www.iccrom.org/eng/news_en/)

2011\_en/various\_en/10\_21StorageSurveyResults\_en.pdf

Source: ICCROM

### Occupy Wall Street Movement to Get a Place in History

The Occupy Wall Street protests are attracting the attention of major historical institutions including the New York Historical Society and the Smithsonian Museum of American History. Representatives have been observing the activities taking place at the sites of the protests looking for ephemera for preservation, assembling the building blocks for future exhibitions on the movement's impact. Among the objects collected so far are posters, banners and works of art.

The Smithsonian Museum of American History in Washington, D.C., USA, has mostly collected handmade posters and political items specifically related to the protests from both *Occupy Wall Street* in New York and *Occupy D.C.* in the nation's capital. “This is part of the museum's long tradition of documenting how Americans participate in the life of the nation,” the Smithsonian said in a statement.

Occupy protests may or may not prove to be a significant movement in the long view of history, but by the time scholars know for sure it will be too late to collect materials. The flyers, posters, and artwork that are on view today by their very nature will not survive for very long, therefore a decision to collect



A poster at the Occupy Wall Street protest

has to be made early on.

Source: ARTINFO

### Fall of Gaddafi Opens Way to Fresh Archaeological Discoveries

With the use of satellite imaging techniques, a team of British researchers has uncovered a number of ancient sites thought to have belonged to a little known civilization called the Garamantes. The sites are located in the Libyan Desert, in an inhabited region in the southwest of the country. The images show farms and entire villages, with some structures resembling castles. The ruins have been well preserved under the desert sands. The structures are pre-Islamic and date back possibly to the period between the first century AD and 500AD. The lost cities belong to a little-known ancient civilization whose



Libya, Germa, Capital of Garamantes

culture was far more advanced and historically significant than the ancient sources suggested. Herodotus described the Garamantes as very primitive and he dismissed them as ‘chariot thieves’.

In a press release statement, professor David Mattingly of the University of Leicester, described the discovery saying: “it is like someone coming to England and suddenly discovering all the medieval castles. These settlements had been unremarked and unrecorded under the Gaddafi regime.”

The Garamantes civilization occupied an area of approximately 250,000 square miles and it is believed that survived in the desert by extracting underground water by using a complex system of tunnels – known as ‘foggaras’ in Berber.

It is possible that the demise of this ancient civilization was caused by the harsh environment they lived in, once their capacity to exploit it became insufficient to maintain life.

Source: USA Today

## Mining Activities Pose Threats to China's Great Wall

The structural integrity of China's Great Wall is under threat due to development as legal and illegal mining activities are taking place in the immediate vicinity of the landmark site.

The Great Wall of China, running 6,400 km (4,000 miles) across 11 Chinese provinces, is arguably one of the most important Heritage sites in China and draws millions of tourists every year, mostly to restored sections near the capital, Beijing.

Away from the tourist trail, however,

some parts of the wall are being allowed to crumble away. In rural remote areas of China, rich in copper iron and nickel, small mines are threatening the stability of the centuries-old wall as excavations are allowed within 100 metres from the wall.

Dong Yaohui, Vice Chairman of the Great Wall Society said that there is little that can be done as most of these excavations are legal and presents all the appropriate permits.

Each year, the department of Cultural Heritage is given funds to repair damaged segments of the wall, but little

can be done to prevent damage from taking place.

This is not the first time the Great Wall has come under threat. Bomb attacks during the Sino-Japanese War, from 1937–1945, destroyed large sections of it, and residents in surrounding villages looted bricks to build roads and houses in the 1950s and 1960s.

China's State Council issued a ban on vandalism of the Great Wall in 2006, but critics say it has not been enforced in the more remote areas. Cultural protection experts claim that more than 70 percent of the Wall lies in ruins, with just a little over 20 percent in good shape.

*Source Reuters*

## Shakespeare Birthplace Trust Wins New Accredited Museum Status

The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust has become one of the first heritage organisations to achieve accreditation under a new scheme which sets nationally agreed standards for UK museums. The Trust, which cares for the five Shakespeare Houses and Gardens in Stratford-upon-Avon and promotes Shakespeare's legacy worldwide, has been asked to help other museums meet the newly launched standards. The revised Accreditation Standard, administered by Arts Council England is being rolled out across the country, and the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust has been invited to share its experience



*Shakespeare's Birthplace, Stratford-upon-Avon*

as an example of good practice. The Shakespeare Birthplace Trust holds the world's largest collection of artefacts related to Shakespeare's works, life and times, open free to the public. The Museum Collection includes more than 11,000 objects including furniture, art and domestic items, many of which are on display in the Shakespeare Houses. The Library and Archive include precious and rare documents relating to the playwright, reference works, books on performance history, biographies, critical studies, individual editions of Shakespeare's plays and complete works, pictures and photographs. The Trust also cares for the historic archives of Stratford-upon-Avon and the RSC Archive of production materials from 1879 to the present. For further information visit the website of the Shakespeare Birthplace Trust at [www.shakespeare.org.uk](http://www.shakespeare.org.uk)  
*SOURCE: Shakespeare Birthplace Trust press office*



*Great Wall of China near Jinshanling*



# Conservation and Folklore: Monitoring the Statue of the Silver Madonna in Palermo

Following a common tradition within the Roman Catholic faith, each year on the 8th of December, a statue of the Madonna (Virgin Mary) is transported throughout the streets of Palermo. Antonina Pirrotta explains the work of her team and the importance of monitoring the statue to assess and prevent damages.

