

Report by the Secretary-General 2017

Some of our activities this year have contributed towards the education or professional development of conservators and those in related professions; others, such as IIC's publication *Studies in Conservation* and its on-line newspaper *News in Conservation*, have provided information or have helped to advance professional practice. All have provided interesting, exciting and very different ways of fulfilling IIC's stated purpose. The Student and Emerging Conservator conference held in Warsaw; the arresting and challenging talk by Professor Peter Stone, OBE at the AGM in January 2016; the first course held at the IIC International Training Centre for Conservation (IIC-ITCC) in Beijing and the Professional Seminar on copyright were highlights and you can read more about them below.

It is important for us that we are relevant and useful to you, our members. Earlier this year, we invited Tangible Branding, a marketing consultancy, to carry out a survey to find out what you think of us, where we are falling short and where we can improve our service. It was clear that we needed to update our image. One result of this is a new format for our annual report, the IIC Annual Review, and 2017 will see the launch of an updated website and some changes in the appearance of our publications. There are other conservation organisations, some of which may be local to you and these may have an everyday relevance in a way that an international organisation may not possess. Please remember that you have colleagues across the world with the same interests, the same problems, the same aspirations as you. You may not know them yet, but you can meet them through our website, our social media or at one of our meetings or conferences.

Events

Third Student and Emerging Conservator Conference: Making the Transition: from Student to Conservation-Restoration Professional

The third Student and Emerging Conservator conference was held in October 2015 at the Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts, who provided most generous financial and logistical support. Like the previous conferences in this series, the whole conference was organised by the students themselves: from booking the lecture theatre and organising the audio-visual facilities to arranging visits and social events and ordering the refreshments. IIC's role is to help and advise, through regular Skype meetings between the student organisers and Mikkel Scharff (Vice-President), Jo Kirby Atkinson (Secretary-General) and Graham Voce (Executive Secretary) for IIC. The conference organisation is an important exercise for the students, particularly learning how to plan the sessions and how to budget and handle financial aspects, often the aspect of conference organisation that is most difficult to control. The students chose three broad topics to develop in the sessions: the effects of the differences in the conservation education systems in different countries; bridging the gap between studies and work; and potential benefits (the values of networking) and barriers for the young conservation-restoration professional. They invited the panellists on the basis of their personal experience in relation to the topics, including students studying in other parts of Europe and both recently qualified and highly experienced conservators, whose careers had taken a particular path. The sessions were streamed live by the Warsaw Academy of Fine Arts in Warsaw through their YouTube account so it was possible to take part online and submit questions during the event through Twitter or the event's Facebook page.

Like the earlier S&EC conferences held in London (2011) and Copenhagen (2013), transcripts and videos of this useful and very entertaining event will be put on the IIC website. We are very grateful to Marzenna Ciechanska, Dean of the Faculty of Conservation and Restoration of Works of Art, Monika Supruniuk and the student organisers, Julia Burdajewicz, Anna Konopko, Piotr Popławski, Anna Kowalik, Sylwia Popławska, Michał Kowalczyk, Anna Pomorska, Monika Dzik and Zdzisław Dębski, who made this event possible.

Professor Peter Stone, OBE, at the IIC AGM, 25th January 2016

Over the years, those attending the IIC AGM have been both entertained and informed by talks and Dialogues for the New Century on a wide range of subjects. On this occasion, the formal business of the meeting, which was held at the Linnaean Society of London, was concluded by an extremely well attended and thought-provoking talk on 'The protection of cultural property in the event of armed conflict', given by Professor Peter Stone, OBE, 2016 UNESCO Chair in Cultural Property, Protection and Peace and Professor of Heritage Studies at Newcastle University. This sobering and timely account of the work of the Blue Shield voluntary organisation and its work to mitigate damage to cultural heritage during and after conflicts and natural disasters generated a lively discussion.

Future events – Preparations for the 2016 Los Angeles Congress

The IIC Los Angeles Congress, on the subject of Saving the Now: Crossing Boundaries to Conserve Contemporary Works, takes place from 12th to 16th September 2016 at the Millennium Biltmore Hotel. Sarah Staniforth, Jo Kirby Atkinson and Graham Voce visited Los Angeles in October 2015 to see the venue and meet members of the local organising committee, which is headed by Jerry Podany, President Emeritus of IIC, with Tom Learner of the Getty Conservation Institute and IIC Council member. For day-to-day administrative matters, IIC engaged the services of a professional conference organiser, Dana Saal of Saal Meeting Consulting, who, with her team, have worked closely with IIC and Jerry Podany in Los Angeles. In addition, to facilitate the handling of funds raised within the United States itself, IIC signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Getty Conservation Institute to hold these funds until payments need to be made upon the receipt of invoices. For this congress IIC are also in partnership with INCCA (the International Network for the Conservation of Contemporary Art), particularly in the organisation of the Technical Programme and members of this organisation have performed invaluable work on the Technical Committee. The Technical Committee, headed by Austin Nevin, have selected the papers and posters which together make up the programme. Papers and posters have been edited by the Editorial Committee under the chairmanship of Joyce Townsend. 20 student posters have also been selected by a separate committee headed by Meaghan Monaghan, with the help of Amber Kerr.

