

**IIC Congress,  
15–19 September 2008**

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A western student's perspective on studying archaeological conservation in China

**The NiC interview**

*News in Conservation* speaks to Vinod Daniel about AusHeritage's overseas conservation projects

**No.2, September 2007**

# News in Conservation

The newspaper of the International Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works



## Peruvian earthquake damages museums and sites

**A catastrophic earthquake hit the south coast of Peru in August, killing more than 500 people, leaving thousands homeless, and damaging museums, archaeological and historic sites in the vicinity. This region is the centre of the prehispanic Paracas civilisation, which produced some of the world's finest and most spectacular textiles, and it is also home to historic Afro-Peruvian towns and other cultural jewels. Rommel Angeles Falcón, Director of the Huaca Malena Museum, describes the effect of the earthquake on archaeological and historic sites, while Heather Berry, Manager of International Programs at the American Association of Museums (AAM) reports on damage to museums and collections in the area.**

**Rommel Angeles Falcón**

On 15 August 2007, an earthquake of magnitude 7.9 struck the coast of Peru at Pisco, 250 kilometres to the south of Lima. As a result of this tragedy, thousands of

families were affected when their adobe houses collapsed. Amid the grief and destruction, the valuable and varied cultural heritage of the region, including archaeological sites, colonial churches, and 18th and 19th century houses, also felt the effects of the earthquake.

The most badly affected areas were to the south of Lima and around Ica, a region that is home to the Nasca lines and the fine woven textiles of the Paracas culture, and that has more than 1200 archaeological sites of diverse ages.

The great monumental sites of the Late Intermediate and Inca periods (1100–1532 AD), with their characteristic architecture of mud brick, mud and stone or adobe, underwent the greatest damage; earlier, pyramid-shaped structures were less badly affected. The sites of El Salitre in Mala, Uquira in Asia, Tambo and Huacones, Ungará, Huarco, Imperial and Canchari in Cañete have suffered collapsed and cracked walls, as has the important Inca site of Tambo Colorado in Pisco. In some cases, the

humidity and salinity of the ground accelerated the deterioration caused by the earthquake. However, the worst damage occurred to the sites in the lower Chincha valley. At La Centinela, one of the biggest archaeological sites on the south coast, a great number of mud walls collapsed, especially in the largest pyramid. Other sites in the valley, such as Tambo de Moro, also experienced cracked and falling walls.

16th and 17th century churches were also damaged, the most serious case being the Church of the Company in Pisco, which was completely destroyed. The Hacienda San José and the churches of Chincha Baja and San Pedro de Coayllo in the valley of Asia have also suffered enormous damage.

This is a tragedy for Peru's cultural heritage. We hope to obtain materials for conserving damaged artefacts, and support and advice for the restoration of important monuments like the Church of the Company in Pisco, the historic Church of Coayllo, and sites like La Centinela, Tambo Colorado and Uquira. The Huaca Malena museum has begun a rescue operation involving 120 young people from the community.

The Peruvian National Institute of Culture has initiated an effective plan for the systematic recording of damage, as well as considering different options for the conservation of the principal sites described above and others identified as needing preservation.

**Heather Berry**

The earthquake caused damage to the building of the Ica Regional Museum, which houses major collections of Paracas, Nasca and other local ancient objects. The condition of the collections has yet to be fully assessed, but some fell off shelves. These collections are all the more important because the south coast has seen systematic looting of archaeological sites stimulated by the international art market during the past two decades that has left ancient cemeteries looking like battle scenes.

The building of the Huaca Malena Museum in Asia was also damaged (some walls collapsed, others are cracked) and some collections fell to the ground, but only four objects there are known to have sustained damage.

The critical needs that have been specifically requested from outside Peru are: expert help assessing adobe structures, archival materials for re-housing collections, and funds to pay for structural repairs and replacing damaged/ broken furniture and equipment. Those volunteering their assistance can find contacts in the latest issue of the AAM's newsletter, *Aviso*.



Susana Ace



Susana Ace

Earthquake damage in the storage area at the Ica Regional Museum

The altar of the church of San Pedro in Coayllo, after August's earthquake



Rommel Angeles Falcón



Rommel Angeles Falcón

The ruined Church of the Company in Pisco

Collapsed mud walls at the pre-Inca and Inca sites of La Centinela and Uquira



Rommel Angeles Falcón



Rommel Angeles Falcón

# Editorial

The last issue of *News in Conservation* reported on a series of conferences about protecting museum collections from earthquake damage, and highlighted some of the ways in which conservators are trying to mitigate this threat. The cover story in this issue, about the recent Peruvian earthquakes, provides a sad illustration of how vital these mitigation efforts are if we are to avoid seeing further destruction of our cultural heritage from natural disasters.

An important feature of the rescue operation in Peru will be the assistance of foreign conservators, and of international organisations like the International Committee of the Blue Shield and UNESCO. This sort of international cooperation in conservation enables projects that simply could not happen without it, especially in developing countries.

This issue of *News in Conservation* strongly reflects the themes of international cooperation and cross-cultural collaboration in conservation. On page 3, Duygu Cleere describes the construction of a new shelter at the neolithic site of Çatalhöyük in Turkey, where conservation is being carried out by a multinational team.

## This issue strongly reflects the theme of international cooperation in conservation

We also have an interview with Vinod Daniel, the Chairman of AusHeritage. He describes some of the projects that AusHeritage is involved with in India and the Asia Pacific region, and also offers some advice to conservators who are thinking of embarking on an international project.

On pages 4 and 5, Felix Thornton-Jones describes his experiences studying on a course in archaeological conservation run jointly by an Italian and a Chinese university and reflects on the differences in approach between Chinese and western conservators. You can follow Felix's adventures in China in his online diary.

