

Report by the Director of Publications 2005

Studies in Conservation

All four issues of volume 49 (2004) have been published and material is in proof for the first issue of 2005. More than sufficient articles continue to be submitted for publication, allowing the editors to maintain the standards of the journal. However, the rate at which articles are being passed for press currently exceeds that at which they are being published, so it has been agreed with James and James that the number of pages per issue will be increased to the maximum allowed within the publishing agreement – initially for 2005, and for longer if necessary.

During 2004 Maria Hayward was appointed an editor and Carol Grissom has taken over the task of editing book reviews. Perry Smith's retirement in October 2004 resulted in changes to the procedures for the preparation of manuscripts for publication.

2005 will see the 50th volume of SiC. To mark this anniversary, four essays have been invited, each based on a theme explored by an article published in the first volume and reflecting on advances in that field since 1952. In addition, to coincide with the 50th volume, the editors have produced a new short description of the aims and scope of SiC and have revised and expanded the 'guidelines for authors'.

The editors were saddened by the death of their former colleagues Nigel Seeley and Caroline Villers; Nigel had been editor briefly in the mid-70s, while Caroline stood down as an editor earlier in 2004 before her illness was diagnosed. A brief appreciation of Caroline is included in the editorial which will appear in the next issue of SiC, and an obituary will be published later in the year.

Reviews in Conservation

Under the editorship of Noëlle Streeton, the 2004 volume of RiC was published in December, containing five reviews of widely different fields of conservation practice and research, from upholstery conservation to holography. Planning for the next volume is well under way, with seven articles under active consideration and further articles in reserve, or earmarked for publication in 2006. For 2005, the editor has prepared new 'guidelines for authors', designed to bring the style of RiC and SiC closer together.

Bilbao Conference preprints

The extremely handsome preprints of the twentieth IIC congress in Bilbao, edited by Ashok Roy and Perry Smith, were produced with great professionalism and in good time for the meeting in September. For the first time, poster abstracts were included in the

main congress publication rather than as a separate booklet issued only to those attending the meeting.

Electronic versions of IIC publications

Nearly all IIC's publications from 2000 onwards are now available for download from the web-site by IIC members. An agreement has been reached with company in the UK (Manuscripti) to digitise earlier volumes of SiC and the preprints from IIC congresses. Licensing the content of SiC to a library subscription service such as JSTOR is also under discussion, a scheme that might generate a small income for the IIC.

Stocks of publications

To reduce the considerable stocks of pre-prints of the congresses from 1986 to 2002, which we fear may no longer be stored free by the printers, these are being offered to IIC members at greatly discounted rates. Many members have taken advantage of the offer, which has the added advantage of generating extra income for the Institute.

Publication review

During the first half of 2005 a review of all IIC's publications is planned This will address the role and future of our current journals and congress proceedings and will also look at the possibility of publishing new titles, perhaps including an electronic journal to complement *Studies in Conservation* and *Reviews in Conservation*. The review will take into account the recent discussions on open publishing raised by Tim Padfield. The process will be divided into two parts, the first to produce a medium-term strategy to be put in place towards the end of 2005, which would consider IIC's publications for 2006 and 2007. The second part would deal with the longer-term, for 2008 onwards.

David Saunders, Director of Publications