The Church of St. Francis of Assisi stands in a beautiful square located to the north of Piazza della Rivoluzione in Palermo, Italy. Construction of the church was undertaken by the Franciscan Order and begun in 1255, incorporating a monastery, still a part of the church today.

This beautiful church is adorned with a portal notable for its richly decorated triple arches, while the exquisite rose window above the main entrance epitomizes Medieval Latin church architecture. Noteworthy are the eight allegorical figures standing in the main nave and executed in 1732 by G. Serpotta, as well as the 16th Century carved stalls of the choir, standing in the presbyterium. The *Mastrantonio Chapel*, off the left-hand side aisle, is decorated with reliefs by F. Laurana (1468). The church has undergone several changes and restorations in the course of the centuries, especially following damages

during the Second World War.

The statue of the Madonna is located in a room on the left-hand side of the main nave. Every year, on the 8th of December – the day of the Catholic festivity dedicated to the *Immacolata* (Virgin Mary) – the statue is removed from the room and taken on a

procession through the streets of the city of Palermo, following an ancient religious tradition.

The deep devotion of the city of Palermo to the Virgin Mary can be traced back to 1624, when the city was struck with the great plague. The Senate of Palermo, deliberated that the city would be devoted to



A. Pirrotta attaching the sensors on the statue



A rear view of the Statue with a sensor attached

the “*Immacolata*” in order to ensure protection against future outbreaks of the plague. To reiterate this ‘pact’ the city instituted a day of official celebration to take place every year at the Basilica of St. Francis of Assisi. From that date on, the celebration has attracted large numbers of worshippers, until in 1726 a Congregation was formed under the name of the “*Slaves of St. Mary*”. The Congregation became the official institution in charge of the transportation of the statue during the day of the procession.

A 36-strong party of worshippers, strictly comprised of men, carries the statue during the procession. Although the technique to raise and transport the statue has been well established and rehearsed throughout the centuries, the movements induce strong vibrations, compromising the integrity of the sculpture.

The life-size statue is composed of a main body and a large wooden box acting as pedestal for the Madonna. The wooden box, named ‘*fercolo*’, has four large perforations allowing two rods to be inserted when the statue goes on the procession.

The Dynamic Research Group of Palermo, composed of Prof. Mario Di Paola, Dr. Francesco Lo Iacono, Dr. Giacomo Navarra and Dr. Antonina Pirrotta, works in cooperation with the Regional Centre for Design and Restoration and with the Congregation of the Slaves of St. Mary. The aim of the team is the development of their research activities and the support of a study for the planning and installation of protective equipments for the long-term preservation of this very important silver sculpture.

In order to carry out their objectives, the team firstly needed to study the force transmitted to the sculpture when it is carried through the city.

To obtain quantitative data, the statue was equipped with six sensors: three on the pedestal of the statue,

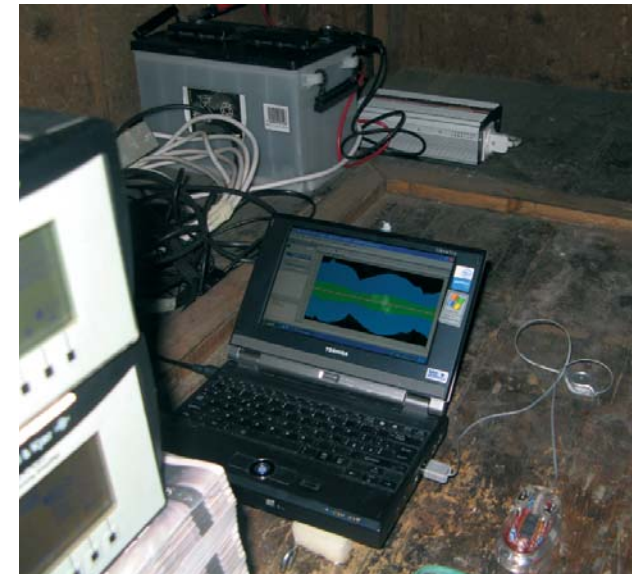
and three on the head, to record the acceleration in all directions during the procession. These sensors recorded acceleration as analogue signals. The sensors are connected to an A/D board installed within a computer. The A/D board transforms the analogue data into digital signals. The data collected can subsequently be processed and analyzed in ‘*time domain*’ and in ‘*frequency domain*’. By analysing the data it is possible to capture the maximum amplitude of vibrations induced to the statue.

