

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The fifty-eighth Annual General Meeting of The International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works took place at 4.00 pm on Friday 8th February 2008 at the BP Lecture Theatre, British Museum, Great Russell Street, London WC2, UK.

Present: Jerry Podany, President, in the Chair
Ashok Roy, Vice-President
Eleanor McMillan, Vice-President
David Leigh, Secretary-General
Sandra Smith, Treasurer
David Saunders, Director of Publications
Leslie Carlyle, Tuulikki Kilpinen, Anne Rinuy, Mikkel Scharff and Paul Schwartzbaum, members of IIC Council

Jonathan Ashley-Smith, Vincent Daniels, Josephine Kirby, Barry Knight, Andrew Oddy, Joyce Townsend (*Fellows*)

Hani Alsaigh, Nicholas Burnett, Norma McCaw (*Individual Members*)

In attendance: Graham Voce, Executive Secretary
Valerie Compton Taylor, Membership Secretary
Helen Griffiths, Helen Robinson (Slaughter and May)
Scott Coe (Jacob Cavenagh & Skeet)

Jerry Podany, President in the Chair, extended a welcome to all those present, and especially to those who had travelled long distances. He also welcomed to the meeting Kazuko Hioki, Conservation Librarian at the University of Kentucky Libraries in America, who would be giving a talk entitled 'From Japanese Tradition: Is *Kura* a Model for a Sustainable Preservation Environment?' after this meeting

The Minutes of the last Meeting, having been published in the IIC *Bulletin* of April 2007 and circulated to members, as well as being posted on the IIC web-site, were taken as read and signed by the Chairman.

The Notice calling the present Meeting, having been published in the IIC's *News in Conservation*, was taken as read; the Chairman noted that this meeting was being held in the BP Lecture Theatre at the British Museum rather than the British Museum's adjoining Sackler Rooms as previously advised.

The Chairman noted that voting on the Resolutions by members present at the Annual General Meeting who had not voted by post would be by show of hands for resolution 1 and for resolutions 4 and 5; voting on resolutions 2 and 3, being the election of two Vice-Presidents and an Ordinary member of Council, would be by voting form rather than by a show of hands; voting forms were distributed to those who had not already registered their vote. Leslie Carlyle and Paul Schwartzbaum agreed to act as tellers for this.

The Chairman asked if there were any proxy votes, as none had been notified to the IIC Office beforehand; none were made apparent to the meeting.

Resolution 1: *To receive and consider the Reports of the Council and the Auditors and the Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2007*

The Reports and Financial Statements, having been sent to members with the December *Bulletin*, were taken as read, and the Chairman invited the Secretary-General, the Treasurer and the Director of Publications to make their comments (see separate reports).

Following the Director of Publication's report Leslie Carlyle asked how electronic copies of IIC publications were created; David Saunders responded that original paper versions were sent to a company named Manuscripti, who then made an electronic scan of each paper; the synopsis of the paper used by AATA was then used as a template for the naming and filing of each paper; a pdf -format file of each paper was then created and uploaded to the IIC web-site. This was complex enough for the papers from Studies in

Conservation, but would be more complex still for papers from the IIC Congresses, as these have not been indexed and synopsised by AATA.

Norma McCaw pointed out that, despite the usefulness of electronic publications, it was important not to assume that everyone wished to or was able to go over to computerised publications alone. David Saunders replied that no printed publications had been withdrawn and that they would continue to be published in this format; however, more printed copies may become available as the take-up of electronic publications increases.

Hani Alsaigh asked that the word 'restoration' should be added to the IIC's titles; Jerry Podany suggested that the IIC office should be contacted to resolve issue such as this.

Jerry Podany added at this point that the 2007 Annual General Meeting had touched on the issue of the introduction of a system of graduated membership fees to reflect the earnings levels in different countries and that it was hoped that this would implemented at some point in the future; at the IIC's forthcoming Council meeting in Vienna IIC's Council would be considering a series of choices on this matter and the results of this discussion would be reported back to the membership. He added that Council had committed itself to holding one council meeting a year in a location other than London whenever feasible and that these would allow IIC Council to contact local conservation groups. Such meetings would hopefully be reported in *News in Conservation*.

