

WOAM NEWSLETTER

No. 41

April 2008

ICOM-CC WORKING GROUP

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1. FROM THE COORDINATOR

Dear Colleagues

First of all – the information I would die to give you is the distribution date for the Proceedings from the 10th ICOM-CC WOAM meeting in Amsterdam. Unfortunately, I don't have the date yet – but the manuscripts have been handed over to the technicians and I really hope we are close! As soon as I know, I'll let you know.

This newsletter holds information on which WOAM WG papers that have been accepted for the ICOM-CC meeting in New Delhi 22-26 September 2008. Please remember, that although the editorial committee does not accept a paper for preprints, the authors may

still be allowed to present their work during the conference, as the working group coordinators will put together the final programme in the groups.

Please note that the “Early Bird Registration” for the New Delhi Conference has been extended to 30th April 2008.

A few weeks ago I posted information regarding an interactive forum for ICOM-CC members. An ICOM-CC membership number is required to get access to the site. If you have a membership number and still cannot enter the site, please contact the administrator:

Andries J. van Dam, conservator and co-ordinator ICOM-CC Working Group Natural HistoryCollections.

E-mail: A.J.van_Dam@lumc.nl

The structure of this newsletter has been slightly altered compared to the previous ones, as the members of the advisory group have submitted information on ongoing projects from their areas. The projects are presented under the headline: “From the advisory group”. Thank you for sending this information, it will be helpful in order to make interesting WOAM Newsletters in the future. Deadline for information for Newsletter 42 will be June 10th. And I am grateful for input from all of you – not only the advisory group members.....

Kristiane

2. FROM THE ADVISORY GROUP

News from South Europe (Khôi Tran):

FRANCE, ARC-Nucléart conservation laboratory in Grenoble:

Research project on extraction of pyrite and elemental sulphur from wet archaeological wood

The aim of the research is to study chemical and microbiological methods to extract pyrite and sulphur on/in still wet archaeological artefacts. For this purpose, the characterisation of the compounds in wet archaeological samples will be carried out; in the second phase the simulation of their formation in wet wood will be implemented. In the third step, chemicals and microorganisms will be tested for the transformation and extraction of the defined sulphur compounds in the wooden object.

During 2008, ARC-Nucléart plans to set up this research project in cooperation with 2 other French laboratories working on marine corrosion and especially on sulphur compounds. It would be nice if colleagues having some waterlogged samples containing sulphur could send them to us for analytical purpose.

Please contact: Khôi Tran ,
e-mail: quoc-khoi.tran@cea.fr

HUNGARY, Herman Otto Museum: 7.5 million year old fossilized cypress trunks from a mining site.

The museum has 4 trunks, and plans to start sugar impregnation of the 2; while the 2 others will be stored under original sand and water waiting for results of the sugar treatment. The oldest trunk was found in January under the mine surface. According to Veres Janos, there are no more trunks on the site and the mine is working continuously.

For interested and already registered laboratories, samples from the trunks will be sent in April 2008 for comparative analysis of the material.

Contact person: Veres Janos, Herman Otto Museum, e-mail: veresj@hermuz.hu, and Zsuzanna Marton, University of Pecs, e-mail: marton@fizika.ttk.ptc.hu

Picture below: The trunks *in situ*, in the mining area.



Picture below: A tree trunk is lifted into the museum.



TURKEY, Yénikapi, Istanbul
Shipwreck excavation

The Theodose harbour from Bysantine period was discovered in downtown Istanbul during the subway construction. In the south of the Historical Center of Istanbul, the building of the future Yenikapi subway station permits the archaeologists to excavate an huge 26 000 square meter site. Started in November 2004, the operation is still going on day and night, 24 hours per day, with manpower of 750 workers managed by 50 archaeologists headed by Metin Gokcay. The Museum of Archaeology, city of Istanbul, is in charge of the excavation.

Discoveries from the site:

Sections of walls from the Emperor Constantin.

Harbour structures identified as the ancient harbour of the Emperor Theodose (IVth century, Eleutherion in the ancient text) were found with stores, wharfs.