From the preliminary results obtained from the data collected, it became apparent that the movements associated with the raising and lowering of the sculpture had the potential to cause the most damage. Moreover, analyzing the recorded signals, it was possible to identify the dynamic characteristic of the statue and introduce these other sets of data into an algorithm to predict the sculpture’s structural responses with or without the addition of a protective device. The structural responses allowed the team to design proper shock absorbers for insertion at the base of the *fercolo*. This intervention reduced transportation-induced vibrations drastically.

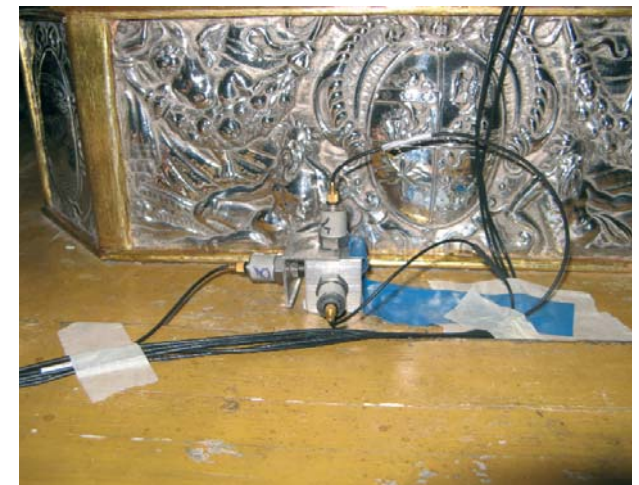
At the beginning of the project, the team didn’t think about a monitoring system on the statue, but they just set out to record the acceleration forces on the statue and perform a numerical simulation capable of predicting structural responses in the presence of a protective device.

Once the team looked at the data relating to the structural responses, it was clear that the statue experienced asymmetrical vibrations due to some imbalance on the base. It was this asymmetrical behavior that affected mostly the integrity of the sculpture. Based on these observations, the team could design and implement protective measures to correct such imbalance.

This is a significant example of the importance



Monitoring set up



Detail of one of the sensors





*The Silver Statue on the 'fercolo'*

and validity of using dynamic testing to discover structural features that are not otherwise apparent.

Dynamic testing is routinely employed for safety control of building structures. This project shows that these techniques can be successfully adapted and used for the conservation and preservation of cultural



*The façade of the Church*

heritage. The dynamic monitoring of a sculpture, like in the case of the Silver Madonna, can inform preservation planning. Monitoring does not necessarily require resident sensors as data can be collected at regular interval, or when needed.

This project shows how an advanced engineering approach can be successfully adopted in the long-term preservation of a very important object while at the same time assuring that the object can continue to fulfil safely its symbolic function and its role in a religious ceremony.

#### **Authors' Biography**

Antonina Pirrotta  
 Graduated in Civil Engineering in 1987 at the Palermo University. The research work begins in 1996 as PhD in Structural Engineering and as post-doc in 1998. In 2000 she becomes researcher in the Structural Engineering Department of University of Palermo and in 2001 Associate Professor in the same department, a position she retains to date.





# The Romiri project 2011

Diary of the pilot international workshop 'The Romiri Project 2011' held in Zakynthos, Greece from 15 September to 15 October 2011  
By Laura M. Tapini

The Romiri Project 2011 workshop was organized by the non-profit and non-governmental organization Diadrasis – interdisciplinary research on Archaeological & Architectural Conservation, with the consent of the Hellenic Ministry of Culture, in partnership with the University of York and under the patronage of ICCROM.

The main aim of this workshop was the comprehension of all the different elements of a complete architectural conservation project, giving the participants the opportunity to apply their theoretical skills to practice.

The project was held at the Panagia Vlaherna Chapel, a little historic chapel located in the rural area of Romiri, near Zakynthos town. The architectural structure of the chapel is very simple: a rectangular shape of approximately 8 × 5 metres, divided into two different spaces by a typical orthodox iconostasis. The altar is located 30 cm higher than the main floor, the elevation reachable by two steps. The structure of the chapel has stone walls and a wooden trusses roof. There are no written sources referring to the construction date, but the possible dating of 1860 is based on an incision on the altarpiece. The Panagia Vlaherna Chapel, due to its limited dimensions and conservation status was an excellent case study as we could hope to complete the whole intervention by the end of the workshop.

Young heritage professionals from seven different countries, gathered in Zakynthos ready to learn and contribute to the project. The participants were: Somi Chatterjee from India (Architect), Heather Dowling from the Ireland Republic (Interior designer), Gabriela Fernández Flores from the Dominican Republic (Architect), Yolanda García Gómez from Spain (Art Historian), Pedro Murillo Gonçalves de Freitas from Brazil (Architect & urban planner), Cynthia Nunes De Rocha Fortes from Brazil (Architect & urban planner), Hilary Oldfield Gould from the United Kingdom (Archaeologist) and Kyriaki Yakoupi from Cyprus (Interior designer).