Finally, all these articles about international cooperation should remind us of the rôle that organisations like IIC play in allowing conservators to share information and work together across international boundaries. *News in Conservation* was set up to provide a forum for IIC members to share their news and opinions and I welcome photographs and articles of any length from members.

In the meantime, I encourage you to do your bit for international cooperation and update your profile on the IIC website so that other members can stay in touch with you easily – you can find out how on page 7!

Christina Rozeik  
Editor

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# News in brief...

## Diamond synchrotron

Degraded manuscripts and scrolls can now be read without being opened, using X-rays that are 100 billion times brighter than a standard laboratory X-ray tube. A team from Cardiff University have used the UK's new Diamond synchrotron research facility to examine fire-damaged parchment rolls written with iron gall ink. Iron gall ink corrodes readily and is a major cause of damage to manuscripts, leaving many too brittle to handle. The iron in the ink means that these manuscripts can be X-rayed successfully, however, and the Cardiff team has used a technique similar to CT (computed tomography) scanning to examine the many layers of a parchment roll individually without having to unroll it.

## Preservation of women's cultural heritage in Senegal

The Musée de la Femme Henriette Bathily in Senegal has been awarded \$28,500 for the preservation of women's cultural heritage. The funds were provided by the U.S. Department of State through the Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation. The preservation project will take place over one year, and will include the conservation of objects in the museum's collections, refurbishment of the museum buildings, and the production of a new catalogue and website.

## Ancient Olympia threatened by forest fires

Ancient Olympia, the birthplace of the Olympic games, narrowly escaped destruction in the forest fires that swept Greece at the end of August. The fires destroyed swathes of forest surrounding the archaeological site but were halted before they reached the ruins of the ancient stadium and its adjoining museum, which houses many classical sculptures. However, some architectural fragments were damaged when a nearby storage area burnt down, and the site itself was affected by water and foam from the helicopters that put out the fires. Greek officials are now trying to reforest the site before it hosts the ceremony to light the Olympic flame in March 2008.

## Walk like an Egyptian

Egyptian archaeologists claim to have found the world's oldest human footprint in the western desert of Egypt. The footprint – which was originally made in mud, now turned to rock – was discovered during excavations at the Siwa oasis. Zahi Hawass, Secretary General of Egypt's Supreme Council of Antiquities said, "this could go back about two million years", although other sources at the SCA claim that it could pre-date even Lucy, a 3.2 million year old hominid skeleton from Ethiopia. Previously, the oldest human archaeological evidence from Egypt dates back about 200,000 years.

## Shake, rattle and roll

Vibrations from rock concerts are damaging windows and objects in Hampton Court Palace, according to a UK conservation charity. Conservation scientists from Historic Royal Palaces (HRP) warned that low level vibrations "typically from more popular musical compositions" were causing windows to rattle and vases to creep along mantelpieces. However, many historic houses in the UK and throughout the world rely on the income generated by musical events to support their conservation work. This is not the first time that conservators have raised concerns about the effect of public musical events on historic structures. Earlier this year, The Art Newspaper reported concerns about an Elton John concert in St Mark's Square in Venice, reawakening memories of damage caused to the square during a 1989 Pink Floyd concert.

## Montenegro joins ICCROM

ICCROM (the International Centre for the Study and Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property) has announced that Montenegro has become its newest Member State as of 16 September 2007, bringing the number of ICCROM Member States to 121. For more information, see the ICCROM website, [www.iccrom.org](http://www.iccrom.org).

## Nanomagnetic sponges for cleaning artworks

Chemists from the University of Florence have proposed a new way of cleaning paintings – using "nanomagnetic sponges". According to a paper published in the American Chemical Society's interdisciplinary journal *Langmuir* in August, magnetised nanoparticles can be incorporated into a polyacrylamide gel which is then loaded with a microemulsion or other solution and can be used to clean paintings. These nanomagnetic sponges can be finely shaped to control how solutions are applied to the surface of an artwork and, unlike conventional solvent gels, can be removed completely with the aid of a permanent magnet, thus avoiding the need for the further application of solvents.

## Prisoners to restore heritage structures

Prisoners in West Bengal's Murshidabad district will be involved in an unusual conservation project from October. Inmates at the Lagola open-air correctional home will help to conserve historic buildings on the site of their institution, neatly combining vocational training with preservation needs. The project has been funded by a \$64,000 International Ambassador's Fund for Cultural Preservation Grant from the United States Embassy, and will be overseen by the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH).

# Conservation in public

For the next ten months, conservators at the Statens Museum for Kunst in Copenhagen will be conserving Jacob Jordaens' seventeenth-century masterpiece *The Ferry Boat* on Antwerp in public. An open workshop has been installed in

one of the museum's galleries so that visitors can watch the conservation in action and talk to conservators and scientists involved in the project. You can follow the progress of the work online in the project blog: [www.smk.dk/restaurering](http://www.smk.dk/restaurering).





Michael Ashley, Çatalhöyük Research Project

The existing South shelter

## A new shelter for Çatalhöyük

**Five years after the construction of the first shelter at the Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük, a second shelter is now underway. Duygu Çamurcuoğlu Cleere reports on the first phase of its construction and describes some of the thinking behind the new design.**



The Neolithic site of Çatalhöyük is one of the earliest urban settlements in the world (c. 7400 BC). It is situated in the Konya Plain of central Turkey, about 250 km south of Ankara. It was first discovered in the late 1950s and excavated by James Mellaart between

1961 and 1965. The site became internationally famous due to the dense occupation of the settlement as well as the spectacular art and many objects of daily life.

### Being a mud-brick site, Çatalhöyük presents one of the most challenging issues in conservation

Çatalhöyük has great archaeological significance both for Turkish and World heritage. The current international project led by Professor Ian Hodder and archaeologist Shahina Farid, aims for large-scale archaeological excavation, conservation, interpretation and presentation of the mud-brick structures and related artefacts, as well as the promotion of the site for the visitor access.