Resolution 2: To elect two Vice-Presidents

There were two different positions subject to election. The first of these was for a Vice-President who, as required by the IIC's Articles of association, should be domiciled in the United Kingdom as the current IIC President was not so domiciled; when Andrew Oddy had resigned this position at the end of January 2007 Council had co-opted Ashok Roy to fill this role. Ashok Roy was now standing for election to this role and on the basis of the total vote he was voted into this position.

The election for a second position of Vice-President was due to Eleanor McMillan reaching the end of her first three-year term of office and standing for re-election; Julian Bickersteth, whose second six-year term as an ordinary Member of Council was coming to an end at this Annual General meeting was also standing for election as a Vice President. On the basis of the total vote Eleanor McMillan was voted into a second term of office.

Jerry Podany congratulated both Vice-Presidents on their election and looked forward to continuing to work with them in Council in the future.

Resolution 3: To elect one Ordinary Member of Council

Leslie Carlyle was standing for re-election for the remainder of her six-year term. On the basis of the total vote, Leslie Carlyle was duly elected for the rest of her term as an Ordinary Member of Council. Jerry Podany congratulated her and looked forward to continuing to work with her in Council in the future

Resolution 4: To reappoint Jacob, Cavenagh & Skeet as Auditors to The Institute and to authorize the Council to fix their remuneration for the ensuing year

The resolution was duly adopted.

Resolution 5: To transact any ordinary business of The Institute

Hani Alsaigh noted that he knew of some potential sponsors who might be interested in supporting the IIC 2008 Congress. Jerry Podany, thanked him for this suggestion and asked that he pass any details to the IIC office.

The Chairman thanked Helen Griffiths and Helen Robinson of the IIC's legal advisors, Messrs Slaughter and May, and Scott Coe of Messrs Jacob Cavenagh and Skeet, IIC's auditors, for attending.

There being no further ordinary business, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 4.40 pm.

Officers' reports

Secretary-General

The Munich 2006 Congress was a considerable success, a tribute to the hard work of all concerned. Since then the Technical Committee, chaired by Jonathan Ashley-Smith, and a new Organising Committee, chaired by Christopher Collins, have been working on what promises to be a memorable London event in September 2008, addressing a theme – Conservation and Access – which is ever more pressing in the work of the heritage community. It has always been IIC's strength to address themes of current concern.

We were convinced that the IIC *Bulletin* should be replaced by a livelier newspaper providing a perspective on conservation worldwide and reflecting the international aims of the Institute. We were fortunate to recruit Christina Rozeik, who has now edited four issues of *News in Conservation*. It has been well received. We continued to maintain the throughput and the quality of papers in our world-renowned publications *Studies in Conservation* and *Reviews in Conservation*. Our thanks go to the members of the Editorial Board of the latter and to the Editors of the former who give their time and expertise so generously. Particular thanks to Noëlle Streeton, who has retired as Managing Editor of *Reviews* after five successful editions

We commissioned a new visual identity which will become gradually apparent. The website is also being re-designed structurally so as to provide a better service and a greater range of current information. Christina Rozeik has also become IIC's web manager, replacing Tim Padfield who had served IIC so well in this capacity for many years.

Relations with our sister organisations ICOM-CC and ICCROM have been strengthened in the last year, most notably by better communication and reciprocal attendance – often by telephone – at the meetings of our governing bodies.

Our future efforts focus firstly on the London Congress, for which the strong showing of proposals implies a busy and interesting programme; and secondly on continuing to implement Council's development plans, improving yet further our publications and extending their reach, being receptive to the changing needs of members, improving the website and liaison with IIC regional groups, as well as keeping alert to developments which could adversely affect the care and management of the world's cultural heritage.

We hope that current initiatives will generate a new eagerness to belong to IIC and to benefit from its many services, as well as a recognition that, while national membership organisations have a vital role to play, so too does IIC, which takes a worldwide view, and membership of which signifies belonging to the international community of professionals whose primary interest is in protecting the shared cultural heritage which is under threat as never before.