As in previous years, IIC has been fortunate to receive a generous grant from the Getty Foundation to enable 30 participants from parts of the world where travel to and attendance at such a conference is simply too expensive to attend the Congress. The final selection of candidates is agreed by the Getty Foundation. On this occasion, IIC has also received a grant from Tru Vue, partly towards the preprints and partly towards travel and accommodation for five people. IIC's own Brommelle Memorial Fund has also been able to support the attendance of 18 conservation students at the 2016 Congress.

Training and professional development

IIC International Training Centre for Conservation, IIC-ITCC

IIC's collaboration with the Palace Museum in Beijing in the foundation of the IIC International Training Centre for Conservation (IIC-ITCC) is an important and exciting outcome of the 2014 Hong Kong IIC Congress. The agreement between the two organisations is initially for three years until 2017. The training centre is hosted and funded by the Palace Museum, who provide support for the speakers and participants while training and international expertise is provided by IIC, primarily by IIC Fellows. To facilitate communications, IIC and the Hong Kong Leisure and Cultural Services Department (LCSD), IIC's hosts for the Hong Kong Congress, have collaborated to provide an IIC Secretariat in Hong Kong.

The first course, entitled 'Scientific Approaches to Preventive Conservation', took place from 20th to 24th September 2015 and was given by IIC Fellows Sarah Staniforth, David Saunders, Mikkel Scharff, Robert Waller, Jerry Podany, Velson Horie and Jo Kirby Atkinson, together with Dr Song Jirong of the Palace Museum, with an introductory lecture from Dr Shan Jixiang, Director of the Palace Museum. The course, which was given in English, included lectures and practical sessions, some within the Palace Museum buildings, and participants and lecturers also had the opportunity to visit the excellent Cultural Heritage Conservation and Restoration exhibition, held at the Palace Museum. Of the 20 participants, mostly experienced conservators and of middle-management level, half were from China and many of the remainder were from regions of the world where access to up-to-date information, facilities or even discussion with colleagues is not straightforward.

Both the Palace Museum and IIC were anxious that the lectures and reading lists should be made available to the conservation community and all are available for download as PDFs from the IIC website. IIC would like to thank Dr Shan Jixiang, Director of the Palace Museum, Dr Song Jirong, Deputy Director and head of the Conservation Department and all those in the Conservation Department for their superb and generous hospitality and particularly Katherine Xiaoji Fang at the Palace Museum and Casey Liu in Hong Kong for the organisation.

Professional seminars – a new event

IIC's new Professional Seminars are intended partly to help with professional development and partly to provide information on matters where a conservation professional, particularly one working privately without the support of a large institution, may need advice in a relatively brief, succinct form.

The first of these, a well-attended half-day meeting on the subject of copyright, in publishing and in the use of images, was held in March 2016 and was chaired by Joyce Townsend, IIC's Director of Publications. The speakers were George Cooper, Managing Editor for Arts & Humanities Journals, Taylor & Francis Routledge, publisher of IIC's journal *Studies in Conservation*; Elizabeth Walley, Licensing Manager, The Design and Artists Copyright Society (DACS); Bernard Horrocks, Intellectual Property Manager, Tate Gallery Legal Department, and Chair, Museums IP Network; and Mikka Gee Conway, Assistant General Counsel/Registered In-House Counsel, The J. Paul Getty Trust, Los Angeles, USA, who attended by Skype. The brief presentations on academic publishing, images and image licensing, filming and open access images were followed by a very lively question and answer session, which demonstrated the lack of easily available information needed by all those working in the heritage conservation field, particularly with respect to images. It also

showed the great concern conservators had over the use of images, their own and those of others.

The presentations and a summary of the discussion session have been compiled into a PDF document which is available for download from the IIC website. We are very grateful to Clare Finn, who, as a consequence of her own concerns with copyright, contributed a great deal to the development and organisation of this particular event.

Jo Kirby Atkinson, Secretary-General