Being an important mud-brick site, Çatalhöyük presents one of the most challenging issues in conservation. The preservation of mud-brick is a huge undertaking but it is not always impossible if the necessary resources can be found. Although it can be very costly, preventive methods such as protective shelters and regular monitoring play a vital part protecting the earthen structures from the harsh effects of the environment.

The first shelter at Çatalhöyük (South) was built in 2002 to protect and continue excavations on the southern slope of the mound where James Mellaart had first excavated. This summer the Çatalhöyük Research Project started the construction of a new shelter (North) on the northern hill of the mound, which will cover a previously excavated and conserved Neolithic building (Building 5) as well as the current excavation trenches, an area of 1000m<sup>2</sup> in total.

Both the South shelter and the newly planned North shelter are designed and constructed by "Atölye Mimarlık" an Istanbul based architectural office. The architects Sinan Omacan and Rıdvan Övünç have been working very closely with the excavation team through the design and preparation process. The construction work is planned to be completed in two parts over a 2 year period: The first part to lay the foundations (summer 2007), followed by the second part to build the roof structure and the protective cover (spring 2008).

The topography where a shelter is to be built, the extent of archaeology, environmental factors (e.g. ventilation, drainage, light) and the long-term behaviour of the

construction materials determine the design of the structure. Even though the new shelter will serve the same purpose as the first one, there are fundamental differences in their constructions. Unlike the South shelter, the North shelter will be built on the top of the mound. Due to this reason, it is designed to have a softer form, which can blend in with the natural topography and be aesthetically pleasing to the eye. It is also crucial that any excavation undertaken as part of a shelter construction does not damage the underlying archaeology. The deeper the shelter foundations, the more complicated the excavation process can be. In such cases, it is important that the foundation trenches are carefully excavated by archaeologists, which is often a very slow and a painstaking process. In order to minimize this strain on the archaeology as well as on the excavation team, a metre-wide, continuous concrete plinth requiring minimal excavation is being built for the North Shelter by laying it on the surface of the mound. This plinth will help to distribute pressure evenly over the ground and allow the frame structure to be dismantled if desired.

The design of the North shelter aims to achieve the right environment both for the archaeology, team members and people who will visit the site. The roof structure, which will be constructed of laminated timbers, will follow the gradient of the hill down to the surface and arise from a central point. In this form, the higher parts of the shelter will provide good air ventilation (with folding side panels) whilst the lower sections will create a slope for an effective drainage system (a channel made of pre-cast cement) as well as making the structure more durable against heavy wind in winter.

For the final stage a protective cover, constructed from polycarbonate panels, will be installed. Polycarbonate can distribute daylight equally inside the shelter, which is vital for the recording of archaeological sites and also for viewing them. It is also durable against light degradation and is therefore to be preferred over the polyester panels used for the South shelter.

With much assistance from the Çatalhöyük team, the initial part of construction is now complete. The project will resume in the Spring of 2008, with the aim to complete the shelter before the start of the excavation season in the summer. It is hoped that the North shelter will create a comfortable working environment for the excavation team and enable more Çatalhöyük houses to be displayed for visitors through appropriate protection and presentation.

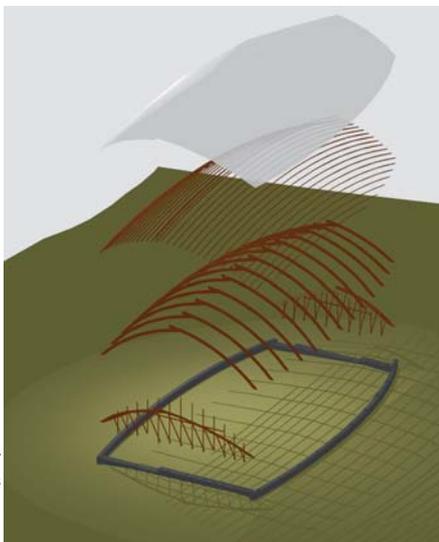
For more information about the shelter, contact [info@atolyemimarlik.com](mailto:info@atolyemimarlik.com).

#### Author Biography

Duygu Çamurcuoğlu Cleere gained an MA in Principles of Conservation (2002) and an MSc in Conservation for Archaeology and Museums (2004) from the Institute of Archaeology, UCL. She volunteered and worked as an archaeological conservator in several excavations and museums both in the UK and abroad. Currently she works at the British Museum as a metals conservator and runs the field conservation at Çatalhöyük Research Project during the summer months together with the Institute of Archaeology, UCL.



3D drawing of the new North Shelter



Rıdvan Övünç, Atölye Mimarlık

The model of the North Shelter, north view



Rıdvan Övünç, Atölye Mimarlık

In March 2007, the University of Bologna, in partnership with Xi'an Jiaotong University, launched a joint Masters degree programme in archaeological conservation. Felix Thornton-Jones describes his experiences of the course so far, and how approaches to conservation differ between China and the west.



# Conserving the dragon

## Cross cultural collaboration in the conservation of China's heritage in Xi'an



Chinese archaeological experts explaining the technique they had developed of preserving the fossilized traces of 2000 year old silk found in a tomb in Xi'an.

The new generation of Chinese growing up under Deng Xiao Ping's mantras of 'Reform is China's second revolution' and 'To be rich is glorious' have not only been striving to get wealthy – they have also been reconnecting with and conserving their ancient and glorious past as the 'Middle Kingdom' rises to prominence in Asia once more. The country's new economic and cultural mobility and openness to the outside world is being manifested in the dynamic attitude the Chinese have adopted towards preserving their heritage. The Chinese are creating their own brand of conservation by bringing together past traditions, modern science and technology and international involvement to

educate conservation professionals and create an environment that can take on the challenge of caring for China's immense – in every way – cultural heritage. Since March 2007 I have been one of a handful of western students studying in Xi'an, central China, on an international Masters (MA) course run jointly by the University of Bologna (Italy) and Xi'an Jiaotong University (China). Chinese and western conservation experts are teaching the MA in the Conservation of Archaeological Materials, in English, for the first time to a mixed class of western and Chinese students.