About 30 shipwrecks dated from VIth to XIth century. Some wrecks are full of amphorae, others are undoubtedly warships. Some shipwrecks are studied by a team headed by Nergis Gunsenin from the Istanbul University and another team headed by Cemal Pulak from the Texas A&M University and the Bodrum Museum. Different aspects are investigated: naval architecture, the dismantling of the boats, as well as the future conservation treatment. This last project will be managed by Ufuk Kocabas from the Istanbul University.

A museum to exhibit all the discovered artefacts as well as a restoration laboratory is planned beside the construction of the Yenikapi underground station.

Pierre Vaudaine (director) and Henri Bernard-Maugiron (conservator) from ARC-Nucléart, Grenoble, France visited the site in January 2008.

News from Scandinavia (Emma Hocker):
SWEDEN, The Vasa Museum

Vasa stern platform now installed

The Vasa Museum has installed a 9 metre wide and 25 metre high platform to help the curators to reach the stern sculptures on the ship which were previously inaccessible. An important aspect is that with the platform in place, the conservators can now vacuum clean all the dust from the stern sculptures, which they were never been able to do before. The sculptures can also be reached and checked for salt outbreaks, and removed, if reconsevation is deemed necessary.

The platform is permanent and has an advanced construction, which is to provide for the needs and demands of the museum while harmonising with a sensitive environment. For more information, visit the website: www.vasamuseet.se/sitecore/content/Vasamuseet/InEnglish/About/News

DENMARK, The National Museum
Circumpolar conservation

The Conservation Department, Archaeology is looking for partners for the project “Circumpolar conservation” dealing with using the climate conditions actively in the conservation of waterlogged archaeological organic materials. If you have experience with for example freeze-drying in the snow, degradation conditions in perma frost, low-tech technologies in the wilderness etc. we would be eager to learn about it.

Please contact: Poul Jensen or Kristiane Strætkvern, e-mail:

poul.jensen@natmus.dk;

Kristiane.straetkvern@natmus.dk

3. ICOM-CC NEWS FROM THE DIRECTORY BOARD

The editorial committee received 180 paper contributions, the maximum limit being 150 papers. The committee arrived at a total of 148 papers and 42 poster contributions presented within 29 working groups. The WOAM group submitted 5 papers and 1 poster and the following were accepted for New Delhi 2008 ICOM-CC preprints.

Accepted papers in the WOAM group

Alejandra Alonso-Olvera* and Khôi Tran:

Conservation of a Pre-Columbian wooden sculpture: A Mexican-French collaboration using gamma radiation technology for consolidation.

András Morgos and Setsuo Imazu:

A summary and evaluation of 15 years research, practice and experience with lactitol methods developed for the conservation of waterlogged, degraded archaeological wood.

Jan Bruun Jensen, Kristiane Strætkevørn*, Knud B. Botfeldt, Jet van Lanschot, Lars Rust Jensen:
Restoring a dried up Bronze Age dugout – plan and practice.

Accepted Posters in the WOAM group

Tom Sandström, Carola Häggström, Karin Lindahl, Malin Sahlstedt, and Emma Wikstad:

Deterioration patterns for alum conserved wood

4. CONFERENCES AND COURSES

ICOM-CC 15th Triennial Conference, New Delhi, India, September 22-26, 2008

Theme: Diversity in Heritage Conservation: Tradition Innovation and Participation.

The objective of the Triennial Conference is to present an overview of the current state of conservation research and practice through reports by the ICOM-CC Working Groups. Special attention will be given to papers and posters dealing with problems and progress in conservation in the region hosting the conference and to papers addressing the congress theme – “Diversity in Heritage Conservation: Tradition, Innovation and Participation”.

	Till 30th April 2008*	After 30th April 2008	On-site
Members & Friends of ICOM-CC	Euro 350	Euro 400	Euro 450
Non-members	Euro 470	Euro 520	Euro 570
Students	Euro 175	Euro 200	Euro 225
Accompanying persons	Euro 300 (without preprints)		

*PLEASE NOTE:

THE EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO 30 APRIL 2008

More information available at the conference website: <http://www.icom-cc2008.org>

“Conservation of wet organic archaeological materials”

Conference from 11 to 13 September 2008

at the Fachhochschule Brandenburg, Brandenburg an der Havel, Germany, Audimax.