The first week of the project was dedicated to introducing context and general concepts. The history of the island and the Panagia Vlaherna Chapel were introduced, followed by visits to the Solomos Museum and the Byzantine Museum. In relation to the island's history, and in particular to the catastrophic earthquake that destroyed much of the island in 1953, the visiting lecturer of the first week, Dr. Nicholas Stanley-Price, introduced concepts of reconstruction, restoration and/or recreation of cultural heritage following a disaster. At the conclusion of the week, under a general title "Heritage at Home", all participants made a short presentation on conservation matters in their countries, which, together with the points risen from the weeks' lecturers, formed the basis for our first round table debate.

The following week, moving on to case studies, we focused on architectural surveys. The key lecturer of this week, Henning Burwitz from the University of Cottbus, Germany, introduced the traditional hand measurement techniques as the basis for every accurate architectural survey and acted as leader in



*Hand survey measurements*

the measurement and drawing of the chapel's plan and elevation. Later this week participants also practiced photo rectification as an alternative option for architectural survey and had the opportunity to examine the benefits and limits of these two methods. At the same time two experts from CAST, (Center for Advanced Spatial Technologies – USA), Katie Simon and Caitlin Stevens, produced a 3D model of the chapel with a 3D laser scanner, giving fertile ground for discussions on traditional techniques vs. technological advancements and on how to best apply both approaches to the project.

Having completed the architectural survey, in the third week we moved on to the study of the pathologies of the building. Civil engineer Eliza Papadopoulou led the structural survey of the chapel, underlining the different factors that affect the structural cohesion of the building as a whole. Subsequently we dealt with the different construction materials. First Dr. Maria Stefanidou from The Aristotelian University of Thessaloniki gave an overall presentation on historical mortars, with an analysis



*External references for the night survey session !*

and of the design of historical mortars for ancient buildings. Following on, the key lecturer of the week, Dr. Peter Gouldsbrough, former director of the MA in Conservation Studies of the University of York, dealt with various aspects of stone. His lecture covered topics including geological genesis, its uses, the importance of porosity and the principal mechanisms of weathering. The week was completed with an accurate decay mapping based on the drawings of the survey week, and with the planning of the 'first aid'

hands-on intervention week.

The next element of the course required participants to get their hands 'dirty' by participating in some practical activities. We decided to remove the previous concrete joints that were seriously damaging the stone masonry and replace it with a compatible lime mortar. Incidentally, most of the funny moments of this experience relate to working on scaffolding, performing a rescue intervention on the stone masonry, which was hilariously complicated due to

very unseasonal thunderstorms that affected the island that week. This hands-on experience, as all participants later commented, was a unique tool for the comprehension of all issues relating to building materials and how they affect one another.

In the last week, we focused on planning for the next stage following our previous intervention. The stone masonry and its challenges were just one of the problematic aspects of the chapel. In the last week of the workshop, Architect Pablo Latorre from Caja Madrid foundation of Spain, lead very fertile debates on conservation decision-making, instigating the team to create the proposal of a future architectural project. We also focused on dissemination strategies, and decided how we wanted to communicate the results of our work. The dissemination tools, a brochure, a bookmark and a video, will soon be available online to download from the Diadrasis project website (<http://www.diadrasis.org/>)

After this much focused work, we dedicated a day to broadening our perspectives. Dr. Ioannis Poullos introduced the concept of heritage conservation and the role of local communities, while Joe King, Sites Unit Director of ICCROM, raised questions on small and large-scale site management and discussed issues on world heritage sites. The final days of the workshop were dedicated to creating our final report, and to organize a small presentation of the results to the local communities living near the chapel.

The Romiri project proved to be more than just lectures and work-based activities. People from all over the world had gathered here in this small island, and we wanted them to experience Greek nature, culture and traditions. Theme excursions and side activities were organized for the weekends and some of the evenings. We started with a day in ancient Olympia, led by the Ministry's conservators Maria Krini and Katerina Efthimiou. Olympia is an





*Removing the cement joints*

archaeological site representative of the ancient history of Greece and a significant case study on infrastructures improvement based on a complete heritage management development plan.

The following weekend we took a boat trip around the coasts of Zakynthos as a mean to experience the natural beauty of the island. We also discovered the less known side of the island spending a day visiting the mountain area and villages, exploring local craftsmanship and traditions. We started our visit with the local quarry where we observed the work of traditional stone-cutting artisans. This linked well with our workshop's case study in relation to stone masonry building and the extraction and processing of stone, also a traditional skill of the island. We then visited Kiliomeno and Louha, two rare examples of traditional villages untouched by earthquakes and tourist development. Here we had the opportunity to meet the inhabitants, and feel the Greek hospitality, which goes beyond language barriers.

Interestingly, the unplanned free time activities of the group gave a particular identity to our workshop.



*Not even the rain can stop us from saving the stone masonry!*

We celebrated a new job, a birthday and shared other funny moments and stories around the kitchen table, including a power and water failure after a long day of fieldwork.