The class has brought together an eclectic mix of

English, Italian, Hong Kong Chinese, American and Chinese archaeologists, restorers, artists, calligraphers, conservators, linguists and scientists to learn, develop and share methodologies of conservation that are applicable to both cultures.

### China Town

Xi'an (pronounced Shi-an), in Shaanxi Province in central China, is emblematic of the rapid change that is occurring in China and the pressures that are faced by conservators there. It has been a fascinating location to be based to observe first hand the transformation of the country and to view the



The opening ceremony of the Masters in the Conservation of Archaeological Materials in Xi'an Jiaotong University, Xi'an, China (March 2007). The author is in the center row, sixth from the right.



The Terracotta Warriors, discovered near Xi'an, guarding the tomb of China's first Emperor (Qin Shihuangdi).



The author working in the laboratories at the Center for the Conservation & Restoration of Cultural Property, Xi'an.

challenges facing its conservators.

Today Xi'an is a modern metropolis of over six million people centered around the Ming Dynasty (14th century) walled city but this is just a relic of the relatively recent phase of a history that can be traced back over three millennia. Xi'an, formerly named Chang'an, was the premier city in ancient China for over a dozen dynasties, from the Qin Dynasty (c. 200BC) until the decline of the Tang Dynasty (c. 900AD). It was the eastern terminus of trade on the fabled Silk Road and once ranked in size alongside ancient Rome, Constantinople and Baghdad. The city slipped into increasing obscurity over the last one thousand years, hitting a low in the early 20th century. Today Xi'an is one of the country's major tourist attractions. The renaissance of the city's fortunes is largely due to the discovery by a farmer in the mid 1970s of the Terracotta Army buried near the city by the Qin Emperor in 220BC, which drew the world's attention to the abundant wealth of countless other sights scattered in and around this city.

**We need the discourse to flow from east to west as well, because the origins and development of conservation in China are quite different from those in Europe**

**Conservation Concerns**

The pressures on the custodians of China's heritage are great; as the new roads are built and cities expand the number of historic relics that are uncovered or become threatened by people and pollution increases on an almost daily basis. The catalogue of woes suffered by China's historic relics is extensive, and includes damage done in antiquity by peasant reprisals or Emperor sponsored cultural vandalism, religious shifts, 19th century European colonial plundering, Japanese invasion, Civil War, the Cultural Revolution, general neglect and modern industrialization. Ironically the modern woe is popularity: having survived all that has gone before much cultural heritage is now being damaged by mass tourism. These tourists appear to be predominantly upwardly mobile Chinese eager to travel within their own land and reconnect with their history, something that until recently – because of economic and political restrictions – infrequently occurred.

Giovanni Morigi demonstrating to the class the delicate art of cleaning corrosion on ancient bronze.



**Cultural Collaboration**

The Chinese are well aware that the task facing them is great and that they can speed the process of catching up with modern concepts and techniques of conservation through international collaboration – of which the MA course is an example. This policy of cooperative conservation projects has been gathering pace over the last few years. For example, at the site of the Terracotta Warriors, teams of conservators from German and Belgian institutions have established strong links in the ongoing archaeological and conservation programme and helped to set up the conservation laboratories of Shaanxi Province Centre for Scientific Research and Conservation attached to the Museum of Qin Terracotta Warriors. In Xi'an the French, Germans and Italians are involved with the conservation departments of the Shaanxi Historical Museum and Shaanxi Provincial Archaeological Department. The University College London (UCL) Institute of Archaeology has also set up the International Centre for Chinese Heritage and Archaeology (ICCHA) with Peking University in Beijing.

Currently Xi'an has been hitting the headlines with the prestigious and heavily publicized collaborative project between the Chinese museums and the British Museum to allow a traveling exhibition of Qin terracotta warriors to open, to record sell-out audiences, in London this September.

**The MA course**

The MA course organizer Professor Rocco Mazzeo (University of Bologna and formerly of ICCROM Rome) has built connections with experts in the field of conservation both in Europe and China, drawing them together at Xi'an Jiaotong University to lecture on the conservation of archaeological materials. The Italian professors include experts on bronze conservation such as Giovanni Morigi and experts on stone conservation from CNR (National Research Council) in Rome such as Mauro Matteini and the Chinese professors include Li Zuxiong (Deputy Head of Conservation of the Dunhuang Grottoes) who is leading the massive in-situ conservation project being undertaken at the Dunhuang Caves in cooperation with the Getty Institute and Ma Tao who is Deputy Head of Conservation at the Center for the Conservation & Restoration of Cultural Property based at the Shaanxi Historical Museum, the largest such institution in the Xi'an. This conservation center, where some of the

Class visit to the mausoleum of Qianling Tomb. Built in 684 AD, Qianling is the burial place of the only Empress in Chinese history.



classes were delivered, has a unique place in Chinese conservation as it was set up by Italy in the early 1990s along European lines. This represented the beginnings of a shift by the Chinese away from a tradition of craftsman/restorers towards a more scientific conservation ideal based on cooperative international projects, and is the embodiment of the direction that conservation in China is aspiring to take.

Many of the Chinese professors and conservation experts teaching the course represent the new generation of Chinese who have often trained in the west and the east and embrace the ethical and scientific messages from the schools of western conservation but remain true to their own history of caring for their past. Teaching a western-based conservation course structure in China runs the risk of coming across as quite prescriptive and asserting that 'the western methodology is always right'; great emphasis has, however, been placed on the need for a discourse to flow from east to west as well, because the origins and development of conservation in China are quite different from those in Europe.