The number of archaeological excavations is still high and often large amounts of wet organic materials are found. The aim of the conference is to give conservators, archaeologists, taxidermists and scientists that are dealing with such finds the opportunity to discuss recent developments in conservation of wet organic archaeological materials.

The main topics:

- Recovery and first aid on excavations,
- Storage after excavation and before conservation,
- Reburial and monitoring,
- Handling of large quantities of finds,
- Use of biocides,
- Conservation methods,
- Conservation of individual objects, composite and issues concerning their display,
- Environmental conditions for storage and display.

It is intended to visit the recently opened Archaeologisches Landesmuseum and the Brandenburgischen Landesamte für Denkmalpflege with the Conservation laboratory for waterlogged materials in Wuensdorf.

The congress languages:

German and English.

Deadline for submission of abstracts (for presentation or poster) was 31 March 2008.

Please download the registration from

http://www.restauratoren.de/fileadmin/red/FG_Arch_Objekte/registration_form_engl_08_01_16.pdf.

The congress is organized by :

Working group on archaeological materials at the Verband der Restauratoren in Deutschland e.V. (VDR) and Brandenburgisches Landesamt für Denkmalpflege und Archaeologisches Landesmuseum

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Mobile Analytics for Heritage Conservation: the 2008 Conservation Science Annual, November 17-18, 2008, Somerset, New Jersey, USA

Instruments for analysis and study of art and other cultural heritage structures and materials are continually becoming smaller, more portable, less costly, and easier to use. This trend is driving enhanced practices in conservation science and in conservation examination and treatment, not only in fixed facilities but also in field collection and analysis of data, and other mobile services.

To broaden awareness of mobile analytics, the New York Conservation Foundation is producing our fifteenth Conservation Science Annual. The CSA comprises at least four half-day sessions of Powerpoint style presentations and posters from colleagues actively researching and applying mobile analytical methods and technology in heritage conservation. Again we are producing our CSA in cooperation with the Eastern Analytical Symposium, an international meeting of analytical science and technology conducted annually in New Jersey, USA.

For more about NYCF, see <http://www.NYCF.org> ; click the "EAS" button at left for CSA's outline history 1994 - 2006. See details on the 2007 CSA as an EAS "conference in miniature" of five sessions on Conservation and Cultural Heritage, at <http://www.eas.org/pdf/ProgramChairLetter.pdf> , and in the EAS Final Program at <http://www.eas.org/pdf/Update.pdf> , search on "heritage" and on "preservation." Explore the entire EAS website at <http://www.eas.org/> .

FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION: 2008 CSA organizers David Thickett of English Heritage and John Scott of NYCF, are currently assembling the 2008 "invited" sessions on Mobile Analytics. Please send your brief abstract to NYConsnFdn@aol.com for consideration, NOW. We do have limited NYCF and EAS budgets to partly subsidize registration and travel for CSA "invited" presentations. See also:

<http://www.eas.org/pdf/InvitedSpeakerGuidelines.pdf>

SOON: CSA "contributed" oral presentation and CSA poster presentation abstracts are submitted via an EAS online system during March and early April. To coordinate with the NYCF CSA, please contact NYCF with your "contributed" abstract before or during the EAS submission period. Contributed presentations are not subsidized. See also:

<http://www.eas.org/pdf/OralSpeakerGuidelines.pdf>

<http://www.eas.org/pdf/PosterPresentations.pdf>

John Scott
President, New York Conservation Foundation, Inc.
Member, EAS Program Committee
NYConsnFdn@aol.com

5. COLLEAGUES' CORNER

I have resigned my job at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Lab effective November 20, 2007, and I am now full-time in private practice. My new contact information is located below.

I'll be continuing to work with Sara and Emily on the 2010 WOAM bid, and I hope to stay as, or more, active in WOAM as I have in the past.
Sincerely, Howard

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WOAM 2007 Proceedings.