The biggest challenge of this workshop was to apply the concept of “interaction” both when referring to the way conservation methods interact with other cultural elements but also between participants and between participants and lecturers. The opportunity to cohabitate reinforced the need for successful interaction. We have all experienced this workshop as a unique opportunity for learning to confront our differences and similarities, and become more open-minded.

It was very hard for all of us to say goodbye, after such an intense month. We think it is appropriate to close this article with the workshop's favorite quotation and key to its success: ‘this is the beginning of a beautiful friendship.’

For more information and images of the workshop please visit: <http://www.diadrasis.org/>. To see more images go to the project Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Diadrasis/214767945207807>

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The present workshop will not have been possible without the help of the backstage crew and our amazing volunteers: <http://www.diadrasis.org/projects/romiri/collaborators.html>

## Authors' Biography

Laura-Melpomeni Tapini Studied Conservation of Antiquities, specialized in Mosaics, Stones and Frescoes at the Scuola per il Restauro del Mosaico in Ravenna, Italy from where she graduated in 2002. In 2009 she received her MA (Hons) in Conservation Studies (Historical Buildings) from the University of York, UK. Presently she works as a free-lance conservator and was one of the coordinators of the Romiri project. She can be contacted at: [lmt@diadrasis.org](mailto:lmt@diadrasis.org)



Lucía Gómez-Robles Licensed Architect at the University of Granada (Spain) and Art Historian at the Autonomus University of Madrid. She has a European Master in Restauro Architetonico e Recupero Edilizio, Urbano e Ambientale at the Roma Tre University (Italy) and a Master of Architectural Restoration from the Fundación Politécnica de Cataluña, Technical College of Cataluña (Spain). She works as an independent consultant and lecturer specializing in heritage conservation and was one of the coordinators of the Romiri project. Lucia can be contacted at: [lgrbles@gmail.com](mailto:lgrbles@gmail.com)



# IIC News

## IIC Annual General Meeting 2011

Notice is hereby given that the sixtieth Annual General Meeting of the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works will be held at the Centre for Sustainable Heritage, Bartlett School of Graduate Studies, University College London, Central House, 14 Upper Woburn Place, London, WC1H 0NN, on Wednesday 18th January 2012 at 5.00 pm for the following purposes:

1. To receive and consider the Reports of the Council and the Auditors and the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2011 (Downloadable from the IIC web-site)
2. To re-appoint Jacob, Cavenagh & Skeet as Auditors to The Institute and to authorise the Council to fix their remuneration for the ensuing year.
3. To consider and if thought fit to pass a Special Resolution THAT the Articles of Association produced to the meeting and signed by the Chairman for the purposes of identification be approved and adopted as the new Articles of Association of the Company in substitution for, and to the exclusion of, the existing Articles of Association.
4. To elect a Director of Publications

5. To elect Ordinary Members of the Council
6. To transact any ordinary business of The Institute

1 December 2011

By Order of the Council  
Jo Kirby Atkinson  
Secretary-General

### Explanatory Note to Resolution 3

A copy of the amended articles is available to view on the IIC web-site, marked to show changes against the previous version. In summary, the changes provide:

- a) for the creation of the post of “Director of Communications”;
- b) terms on which a President Emeritus may serve on the Council, removing the right to automatic appointment as Vice President for three years and;
- c) altering the deadline for nominations for election from ninety days before the relevant general meeting to sixty days before such meeting.

Other amendments are consequential or clarificatory.

### Voting at the AGM

Individual Members, Fellows and Honorary Fellows are able to vote either in person at the meeting or by using the forms enclosed. For postal voting and proxy votes the form can be returned by post to IIC, 3, Birdcage Walk, London SW1H, 9JJ, UK, by fax to +44 20 7799 4961 (020 7799 4961 within the UK) or may be scanned in by the voter and sent

by email to [iic@iiconservation.org](mailto:iic@iiconservation.org). Please remember that votes and proxy votes must reach IIC 48 hours before the meeting, that is, by 5.00 pm on Monday 16th 2012 at the latest; votes and proxies received after then will not be counted.

IIC Honorary Fellows and Fellows and Individual members in good standing alone may vote at the AGM; it would be helpful if you could notify the IIC office in advance if you plan to come by e-mail to [iic@iiconservation.org](mailto:iic@iiconservation.org) If you attend the meeting in person to vote you should not, of course, make use of the postal or proxy voting form.

Please use your vote.

### Candidates for Election

Joyce Townsend is standing for re-election to the post of Director of Publications. Ordinary Council member Hans- Christoph von Imhoff is retiring from Council and David Saunders, Michael von der Goltz and David Watkinson are standing down as Ordinary members of Council, creating four vacancies for Ordinary members of Council. Richard Kerschner is standing for re-election as an Ordinary member of Council and Amber Kerr Allison is standing for Council as an Ordinary member for the first time.

