

## Report by the Director of Publications 2009

This will be my final report as Director of Publications, after six years in the post.

The 2008 issue of *Reviews in Conservation*, edited for the second year by Fi Jordan and Marika Spring, is in press and should be with members shortly after the AGM. This issue again contains a wide variety of reviews, some of types of object such as weighted silk or unstable historic glass and others of conservation materials and techniques, including cyclododecane and sodium dithionite; the editors also have a good selection of articles under consideration for the 2009 issue. The final two members of the original Editorial Advisory Board of *Reviews in Conservation* have stepped down this year. Both Melanie Gifford and Ian Macleod have served the journal since its inception, for which the Council is extremely grateful. Three new members of the Editorial Advisory Board have been appointed from 2009: Professor Ian Freestone from Cardiff University, Dr Gunnar Heydenreich from the Restaurierungszentrum der Landeshauptstadt Düsseldorf, and Dr Giovanni Verri from the British Museum.

The past year has been largely successful in terms of publications, but the delay to several issues of *Studies in Conservation* during 2008 has been a cause for concern. The problem has arisen from a combination of factors: a reduced number of submissions during 2007; the lower than usual quality of these contributions; and the length of time needed to bring some papers to a publishable state. Rather than reduce the threshold for accepting papers, a decision was made to delay issues, in the knowledge that publishable papers were in the editorial process. The number of contributions received has increased again and it is to be hoped that this proves to be an anomalous year.

Nevertheless, changes to the organization of the journal and submission process are afoot. From the beginning of 2009, one of the current editors of *Studies in Conservation*, Alan Phenix, will take on the role of Editor in Chief for the journal. His function will be to act as a point of contact for submissions, and to liaise with editors, authors, publishers, the IIC office, and the new Director of Publications. With the Director of Publications, he will be investigating the automation of the submission, editorial and refereeing process and exploring on-line publication with the publishers.

Last year saw a notable anniversary, as David Scott celebrated 25 years as an editor of *Studies in Conservation*. The journal's other editors are René de la Rie, Marie Claude Corbeil, Alison Sawdy, Maria Hayward and Christina Young.

Also published this year were the contributions to the IIC 2008 Congress in London, *Conservation and Access*, edited by Joyce Townsend, Sally Woodcock and David Saunders. As in 2006, the papers were published simultaneously in printed form and electronically on CD-ROM; members of IIC can download pdf versions of the papers from the IIC web site.

The papers from the 2008 and 2006 congresses are available on-line as well as some papers from previous congresses. Over the course of the last year all the papers published

in the proceedings of previous IIC congresses have been digitized by *Manuscripti* and have been split into a pdf file for each paper; these will be available to IIC members for free download shortly.

To end on a personal note I would like to thank the editors and editorial board members of all the IIC's publications for their support over the last six years and wish them and the new Director of Publications, success in the years to come.

*David Saunders, Director of Publications*