David Leigh, Secretary-General

Treasurer

The reporting period for this Treasurer's report is from June 2006 to June 2007. There has been an overall loss of £45,411 over the reporting period. This is due, in part, to the continued use of reserves to finance the Development Plan, in particular the re-branding of IIC and development of the web site. In addition web costs for the Munich Congress were supported from core funds (c. £14,000). There has also been a small reduction on the returns on investments (£134).

The deficit for the 2006–2007 financial year of the Development Plan was expected to be over £60,000 and the more positive out-turn can be attributed to a stabilisation and slight increase in membership numbers. This is the first time in many years that there has been no decline in membership. An additional income of £23,495 was generated through the increase in subscriptions, a result of making membership an integral part of the Munich Congress registration fee and the hard work of the office, chasing lapsed members. The Munich Congress did make a slight profit for IIC and sales of publications and advertising resulted in income this year of £3,559.

The Finance Committee continues to review the progress of the Development Plan and to advise Council of financial risk; by means of its three annual meetings the returns of investments are monitored and the Finance Committee is reassured that the investment strategy employed by Messrs Brewin Dolphin is

appropriate to the ethos of IIC and the delivery of the Development Plan. The day-to-day finance systems in the office continue to be refined and are now increasingly able to present live data.

My thanks go to Jacob Cavenagh & Skeet, Chartered Accountants and registered Auditors, for preparing the Annual Financial Report; in particular to Mr Charles Thompson who has recently retired; I would like to extend gratitude for his guidance, kindness and astute professional advice over the years and to Mr Scott Coe and Andrew Hazael, who will continue to support IIC in the future. Thanks are also due to Mr Steven Oliver of Brewin Dolphin for managing the investments and attending the Finance Committee meetings on a regular basis. Finally I would like to thank Valerie Compton-Taylor (Membership Secretary) and Graham Voce (Executive Secretary) IIC for managing the day to day finances and for doing such an excellent job in maintaining the membership numbers this year.

Sandra Smith, Treasurer

Director of Publications

Volume 8 of *Reviews in Conservation* is at the press and will be available later in February. It contains articles on topics as varied as Australian Aboriginal bark paintings, East Asian lacquer, the properties and uses of animal glues, late-nineteenth-century dyestuffs and the behaviour of the pigments vivianite and lead white. Following the departure of Noëlle Streeton as editor in early 2007, two new editors have been appointed: Fi Jordan, a senior glass and ceramics conservator at the Victoria & Albert Museum and Marika Spring, a senior scientist at the National Gallery London. Volume 8 of *Reviews in Conservation* will be printed by Henry Ling Limited, who were responsible for the publication of the preprints of the 2006 IIC Congress, *The Object in Context: Crossing Conservation Boundaries*.

Following the establishment of a five-year term for members of the editorial advisory board of *Reviews in Conservation* in 2006, two members of the board will be stepping down after the current volume is complete; both Melanie Gifford and Clifford Price were members of the board when it was formed and have served for eight years. The remaining members (Agnes Brokerhof, Dinah Eastop, Peggy Holben Ellis, Nobuyuki Kamba, Tom Learner and Ian MacLeod) will be joined by three new members in 2008.

Four issues of volume 52 of *Studies in Conservation* were published on schedule during the year. An extension to the existing publishing contract with Earthscan (as James & James are now known) was negotiated in the year, which will, among other things, allow a greater number of illustration to be reproduced in colour from the first issue of volume 53 (2008) onwards. The programme to make back issues of *Studies in Conservation* available online from the members' side of the IIC web-site is complete, and recently the pdf files for the membership year 2006–2007 were added to the site, so that all articles in *Studies in Conservation* up to and including volume 52, No. 2 are now available for free download.

To complement this resource, the proceedings of all previous IIC congresses have now also been digitised. During 2008, the scanned pages will be assembled into pdf files for each article, so that these can be transferred to the IIC server for free download by members. Non-members will be able to pay to download the files and a charging model is being discussed.

David Saunders, Director of Publications