**We have been led on all manner of culinary adventures by our classmates, most memorably including the slaughtering of a chicken at our table**

The great, and privileged, part of the MA has been when the experts deliver the theory in lectures and the practical elements of the syllabus 'in the field', taking the class behind the scenes of the historical sites, stores containing a wealth of relics and even on to archaeological excavations. This is unusual in China, because of bureaucratic red tape and a historical legacy of being quite closed to foreigners; and that it happens at all is due largely to the personal efforts of the Chinese involved in teaching the MA course.

**Classroom Dynamics**

For me, the unique thing about the course has been studying in a classroom with Chinese students. This, I believe, is the first time this has been attempted in the field of conservation in China. Language was initially something of a barrier, obviously, but fortunately for me, the working language is English, and as the course has progressed this problem has lessened. The class has been a great opportunity to get to

Working at an archaeological site where the remains of a Tang Dynasty Temple (618 – 907 AD) were discovered during construction work, located just south of Xi'an.



know each other – in many cases we are the only westerners our Chinese classmates have ever befriended. Revealingly, this generation of Chinese – now in their early twenties – are the first wave of the ‘one child policy’ and are the single ‘Little Emperors’ in their family. Interestingly, their first questions when getting to know us reflected this and the place material and monetary aspiration has assumed in China. The questions went something like this: a) Do you have brothers & sisters? b) Do you have a car? and c) How much money do you make?

## The increasing openness and development of China represents a great opportunity for western and eastern conservators to learn from each other professionally and culturally

The approach to education in China is quite different, as they traditionally learn by rote and not by discussion. This has led to some adjustments from both sides to try and create an environment where discourse could actively occur. It was intriguing to see the reserve and shyness dissipate as time went on and the Chinese students tentatively warmed to the idea of open discussion. It is in the small glimpses of the national character through the individual that you get a sense

for the level of caution, understandably, that is ingrained in the society.

Outside the classroom the students have been very welcoming and took us under their wing to show us the real China. The main social priority, it seems, is eating! Meals are an expression of politeness: the more food and beer available, the higher level of respect/politeness. We have been led on all manner of culinary adventures by our classmates, most memorably including the slaughtering of a chicken at our table. I can report that the food is on the whole excellent and the beer is cheap – essential on account of the liberal use of hot spices!

### Conclusion

The increasing openness and development of China represents a great opportunity for western and eastern conservators to learn from each other professionally and culturally. The many collaborative conservation projects taking place allow the Chinese to develop their scientific and technical expertise and the west to obtain a unique access point to begin to appreciate the sheer depth, significance and variety of cultural heritage in China. This allows both cultures to contribute to protecting the unique Chinese legacy for future generations.

The Masters has proven to be a professional and personal adventure. The classroom-based stage of the syllabus is now behind me and I am embarking on what promises to be the most challenging and rewarding phase. I shall be working in a team of conservators at the Center for the Conservation & Restoration of Cultural Property based at the Shaanxi Historical Museum, focusing on projects and artifacts in the ceramics, wall-paintings, ancient metal and stone departments. These departments carry out on-site

conservation work at various tombs and temples around Shaanxi Province, which I shall also be involved in. More information about these experiences can be found by visiting my blog (online journal) at [www.felixthorntonjones.com](http://www.felixthorntonjones.com).

Support for my studies in China has been generously provided by the Queen Elizabeth Scholarship Trust (QUEST) and the Anna Plowden Trust.

### Author Biography

Felix Thornton-Jones is a freelance sculpture and decorative arts conservator/restorer ordinarily based in London. He has a BSc in Conservation and has worked as a conservator for the main auction houses, art dealers and private collections of North America and Europe whilst an employee of Plowden & Smith Ltd. (London) and Richard Salmon Restoration (New York); in addition he has spent time as a seasonal conservator at the Royal Collection and as a Stone Restorer on the Stephansdom Cathedral in Vienna.



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## The NiC interview

Since its establishment in 1996, the AusHeritage cultural heritage network has aimed to “facilitate the engagement of practitioners and organisations for the Australian heritage industry in the overseas arena”.

News in Conservation spoke to AusHeritage’s Chairman, Vinod Daniel, about recent projects in India and the Asia Pacific region.



**Vinod Daniel is the Head of The Research Centre for Materials Conservation and the Built Environment at the Australian Museum and the current Chairman of AusHeritage.**

*News in Conservation: What is AusHeritage?*

Vinod Daniel: AusHeritage is Australia’s international network for cultural heritage services. The organisation has 40 institutional members including three Australian universities, national collecting institutions, state galleries, libraries and museums, private architectural firms and private and government conservation services.

AusHeritage is an organisation that represents all dimensions of cultural heritage resources and expertise, especially in the Asia Pacific region. AusHeritage’s primary focus is to develop frameworks with key partners in the region as well as to facilitate people-to-people linkages between Australian and regional heritage practitioners.

*NiC: What is your role in AusHeritage?*

VD: The Australian Museum where I work is one of the forty institutional members. I represent the organisation in the network and am also the current elected Chairman of the organisation.

*NiC: How have you built relationships with conservation organisations overseas?*

VD: AusHeritage has signed Memoranda of Understanding (MoU) with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations



The signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between AusHeritage and INTACH in April 2007.

(ASEAN) Committee on Culture and Information (COCI) and the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). AusHeritage also has an MoU with the Ministry of Culture in Indonesia.

AusHeritage has conducted targeted people-to-people relationship building exercises in Myanmar, Brunei, India and New Zealand. An initiative in China is planned for 2008.

