

News in Conservation, April 2013

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Year of publication: 2013

Volume: 35

Publisher: News in Conservation, International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works,

Place published: London

Abstract: Welcome to the Spring issue of NiC, and after a long winter of gloom it is very fitting that at the time of writing the sun is shining and the flowers are in full bloom! This issue of NiC includes two news items relating to fires that have destroyed or heavily damaged two museums; this has brought to the forefront the need to discuss preventive conservation and disaster planning measures and has linked very well with the article from Lisa Nilsen on page 7 discussing the effects of fire retardants used on textile art. Following this, Fatema Al Sulaiti talks about the ancient city of Al Zubarah and the efforts of the government of Qatar to ensure this very important site is preserved for future generations. As part of the series of the reviews of international journals from IIC members, António João Cruz writes about Portugal; his review can be found on page 15. Finally, Adam M Klups offers his review of the ICON Conference that took place in April 2013 in Glasgow, UK

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