

Values and Criteria in Heritage Conservation

Proceedings of the International Conference
Florence March 2nd - 4th 2007



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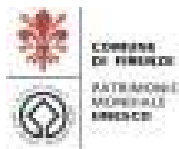


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Foreword to the International Conference

The spontaneous and multi-aspectual development over the past few years of an international discussion of the philosophical and theoretical bases of the protection of cultural property gave rise to the declaration of the XII General Assembly of ICOMOS in Xi'an 2005 which called into being the International Scientific Committee on Theory and Philosophy of Conservation and Restoration (henceforth "ICOMOS Theory Committee"). The main tasks of the Committee were then defined in its statute as follows:

The aim of the Committee – consistent with the aims of ICOMOS international cooperation – is to explore the basis and framework of conservation, restoration and preservation theory and practice in the globalized world. With these developments in mind the Committee would like to reach the ambitious goal of analyzing recent problems and suggest appropriate proposals, perhaps even answers.

The activities of the Committee in the field of conservation and restoration can include:

- examining the existing corpus of documents and scientific studies,
- identifying needs and uncovered areas of interest,
- developing ideas and visions for the future,
- cooperating with other ICOMOS committees and scientific units of other institutions (such as UNESCO, ICCROM and ICOM) in order to establish an integrated theoretical basis of preservation of cultural heritage.

The first conference organised jointly between the Committee and the international Centre of Culture took place in Cracow in May 2006. The central issue was "Towards a global philosophy of heritage conservation".

The second conference organized in Florence between the 1st and 4th of March 2007 together with the ICOMOS Theory Committee, International Centre of Study for the Conservation and the Restoration of Cultural Property ICCROM and the Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco, Florence focused on the *Values and criteria in heritage conservation*.

This topic received much attention in both theory and practice. The rich variety of values (e.g. from aesthetic and artistic values to utilitarian, material and technical values) of cultural property are perceived and classified differently depending on the cultural zone (factors which have influence on this include cultural traditions and religious beliefs), and undergoing change with time.

Thus the dominated-value perspectives have to consider many factors which together lead finally to the decision of whether or not to list monuments and sights.

Our conference set a beginning to discuss these problems from varied points of views and hopes to encourage an exchange of thoughts and ideas.

Now, thanks to the Fondazione Romualdo Del Bianco, we are pleased to present to the international circle of conservators this book which collects all the acts of the conference.

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and Philosophy of Conservation
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PAOLO DEL BIANCO

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