*NiC: What projects are you involved with in India following the agreement with INTACH?*

VD: AusHeritage has provided support for developing a new exhibition gallery at the Chhatrapati Shivaji (Prince of Wales) Museum in Mumbai and delivered strategic workshops on Protecting Collections against Disasters and Pests, in addition to working closely with several Indian private and government cultural heritage organisations.

AusHeritage has assisted INTACH develop a charter for conservation as well as assist with several capacity building initiatives.

*NiC: What about other projects in the Asia Pacific region?*

AusHeritage has also worked on several capacity building and strategic initiatives with ASEAN. We worked with COCI on developing a strategic response to the ASEAN Declaration on Cultural Heritage and we are currently developing a cultural mapping handbook for ASEAN in partnership with ASEAN Sub-Committee on Culture.

*NiC: How do conservation practitioners in Australia benefit from their involvement in these projects?*

VD: The benefits are at two levels. The first benefit for conservation professionals is the opportunity for them to work in a cross-disciplinary way, i.e.,

materials conservators, architectural professional, urban planners and educators working side by side and understanding each other’s priorities and needs.

The second and most important benefit is the learning that each professional can bring back and apply in their home situations. As many conservators who practice in western countries know, conservation has become very rigid in terms of practices and approaches. Very often the cultural context is overlooked. Working internationally provides an opportunity to compare approaches and develop new ethical guidelines that can be applied at home.

*NiC: How does conservation practice differ in Australia and India?*

VD: Australia has strengths in preserving tangible cultural heritage and India has strengths in managing intangible cultural heritage. Working in India is always exciting for Australian practitioners since we can share and learn at the same time.

*NiC: Any words of advice for people who are interested in working internationally?*

VD: Two words of wisdom for practitioners interested in working in the Asia-Pacific regions: “patience” and “relationships”.

It is important that project time plans have a reasonable lead time for the “relationship building stage”, especially at a people-to-people level. I have seen so many projects fail because of project time frames being too short.

Being flexible and developing cross-cultural skills to understand the local situation is important. It is a lifelong learning exercise and the knowledge is cumulative.

Australian Museum

# IIC News

## IIC Congress, London 2008 Conservation and Access

The 22nd IIC international Congress will take place in London, UK, 15–19 September 2008. The Congress will examine the role of conservation in the presentation and protection of the world's cultural heritage. It will explore the ways that conservation professionals engage in the worldwide sharing of art and heritage, whether through people going to see that heritage or the heritage itself travelling the globe. Manuscripts have been requested from authors in fifteen countries; the locations where the conservators are trying to improve access are truly global, extending from the Arctic to the Antarctic. The approaches vary from technical experimentation to philosophical analysis, yet a common theme of risk assessment and risk management can be detected.

### Congress update

The planning for the 2008 IIC Congress in London continues apace, with the Organising Committee, under the leadership of Chris Collins of the London's Natural History Museum, moving on from the general planning of the Congress to the details and minutiae of the event.

As with all IIC Congresses, one of the attractions of the event will be a series of entertaining and interesting evening events, which will allow those at the Congress to meet fellow conservation professionals socially; these are as essential a part of IIC Congresses as the programme of papers and posters. In addition, excursions are being finalised to allow those attending to take full advantage of the conservation resources in and around London, as well as to visit sites of special conservation interest; we also hope to include some visits to sites of more general interest so that those attending can put their conservation into context (a continuation of the theme of the 2006 Munich Congress!).

The main venue for the Congress will be the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, which is in the heart of London, hard by Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament and Whitehall, making the Congress easy to get to from elsewhere in London by public transport, as well as being ideally situated as a base for exploring other parts of London and its environs.

This issue of *News in Conservation* carries the Call for Posters for the Congress; the technical papers are already under consideration by the Technical Committee (under the leadership of Jonathan Ashley-Smith) and will make for a series of important and informative presentations; the posters will add and augment this, allowing displays of ideas, research and work that will add to the value of the event. There will also be a Trade Fair for those attending to browse and discuss matters with the leading suppliers in the field.

We will be opening booking in January 2008, and the full details of the Congress will be available from a special Congress section of the IIC web-site ([www.iiconserv.org](http://www.iiconserv.org)) as well as regular updates in *News in Conservation*. We very much look forward to seeing you there!

### Congress: call for posters

Poster presentation is particularly well suited to material with a strong visual impact, short case histories and accounts of work in progress. Posters are displayed prominently throughout the meeting and this year there will be a programmed session giving delegates the opportunity to speak to poster authors. An extended abstract is published in

the conference papers to provide a permanent record and point of contact. If you would like to present a poster, please send us your provisional title and a 100-word summary of the poster content by 14 December 2007. The choice of posters for display will be made by 15 January 2008 and final texts should be submitted by 28 March 2008.

Submit your abstract to the London Congress Section of the IIC website.

### New IIC Fellows

Congratulations to Astrid Brandt-Grau, Michael Duffy, Frances Lennard and Alison Richmond who have just been elected as Fellows of IIC. Profiles of Michael Duffy and Frances Lennard will appear in the next issue of *News in Conservation*.



#### Astrid Brandt-Grau

Astrid Brandt studied art and archeology as well as science applied to the conservation of Cultural Heritage at the Sorbonne in Paris (Université de Paris I). In 1985 she graduated with a doctorate in archeology. This was followed by a stay at the French National Centre of Research (C.N.R.S.) where she worked for two years on different research projects related to paper and textile conservation. In 1987 she joined the French firm Microondes Energie Systèmes, which develops patents of the C.N.R.S. In 1990 she joined the Ministry of Culture as a research engineer. From 1990 to 1998 she worked at the Bibliothèque Nationale de France, where she specialised in preventive conservation and project management of innovative conservation methods. From April 1998 to October 2002, she was the deputy head of the Research and Technology Mission (MRT) of the French Ministry of Culture. Since October 2002 she has been the Director of Studies of the Conservation Department at the National Institute for Cultural Heritage (INP). She has been involved twice in the coordination and teaching of ICCROM's "Sharing Conservation Decision" course. She works also as an expert for European projects and is an active member of ICOM and IIC (where she is a board member of the French section SFIIC). Astrid has published many articles on conservation and restoration issues.