The final editing of the manuscripts for Proceedings of the 10th ICOM-CC WOAM WG meeting in Amsterdam is in progress. The Proceedings will include work presented during the conference; scientifically peer reviewed articles and non-reviewed but edited presentations of papers and posters. The RACM is in charge of the publishing; Participants in the conference will receive proceedings free of charge. As soon as the book will be available for sale, the information incl. the price will be announced in the WOAM Newsletter.

Lead editors: Hans Huisman and Kristiane Strætkvern.

Peer review committee: Tara Grant, David Gregory, Per Hoffmann, Ida Hovmand, Hans Huisman, Jan Bruun Jensen, Poul Jensen, Henning Matthiesen, Thomas Nilsson, Vicky Richards, Jim Spriggs.

WOAM 2010:

Will take place at:

The University Greenville, North Carolina

Local organizers: Sarah Watkins-Kenney, Emily Williams and Howard Wellmann.

In order to improve the timing in relation to the call for papers and the preprints procedures for the ICOM-CC triennial meetings, the 11th WOAM conference will take place during **spring 2010**.

Dear Colleagues,

With the great help and the hard work of our colleague Theo Sturge, **the leather related postprints for the interim meeting in Athens in 2004** are now published in full colour.

They can be purchased as a printed book, or they can be downloaded as a PDF file. This is free. To get to the book go to:

<http://www.lulu.com/content/1644345>

To purchase a copy you will need to set up a simple account.

You can download it from the site. If you have difficulty with the download right click on the DOWNLOAD NOW button and choose "save target as" if using Internet Explorer or "save link as" if using Firefox.

With best wishes,

Andreas Schulze
ICOM CC Working Group, Leather and Related Materials Co-ordinator.

**Activation sale offer for the preprints of
The Icon and Portrait International
Conference, and The preprints for The
International Conference on Heritage of
Naqada and Qus region.**

**1. The preprints of The Icon and Portrait
International Conference**

ISBN 977-5118-35-2

It is one volume, 232 pages, It includes 22 illustrated papers and 1 Poster abstract. The 20 papers and the poster abstract are in English while two papers are in Arabic. The offer price (3 copies) is Euros 100 (instead of Euros 150).

**2. The preprints for The International
Conference on Heritage of Naqada and
Qus region (two volumes)**

Volume (I), ISBN 977-6088-02-3

Volume (I) is papers in English. It includes 19 illustrated papers in 240 pages. The offer price (3 copies) is Euros 100 (instead of Euros 150)

Volume (II), ISBN 977-6088-03-1

Volume (II) is papers in Arabic and includes 11 illustrated papers in 168 pages. The offer price (3 copies) is Euros 50 (instead of Euros 75)

**Shipment costs and the coverage of the
bank commission other then your bank
commission have to be added to the
prices.**

For more information and ORDER FORM please contact

Prof. Dr. Hany Hanna
Coordinator of ICOM-CC–Wood, Furniture
and Lacquer.
E-mail: hhnnc@yahoo.com

A Plea for More Friends

Until now you have taken part in the activity of your working group through one or more of the following:

- Triennial conference of ICOM-CC
- Meeting of the working group at the conference
- Interim meeting
- Publication in the preprints
- Networking with other members of the working group
- Use of the ICOM-CC website
- Reading the newsletter.

We would like to encourage you to join ICOM-CC.

If you are not able to become a member of ICOM and support the organisation through your membership due to the regulations of ICOM or other circumstances, there are other options. In order to establish a better link between you and your colleagues of ICOM-CC, several years ago we created the special category, Friends of ICOM-CC.

The annual contribution (1 January - 31 December), which is essential to support the operation of ICOM-CC, is 40 Euro and 25 Euro for lowincome countries. We have also installed a Paypal system on our website to make payment easier (at www.ICOM-CC.org). We hope that you will consider joining ICOM-CC by either becoming a member or an ICOM-CC Friend for the year 2008. Members and Friends of ICOM-CC will benefit from the reduced registration fee at our Triennial Conference, which will take place in New Delhi, India from 22-26 September 2008 and will certainly be an exciting event.

Thank you in advance for supporting ICOM-CC.

Thea van Oosten