### Standing as Director of Publications

#### Joyce Townsend:

Dr Joyce Townsend has been Director of Publications and an officer on the IIC

Council since 2009, and was budget planner for the IIC London 2008 conference. She has managed the move towards full digital access for IIC publications from



2012, has recruited a number of editors and other volunteers to work on IIC publications, and has introduced change to give greater access to IIC publications of all types, to increase the benefits of membership of IIC, and to make IIC publishing more sustainable and cost-effective for the organisation. She believes that scholarly publications and texts to provide key information for conservation professionals are both very important for professional development and for the preservation of cultural heritage.

She is a senior conservation scientist at Tate, London, UK, where she has focussed for over 20 years on the identification and deterioration of artists' materials and the interpretation of artists' techniques, mainly for 19th-century and 20th-century British oil paintings. She also now investigates the materials and techniques of paper-based art, and its assessment for display using microfadometry. Her own analysis is concentrated on inorganic materials and microscopy-based techniques, and she publishes and lectures widely. She has been an editor of three IIC congress



proceedings, several books by Tate Publishing, and lead editor for many conference proceedings, including the Art of the Past and Conservation Science series for Archetype

### Standing as Ordinary Members of Council:

#### Richard Kerschner

I am honoured to stand for election to a second term as an ordinary Council member of IIC. For the past 29 years, I have been in charge of conservation at the Shelburne Museum in Vermont, a collection of fine arts, folk art, and Americana exhibited in 27 buildings, most of them historic structures, spread over 40 acres. My area of expertise is preventive conservation with an emphasis on practical environmental control for collections in historic structures.

I have been a member of IIC since 1982, and a Fellow since 2003. I served as Treasurer of the American Institute for Conservation for six years and presently sit on the IIC Council Financial Committee. I have found my first term on the board both very interesting and stimulating. Over the past three years, the Council has put much effort into moving our publications to Maney Publications. The Council is confident that this action will improve publication



services for IIC members, move IIC more fully onto digital platforms, and significantly expand the range of IIC publications. The IIC can also look forward to the stabilization and growth of its financial bottom line over the next several years as a result of significant cost savings and potential earnings from the new publications contract.

My primary challenge in serving on the Council is that I have not been able to afford to travel to attend any of the Council meetings in person. I have attended all the Council meeting as well as finance committee meetings prior to the Council meetings via conference call or through an online connection and participated as fully as possible in this manner and via email communications. One of my priorities for the next three years is to work to find a dependable and affordable way to hold face-to-face Council meetings on-line so that it is possible for Council members from anywhere in the world to participate fully. Although this sounds like a simple task in today's high-tech world, it is difficult for a small organization like IIC with limited resources to ensure reliable Internet conferencing for its Council and committee meetings.

### Standing as Ordinary Members of Council:

#### Amber Kerr Allison

As a graduate student in 2008, I had the honour of being awarded Brommelle Memorial funding to attend the IIC

London congress. It was a rewarding experience that introduced me to professionals from a diverse range of countries and fields, many of whose contributions I had studied. The experience expanded my perspective on international conservation issues and it motivated me to become more actively engaged in IIC so that I too could be a contributing participant in the dedicated and vital services this organization provides.

Since that time I have been fortunate to participate in new initiatives undertaken by IIC, such as chairing the selection committee for the first student poster session held at the Istanbul Congress, acting as an advisor, moderator, and presenter at the first IIC Student and Emerging Conservator Conference this September, and collaborating with professionals from around the world while administrating the IIC Facebook page.

I believe that IIC is uniquely poised to offer an international perspective on the current issues in our field and I hope to be a participant in the future endeavours and continued excellence of programming offered by IIC to professionals dedicated to the preservation of cultural heritage worldwide.



### AGM Annual Talk

After the formal business is concluded, the meeting will be opened to the public and we will be hosting a panel talk that will be part of the Dialogues for the New Century series and will be held in partnership with the University College London Centre for Sustainable Heritage:

*Rising Tide/Melting Ice: The preservation of world archaeological heritage in a time of climate change*

Global weather patterns are changing and with these changes come significant threats to the preservation of world archaeological heritage. An increasing number of coastal sites are vulnerable to inundation and ruin by rising sea levels. And as temperatures rise in some parts of the world those archaeological remains which have laid frozen in the permafrost, in a state of spectacular preservation, are beginning to thaw... and rot. The need to raise awareness of how global climate change is affecting archaeological heritage is clear and the timeframe left to us to address this challenge is growing ever shorter. From Easter Island to the Altai Mountains, archaeological sites are increasingly at risk due to changing weather patterns and climate shifts.

Following from the IIC 2008 Dialogue on Climate Change and Conservation, this panel discussion will focus on specific case studies and their relationship to the broader challenges being faced by the preservation community in a world of shifting climates.

