

Report by the Director of Publications 2015

Over the year, the number of papers submitted to *Studies in Conservation* (SIC) has continued to increase, while all the papers submitted before this year have been processed by an expanding team of editors. Chandra Reedy continues to work hard as editor-in-chief and selector of contents for each issue, while continuing at present to edit individual papers. Over the year, the editorial board has expanded to ensure coverage of the expanding range of topics published in the journal: we welcome Elizabeth Guin, Giacomo Chiari, Julio del Hoyo Melendez and Stavroula Golfomitsou. Many more continue to dedicate time to the journal, and I thank all the 20-some hardworking volunteers in the *Studies* team.

Approximately 50% of submitted papers are accepted for publication, initially online as 'advance papers', and later in either a themed or a more traditional issue of SIC. The themes emerge through a survey of the advance papers, while papers falling outside these themes are printed in order of acceptance date. This sustained, increased submission rate has led to the decision to publish 6 issues per year of SIC from the 2014 calendar year, each of the usual 64 page length, up to three of them with a theme, and an aspiration to seek sponsorship for extra pages in the themed issues as necessary. IIC's publishing partner Maney Ltd has underwritten some of the increased numbers of pages, and has provided a great deal of academic publishing support over the year. *Preventive conservation*, *paint*, and *archaeology* emerged as themes in 2013-14, and the first 2 may well emerge intermittently as future themes. Plans are afoot for the publication of non-IIC conferences and events as online-only supplements to SIC, leading to modest income generation from the journal, but none have been produced within this reporting period. (In fact, the summer of 2015 will see the first two such supplements.)

The retro-digitisation of all past issues of SIC and all past IIC congress preprints was completed this year, and all papers were posted online, although some of the improvements in presentation made possible by Maney's move to a new online host early in 2014 are still being implemented. The use of Maney systems such as electronic submission of papers is becoming more familiar to all involved with the journal, and is making more effective use of editors' time.

A discussion about the advantages or otherwise of moving away from printed SIC to an online-only journal had been had with both the IIC Council and the team of editors, taking account of the (admittedly few) comments made on this subject by members. The majority feel that online-only publication would serve to reduce rather than increase readership. The cost saving in moving away from print is not enormous, and it's been agreed to revisit this in 2-3 years, so that any decision could take effect from a 'rounded' volume number such as 65 or 70 rather than an arbitrary one.

Over the year I have developed a one-page document for IIC's publications strategy and archiving strategy for printed material.

Barbara Borghese has continued in her role as IIC's part-time news editor throughout the year – a change of title which reflects her contribution to both citable publications and topical reporting. She has designed and produced 6 excellent and much-downloaded issues of *News in Conservation* in PDF format, as well as commissioning and writing content for this and IIC's news features online, while working closely with the IIC social media team coordinated by Julian Bickersteth, in his newly-created role of Director of Communications.

Joyce Townsend, IIC Director of Publications