

Report by the Director of Publications 2010

My first year as Director of Publications has been busy and interesting – and has seen many new IIC initiatives move from the planning stage to execution. Many more are still in progress. Publishing is an integral part of IIC's mission, yet we have to acknowledge that it makes great demands on personal time. IIC is immensely reliant on volunteers who are also full-time conservation professionals, and here I would like to say a huge 'thank-you' to all the individuals I will be naming in the next few minutes.

One new initiative is the appointment of voluntary web page editors. Discussions with past and present NiC editors have clarified the new role of web editor, being undertaken jointly since the beginning of this month by Eike Friedrich based in Cambridge, UK, and Athanasios Velios based in Cardiff, UK. The IIC website is more than a medium for IIC publications, and these discussions have involved all the officers, as well as the executive secretary. The IIC website has several roles: to make online publications available to members; to provide member services including congress registration; and to sell printed publications to the wider conservation community as well as to members, thereby increasing IIC's income.

The website has an increased number of volunteer blog writers too, of whom Lucy Wrapson is one. Amber Kerr-Allison is another, and other volunteers will be encouraged to contribute as well. Facebook and Twitter, initiated by Joyce Hill Stoner and now led by Amber Kerr-Allison, have proved to be very popular. Several discussions have taken place to clarify where the news for the website, Facebook and Twitter originates and who acts in effect as the journalist, and who else as the distributor of news, and to ensure that Facebook and Twitter do not offer so much useful information that they could discourage potential members from joining IIC.

The production of the Istanbul preprints is proceeding now, and the congress *Conservation and the Eastern Mediterranean* will take place in the middle of September, after which the preprints will be sold as printed copies and CDs. The editors are led by my predecessor David Saunders, and include Ashok Roy and Christina Rozeik. By now the papers are being edited, and the posters have been selected. There is a new initiative this year: student posters have been invited, not solely on the theme of the congress, and they will be posted on the IIC website. Early counts of submissions suggest this is a popular idea, and there are plans to make it an annual event, independent of IIC conference years, with an annual prize for the best poster.

Another new feature of the website will be transcriptions of the round table discussion organised by IIC President Jerry Podany. The two roundtables held in 2008 and 2009 will shortly be posted. A third new initiative, started by Jerry, is to offer several languages on the web site, initially for the headers of news reports, and soon for roundtable transcripts.

IIC's regular publications, namely *Studies in Conservation*, *Reviews in Conservation* and *News in Conservation* have continued to come out on time, and the strenuous efforts of many editors have ensured that they have interesting and relevant content. Sadly, at least one editor of each publication has confirmed a decision to stand down, due to pressure of work. Alan Phenix will leave his voluntary post of editor-in-chief of SiC in the summer, and Alan will not be easy to replace. Meanwhile, editors Maria Hayward and Marie-Claude Corbeil have completed their term: the latter served for 10 years and also offered translation into French for abstracts, and such long service is impressive I welcome new editors Francesca Casadio based in Chicago, Chris Caple based in Northampton, and Véronique Vergès-Belmin based in Paris. Here I'd also like to thank continuing editors David Scott (whose length of service, now into decades, holds the

current record), Alison Sawdy, Rene de la Rie and Christina Young, book review editor carol Grissom and a number of translators. Meanwhile, issue 1 of the diamond jubilee year is going to press, and it will include an editorial highlighting planned developments and improvements in the journal, which will become apparent through the 4 issues of volume 55.

Also, *Reviews in Conservation* is set for the production of volume 10, and Fi Jordan retires as joint editor after the completion that volume. Marika Spring continues as sole editor, and an editorial board of about 10 volunteers also works very hard.

News in Conservation is likewise in need of a new editor, for the same reason. Lucy Wrapson will leave after volume 16 is published in February, and I would like to thank both Lucy and Fi for their excellent work.

Over the year I have worked with IIC's solicitors to produce a set of copyright forms which cover all publications, lecture transcripts and translations, and which will not block any future publication plans of website initiatives. It's an exciting time to volunteer for IIC, and we hope to involve members even more in the coming year.

Joyce Townsend, Director of Publications