## Panel members:

Andrew Curry is a contributing editor at *ARCHAEOLOGY* and has written extensively on the effect climate change is having on cultural heritage. He has written and edited for *Archaeology Magazine*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *Discover Magazine*, *National Geographic*, *The New Republic*, *Science*, *Smithsonian Magazine*, *The Washington Post*, *Wired* and *Wired News* among other periodicals. Andrew Curry was a Fulbright Journalism Fellow; he received the Arthur F. Burns Journalism Prize in 2008; the 21st Century Trust Fellow, Rostock, Germany in 2007; and was named a Fulbright Guest Lecturer, University of Leipzig in 2006.

Wouter Gheyle studied archaeology at Ghent University where he received his Master's degree in 2002 and his PhD in 2009. He has been working as a scientific researcher at Ghent University since 2003. His main interest is in the archaeology of the nomadic cultures of the Eurasian steppes, with a focus on the Altay Mountains. His research from 2003 to 2009 was with a UNESCO/Flanders Funds-in-Trust project concerning the Preservation of the Frozen Tombs of the Altay Mountains. Currently he is working on a project that involves the in-depth study of the Iron-Age population in Altay.

May Cassar is Professor of Sustainable Heritage at UCL and Director of the Centre for Sustainable Heritage, which she set up at the Bartlett School of Graduate Studies (BSGS) in 2001 when she joined UCL. She leads the Heritage Research Group within the Complex Built Environment Systems research area at BSGS and has overall responsibility for research, teaching and consultancy in sustainable heritage. May has a national role as a member of the Science and Research Advisory Committee of the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and as the Director of the AHRC/EPSRC Science and Heritage Research Programme, and has an international role as a member of the European Union External Advisory Group for the RTD Theme, Environment (including Climate Change) and as a member of the Executive Board of the EU Joint Programming Initiative on 'Cultural Heritage and Global Change'

**Call for papers:****IIC Congress Vienna 2010 – Call for Posters and Student Posters**

10-14 September 2012

Posters: The deadline for electronic submission of proposals is 3 February 2012. To submit a poster, please use the following link: [http://www.iiconservation.org/conferences/vienna2012/send\\_abstract.php](http://www.iiconservation.org/conferences/vienna2012/send_abstract.php)  
Student posters: If you would like to present a poster, please send your provisional summary of the poster content (200–800 words, one image may be included) to [students@iiconservation.org](mailto:students@iiconservation.org) by 3 March 2012

**AIC Committee on Sustainable Conservation Practice**

Call for tips

AIC Committee on Sustainable Conservation Practice luncheon  
AIC 40th Annual Meeting 9 May, 2012  
To present a 10 minute tip, please submit a proposal to CSCP by December 20, 2011 to: [sustainability@conservation-us.org](mailto:sustainability@conservation-us.org)

**Conference on the Conservation of Historic Architectural Plasterwork – Day 2, Icon Stone & Wall Paintings Group – Architectural Plasterwork**

9 March 2012

Submission deadline is December 2011

For more information please see:

[http://www.icon.org.uk/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=1617&Itemid=130](http://www.icon.org.uk/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1617&Itemid=130)

**Soft, strong and how long? Materials for ceramics and glass conservation**

Merseyside Maritime Museum Liverpool

15–16 June 2012

Deadline for abstracts: 16 December 2011

**Indoor Air Quality in Heritage and Historic Environments: 'Standards and Guidelines' Conference**

University College London, Centre for Sustainable Heritage, London, UK

17th–20th June, 2012

The abstract submission deadline is 5 Jan 2012

For further information visit the website at: <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/iaq2012/index>

**38th Annual Canadian Association for Conservation of Cultural Property (CAC) Conference**

Peterborough, Ontario, Canada

Workshop – 22 to 23 May

Conference – 24 to 26 May

Call for paper: Submit abstracts in either French or English by email attachment (MS Word, double-spaced, 12 point, Arial font) and indicate "CALL FOR PAPERS – CAC 2012" in the subject line by 31 January 2012 to: Jessica Lafrance

2012 CAC Conference Program Chair  
[jessica.lafrance@live.ca](mailto:jessica.lafrance@live.ca)

**Modern and Contemporary Mural Paintings – Techniques, Value and Conservation**

4-5 May 2012

Valencia, Spain

Call for Posters: Deadline for abstracts submission 29 December 2011

For more information visit:

<http://www.mcmp2011.webs.upv.es>



## Conferences Seminars

### International Scientific Colloquium on the Factors Impacting Underwater Cultural Heritage

UNESCO  
13–14 December 2011  
Brussels, Belgium  
Contact information  
Ms Egger at [b.egger@unesco.org](mailto:b.egger@unesco.org)

### BIBLIOARCHI 2012 – Sobre Los Profesionales de la Gestión del Conocimiento : Retos y Perspectivas para el Manejo del Patrimonio Bibliográfico y Documental en las Entidades de Recursos de Información (ERI)

07–10 January 2012  
Biblioteca Fernando Ortiz  
La Habana, Cuba  
For information visit [www.ill.cu](http://www.ill.cu) or email [katiliz76@ill.cu](mailto:katiliz76@ill.cu) or [caridad.salas@ill.cu](mailto:caridad.salas@ill.cu)