#### Alison Richmond

An American, educated in London and Rome, Alison first became aware of conservation while studying for a BA in Art History at the Courtauld Institute. After teaching for 10 years in adult education, she trained as a paper conservator at Camberwell College of Art, joining the Victoria and Albert Museum in 1990. In 1998, she took up the post of Tutor on the Royal College of Art/Victoria and Albert Museum Postgraduate Conservation



Programme and was appointed Senior Tutor in 2003. She is a PACR accredited conservator, a Trustee of The Institute of Conservation, and an active member of the ICOM-CC Working Group: History and Theory of Conservation-Restoration. She has active research interests in ethics, decision-making and the history of conservation, and is currently co-editing (with Dr. Alison Bracker) a multi-authored book on the principles of conservation to be published by Elsevier in 2009. She has worked internationally to promote a practical approach to the ethics of conservation.

### How to apply for Fellowship

Fellowship of IIC is open to all IIC individual members who are actively engaged in the profession of conservation. Fellows have usually been personal members of IIC for five years and they must have been active in the conservation profession for at least ten years. Fellows must be able to demonstrate commitment to the profession and to show that they keep up to date with relevant developments.

If you would like to be considered for Fellowship it is necessary to find an existing Fellow who will propose you, and who will write a letter of support on your behalf. You can find more information and an application form on the IIC website, or by contacting the IIC office.

### People on the move...

Congratulations to IIC member Carol Stringari, who has recently been appointed Chief Conservator of the Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum. Carol will be responsible for developing procedures for the care and treatment of the collection in New York. Working closely with the conservation and curatorial staffs, she will identify significant areas of research and treatment priorities, and develop an ongoing programme of scientific analysis. Carol will also lead an initiative to upgrade the conservation laboratory. In addition to her museum work, she has lectured and published extensively on various subjects including the preservation of unconventional art forms, the Variable Media Initiative, treatment of monochromatic paintings, Ad Reinhardt and László Moholy-Nagy.

### Gabo Trust Travelling Scholarships

It is not too late to apply for an IIC-Gabo Trust Travelling Scholarship! The scholarships are offered to conservators who wish to study the conservation of sculpture anywhere in the world. Applications for the 2008 Scholarship are invited from Individual Members and Fellows of IIC who are conservators practising in either the public or private sector.

A maximum of two scholarships will be awarded to applicants proposing study tours that, in the opinion of the selection committee, will most benefit their own careers and the worldwide body of knowledge of sculpture conservation.

The maximum sum awarded will be up to £5000 or 10,000 US dollars or 7,500 Euros.

Full details of the Scholarship together with an Application Form are available on the IIC website. The closing date for applications this year is **30 November 2007**. Awards will be made by the end of January and announced in *News in Conservation* in February 2008.

### Renewal reminder

Annual subscriptions were due for renewal on 1 July. If you have already paid your 2007–2008 subscription – thank you.

Fellows, Individual and Student Members who have not yet paid their subscription will receive a red renewal notice with this issue of *News in Conservation*. Institutional Members will be sent a separate reminder, to their usual billing address. When you pay your subscription, which you can now do online if you wish, please remember there is also the opportunity to contribute to the IIC Professional Development Fund. Many members will have contacts in countries where the earnings of conservation professionals and students are too low to allow for Individual membership of IIC. Understandably, IIC membership is, at present, very under-represented in such countries. By contributing to this Fund, you will be helping others to enjoy the benefits of IIC. If you are aware of specific cases where membership of IIC would be a great benefit to the professional development of an individual known to you, please let us know so we can help them have access to the Fund.



## IIC members' database

Did you know that, as a member of IIC, you can search the IIC membership database online? Simply login to the IIC website and click on 'List of Members' in the main menu. The online database contains addresses and contact details for all members, making it an easy way to stay in touch with other IIC members.

You can also update your own database entry to include a CV or biography and a photograph. If you have not already added these, please consider doing so. By doing this you will be helping put a face and personality to the IIC's membership list and helping our community feel more like a collection of individuals rather than a bald list of names and addresses. To update your own entry, search for yourself in the List of Members, click on your name to select your profile, then click on 'Revise entry' at the top of the page.

