

## Report by the Director of Publications 2011

Publications have been very high on the agenda of officers' meetings for the past year, and have often dominated our discussions. IIC now has in effect a new publications strategy. It makes sense to give a summary of new developments up to the present moment, rather than for the year which ended in June 2010, at this time.

I am pleased to introduce our new publishing partner, Maney. IIC has chosen the company for their professionalism and responsiveness in supporting societies and their representative editors, reviewers and authors. Maney will provide a wide range of online-publishing services which will make it easier for both members and non-member readers around the world access our current and past publications, as well as taking over the printing of *Studies in Conservation* from Earthscan. The new contract will lead to cost savings for IIC over several years.

Changes and developments to *Studies in Conservation* have already been effected during 2010, which was the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the incorporation of IIC (in July 1950). The second, third and fourth issues of volume 55 included commissioned, reflective papers from senior conservation and collections professionals. For this I became a guest editor and I'd like to thank these contributors for providing such excellent and thought-provoking papers at fairly short notice.

I'd like to welcome new *Studies* editor-in-chief, Professor Chandra Reedy of the University of Delaware, whose first issue (55-4) has just been mailed out. Her predecessor, Alan Phenix, is now completing his last paper and taking a break from IIC editing, and I thank him for all his work in the two years when he was editor-in-chief. Less visibly to readers, *Studies* has a large number of new editors, some very newly recruited: Dr John Delaney, Dale Kronkright, Philip Klausmeyer, Dr Nancy Odegaard, Aaron Shugar, Dr Matija Strlic and Dr Ken Sutherland. Meanwhile, Dr René de la Rie and Chris Caple are stepping down, and Dr David Scott is taking a partial sabbatical from editing during his academic sabbatical year. René de la Rie in particular has offered a great deal of time and expertise to IIC, having been a *Studies* editor since 1995. The editorial board is larger than ever before, which is a response to the pressures of work felt by all our volunteers, in all capacities. The biggest change in *Studies* is that it now incorporates *Reviews in Conservation*. This improvement in coverage – and improvement in citation from the point of view of authors of review papers – should be visible in the next issue and all subsequent ones. *Reviews in Conservation* was published annually, and had a single call for papers which were then processed simultaneously: this change will lead to faster publication of review papers submitted in future. The single call did mean that no papers were ready for publication when the journals merged. Members of the IIC council are sorry to see *Reviews* cease publication, as I am too, but it will live on within *Studies*, free of some of the disadvantages that journals published once a year cannot escape. All past volumes will be made much more accessible through Maney, from 2012, with digital access free of charge to members, as it is now.

But firstly, there are issues of copyright re-assignment to be resolved, which is the next task in my busy life as director of publications. If only the internet could have been foreseen in the 1950s, the lives of all publishers would be far easier! Until the launch of digital IIC publications accessible to all conservation professionals, IIC is selling back issues of

printed copies more widely, while also making more widely known the digital access that comes with membership now.

The retrodigitisation project has highlighted IIC's desperate need for several copies of *all* the earliest issues of *Studies in Conservation*, since most scanning processes are automated and depend on the use of a sacrificial copy. In particular most issues prior to 22 (1977), and a fair number of issues from 33 (1988) and 35-40 (1990–1995) are in rather short supply for this purpose. This will not be the only call for donations of unwanted copies from retiring members of IIC, conservation businesses that might amalgamate, or libraries that rationalise their stock of multiple copies, but the need is real. Anyone in this position is invited to contact the IIC office with information on older runs of *Studies* that have become surplus to requirement.

*Studies in Conservation* will be published by Maney from volume 57, which will be distributed in 2012, though produced in 2011 from papers submitted that year or slightly earlier. The launch of the Maney-produced journal will see a change in format to A4, and the simultaneous launch of full availability online, with – of course – continued access to members free of charge, through a link from IIC's web site. Maney is committed to retro-digitising all past volumes of *Studies* in the coming years, which constitutes more than 1200 fully peer-reviewed papers. Discussions are in progress on how to give better digital access to past congress proceedings, which by now account for some 1000 papers, also fully peer-reviewed in recent years.

I was not able to attend last year's congress *Conservation and the Eastern Mediterranean* in Istanbul. Its printed proceedings look splendid, and I am grateful to Editor-in-chief Dr David Saunders and his team: Dr Ashok Roy and Christina Rozeik, and to Sharon Cather who chaired the technical committee and expended a great deal of time in communication with authors. The student posters from the congress can now be accessed on the IIC web site. The Forbes Prize lecture given by Dr David Lowenthal is already published in the most recent issue of *Studies* and is a living example of IIC's real improvements in rapid publication. This is one of the outputs that the process changes were designed to deliver.

During the year Vicki Humphrey became the new editor of *News in Conservation*. Vicki is based in Australia and she has run a wide range of news items with non-European authors. At the AGM in January, I announced that *News in Conservation* would be printed quarterly and distributed with printed *Studies* and IIC printed notices to members, from the next membership year. At the IIC council meeting that followed the AGM in January, it was decided to cease printing *News*, except for special occasions such as the IIC congress, and to distribute it in PDF form and as an emailed newsletter with links, as agreed within the Maney contract. This has the advantage that it can still be produced 6 times per year.

Over the coming months, more member information will be posted on the web site, which is still ably run by web editors Eike Thanasis and Athanasios Velios and supported by a number of bloggers and Facebook and Twitter writers who include past *News* editor Lucy Wrapson and Amber Kerr-Allison. All these editors work together with executive secretary Graham Voce, to making sure that topical news gets to members rapidly and efficiently.

Thus, it is becoming even more important that we have current email addresses for all members. It is equally important that members tell IIC whenever they have a change of email address!

I thank all the volunteers and supporters who have made these publications not only possible but individually excellent, and I must not omit the authors of roundtable discussions, and the growing band of translators of these discussions into many languages. All these transcriptions and translations are posted on the web site too. IIC can offer all these volunteers another busy but also interesting year and we certainly look forward to working with Maney.

*Joyce Townsend, Director of Publications*