### International Conference of the International Committee of the Blue Shield (ICBS) – Protecting the World's Cultural Heritage in Times of Change: Emergency Preparedness and Response

8–10 December 2011  
National Museum of Korea,  
Seoul, South Korea  
For more information about this event visit:  
<http://www.icbs2011seoul.org/>  
Contact: [info@icbs2011seoul.org](mailto:info@icbs2011seoul.org)

### National Center for Preservation Technology & Training (NCPTT): Divine Disorder, Conserving the Chaos: Conference on the Conservation of Folk and Outsider Art

15–16 February 2012  
Northwestern State University in Natchitoches,  
Louisiana, USA  
For more information, visit  
[www.ncptt.nps.gov/tag/outsider-art/](http://www.ncptt.nps.gov/tag/outsider-art/)

### College Art Association (CAA): Trading Zones: Strategies for the Study of Artists and Their Art-Making Practices

22–26 February 2012  
Los Angeles Convention Center,  
Los Angeles, California, USA  
For more information, visit  
[www.conference.collegeart.org/2012/](http://www.conference.collegeart.org/2012/)

### POPART Consortium – Conference on plastics “Preservation of Plastic ARTefacts in museum collections”

7–9 March 2012  
Auditorium Colbert,  
2 rue de Vivienne, Paris, France  
For more information about this event, contact:  
Alban Fournier  
Secrétaire General Manager Project  
POPART  
Centre de Recherche sur la Conservation des Collections  
36 rue Geoffroy St Hilaire,  
Paris, France

## Courses/ Workshops

### Course on Managing World Heritage Sites: Integrating Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies

5–16 December 2011  
Mexico City, Mexico  
Organizers:  
ICCROM – (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property),  
Coordinación Nacional de Conservación del Patrimonio Cultural – Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (CNCPC-INAH), Mexico  
Partners:  
UNESCO World Heritage Centre  
In collaboration with LATAM-ICCROM0

### Conservation Methodology: Exploring the relationship between theory and practice

5–8 December 2011  
West Dean College, Sussex, UK  
For more information, visit  
[www.westdean.org.uk](http://www.westdean.org.uk)

### MCRI: Polarized Light and Forensic Microscopy

5–9 December 2011  
McCrone Research Institute,  
Chicago, Illinois, USA  
For more information about this event, visit: [www.mcricri.org](http://www.mcricri.org)  
Contact: [registrar@mcricri.org](mailto:registrar@mcricri.org)

### Risk management for collecting organisations

9–10 February 2012 Canberra, Australia  
For more information about this event, please visit [www.significanceinternational.com/Events/RiskManagementforCollectingOrganisations2012](http://www.significanceinternational.com/Events/RiskManagementforCollectingOrganisations2012)  
Contact information:  
[info@significanceinternational.com](mailto:info@significanceinternational.com)

### The Use of Bleaching Techniques in Paper Conservation Workshop 2

13–17 February 2012  
Paper Conservation Department, Art Gallery New South Wales  
Sydney, Australia  
For further information on this event please contact: [carolynm@ag.nsw.gov.au](mailto:carolynm@ag.nsw.gov.au)

### FAIC Workshop: Preventive Conservation

3–13 January 2012  
Ossabaw Island, Georgia  
For more information, visit  
[www.conservation-us.org/courses](http://www.conservation-us.org/courses).

### National Museums Liverpool: An Introduction to Laser Cleaning in Conservation

6–7 February 2012  
National Museums Liverpool, Liverpool, UK  
For more information, please contact:  
Martin Cooper  
Head of Conservation Technologies  
National Museums Liverpool  
+44 151 478 4904  
Fax: +44 151 478 4804  
[conservationtechnologies@liverpoolmuseum.ms.org.uk](mailto:conservationtechnologies@liverpoolmuseum.ms.org.uk)

**For more information about these conferences and courses, see the IIC website: [www.iiconservation.org](http://www.iiconservation.org).**

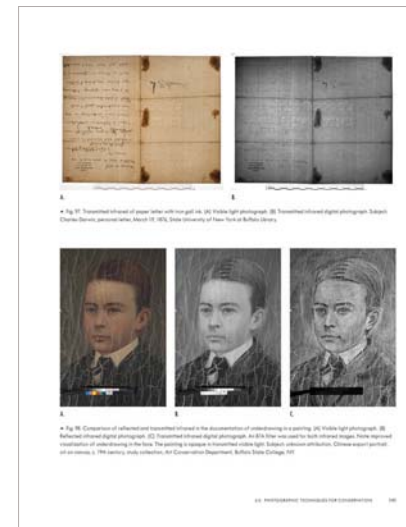
# The AIC Guide to Digital Photography and Conservation Documentation

Second Edition

By Franziska Frey, Dawn Heller, Dan Kushel, Timothy Vitale, Jeffrey Warda (editor), and Gawain Weaver



This guide can be used as a general reference for the technical aspects of photographic documentation, as well as a manual for planning and implementing a system for digital photographic documentation and storage of electronic files.



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