**Calls for papers**

**Cultural heritage between conservation and contamination**

29 November – 1 December 2007  
Berlin, Germany  
Submit abstracts by:  
12 October 2007

**8th Indoor Air Quality meeting**

17–19 April 2008  
Vienna, Austria  
Submit abstracts by:  
15 November 2007

**34th Annual CAC Conference**

30 May – 1 June 2008  
Montreal, Canada  
Submit abstracts by:  
15 December 2007

**Multivariate Analysis and Chemometry for Cultural Heritage and Environment**

1–4 June 2008  
Ventotene, Italy  
Submit abstracts by: 28 April 2008

**9th International Symposium on Wood and Furniture Conservation**

Late 2008  
Amsterdam, Netherlands  
Submit abstracts by:  
15 November 2007

**XIII International Symposium on Luminescence Spectroscopy**

7–11 September 2008  
Bologna, Italy  
Submit abstracts by: 15 April 2008

**Conferences**

**IGIIC (IIC Italian Group) annual congress**  
11–13 October 2007  
Cremona, Italy

**Recent trends in imaging techniques used in art conservation**

13 October 2007  
Harvard, USA

**Science and cultural heritage in the Mediterranean area**

17 October 2007  
Palermo, Italy

**Australian Institute for the Conservation of Cultural Materials (AICCM) national conference**

17–19 October 2007  
Brisbane, Australia

**Understanding the Scottish town**

19–20 October 2007  
Stirling, Scotland

**III Congreso Chileno de Conservación y Restauración: patrimonio, conservación y ciudadanía**

24–26 October 2007  
Santiago, Chile

**Vessels: inside and out**

24–27 October 2007  
Budapest, Hungary

**Icon Stone & Wall Paintings Group: 'Polychromed wood'**

26 October 2007 &  
22 February 2008  
London, UK

**From Gray Areas to Green Areas: Developing Sustainable Practices in Preservation Environments**

1–3 November 2007  
Austin, USA

**Association for Preservation Technology conference**

4–7 November 2007  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

**Facing impermanence – 6th North American textile conservation conference**

6–9 November 2007  
Washington, DC, USA

**Photographic preservation and conservation meeting**

7 November 2007  
London, UK

**Museum microclimates**

19–23 November 2007  
Copenhagen, Denmark

**GEIIC (IIC Spanish Group) conference: la conservación infalible**

Oviedo, Spain  
21–23 November 2007

**The care and conservation of Middle Eastern manuscripts**

26–28 November 2007  
Melbourne, Australia

**Persistence of memory: stewardship of digital assets**

28–29 November 2007  
Seattle, USA

**Cultural heritage between conservation and contamination**

29 November – 1 December 2007  
Berlin, Germany

**The 12th international conference of National Trusts**

3–5 December 2007  
New Delhi, India

**Terra 2008: 10th international conference on the study and conservation of earthen architecture**

1–5 February 2008  
Bamako, Mali

**Risk assessment - management strategies**

14–16 February 2008  
Aschaffenburg, Germany

**Holding it all together**

21–22 February 2008  
London, UK

**Infrared and Raman Users Group (IRUG) conference**

26–29 March 2008  
Vienna, Austria

**8th Indoor Air Quality meeting**

17–19 April 2008  
Vienna, Austria

**AIC annual meeting**

21–24 April 2008  
Denver, Colorado, USA

**11th international seminar on the care and conservation of manuscripts**

24–25 April 2008  
Copenhagen, Denmark

**8th triennial meeting for conservators of the Baltic states**

7–10 May 2008  
Tallinn, Estonia

**Art 2008: non-destructive testing, microanalysis and preservation**

25–30 May 2008  
Jerusalem, Israel

**34th Annual CAC Conference**

30 May–1 June 2008  
Montreal, Canada

**Multivariate Analysis and Chemometry for Cultural Heritage and Environment**

1–4 June 2008  
Ventotene, Italy

**XIII International Symposium on Luminescence Spectroscopy**

7–11 September 2008  
Bologna, Italy

**11th International Conference on Accelerator Mass Spectrometry**

7–11 September 2008  
Rome, Italy

**IIC 2008 Congress: conservation and access 15–19 September 2008 London, UK**

**Stone 2008**

15–20 September 2008  
Torun, Poland

**ICOM-CC triennial meeting, 2008**

22–26 September 2008  
New Delhi, India

**Salt weathering on buildings and stone sculptures**

22–24 October 2008  
Copenhagen, Denmark

**Courses, seminars and workshops**

**The do's and don'ts of photographic conservation**

16 October 2007  
London, UK

**Old World Technologies Adapting in the New World**

3–4 November 2007  
San Juan, Puerto Rico

**1st Australian XRF workshops for conservators**

7–8 and 14–15 November 2007  
Melbourne and Canberra, Australia

**Image processing workshop**

New York, USA  
9 November 2007

**Preventive conservation, collection care and mount making workshop**

10–11 November 2007  
San Francisco, USA

**Islamic binding workshop**

29–30 November 2007  
Melbourne, Australia

**Indo-Persian miniature workshop**

3–7 December 2007  
Melbourne, Australia

**Pre-Columbian Textile Workshop**

8–19 January 2008  
Lima and Yarinacocha, Peru

**For more information about these conferences and courses, see the IIC website: [www.iiconservation.org](http://www.iiconservation.org)**

**AATA Online**

**Abstracts of International Conservation Literature**



[www.aata.getty.edu](http://www.aata.getty.edu)

A free resource for professionals engaged in the conservation and management of material cultural heritage in all its forms: works of art, cultural objects, architectural heritage, and archaeological sites and monuments.

AATA Online includes more than 100,000 abstracts, with new abstracts of both current and historical conservation literature added quarterly.

AATA Online regularly abstracts 150 journals, conference proceedings and monograph series. Hundreds of other publications, both from the field of conservation and from allied fields, are abstracted on an irregular basis by volunteer contributors.

AATA Online includes all 36 volumes of *Art and Archaeology Technical Abstracts (AATA)*, its predecessor, *IIC Abstracts*, and over 1,600 abstracts published between 1932 and 1955 by the Fogg Art Museum and the Freer Gallery of Art. Also included are all of the original AATA special subject supplements and additional supplements added since going online.

For more information, please contact us at [aata@getty.edu](mailto:aata@getty.edu)

Produced by the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) in association with The International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC) and with ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property).



**The terracotta warriors – in glorious technicolour**



As China's terracotta army invades the British Museum, a temporary display there shows how the warriors would have looked when first created. Most of the original paint and varnish was lost shortly after excavation, when the waterlogged terracotta dried out and caused the surface decoration to peel off

(left). A team from Munich University proposed a way of reattaching the peeling paint layers in 2003, and has recently been able to reconstruct the original colour scheme of some of the soldiers on replica figures (right).

British Museum

**Do you have any conservation-related photographs (humorous, dramatic or artistic)? Or have you spotted an amusing or unusual story in the news? Send your clippings to: [news@iiconservation.org](mailto:news@iiconservation.org) and share them with your fellow IIC members!**