

WOAM NEWSLETTER

No. 40

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ICOM-CC WORKING GROUP

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1. FROM THE COORDINATOR

Dear Colleagues

To all of you who attended the meeting in Amsterdam in September; thank you for attending the meeting, for sharing your experiences, posing questions, participating in discussions outside and inside the conference room – thus making the conference a good and educational event for all of us. To those of you who were not there; I hope you will be able to get the funding, the time, the health and whatever necessary to attend the next meeting. We missed you.

I consider our interim meetings to be educational and qualifying for newcomers as well as seniors, it was encouraging to observe that our meetings are still a good mixture of students, seniors, researchers, technicians, males and females. Although the founders of the group are retiring – one by one – there seems to be a new generation ready to step in but I still hope that we may have several more WOAM meetings where the novices get the

opportunity of meeting the bigwigs – and vice versa.

Another wish for future meetings is that our institutions, managers and directors acknowledge the significance of the WOAM conferences and willingly let us participate to discuss recent research, methods and results with colleagues in the field. I will remind those who made presentations in Amsterdam, to send one PP slide or two to Gabriele Zink. Her idea of making a “WOAM Commercial” with a brief summary of the contributions might be one way to improve the access for our colleagues and ourselves to the conferences. There is a separate box on page 3 with her contact details.

In addition to the minutes from the Amsterdam meeting, this Newsletter also holds an update of the Mary Rose project, there are links to a website on a Canadian conservation project, news from ICOM-CC, the previous meeting in New Delhi and other conferences, seminars and meetings that might interest you.

This will be the last WOAM Newsletter in 2007. **I need your submissions for the next issue by 10 March 2008.**

Sincerely yours – with all my best wishes for 2008.

***Kristiane** (your WOAM Coordinator for another triennial)*

and

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you!

2. WOAM AMSTERDAM 2007

Report from the WG meeting 14 September 2007

The Coordinator reported from the past triennial; the ICOM-CC meeting in The Hague 2005, the coordinators meeting in Los Angeles with the ICOM-CC Directory Board in 2006 and the outcomes of these events. Six Newsletters have been produced and distributed to the members of our group in the period. The coordinator called for assistance from the members of our group to enable dissemination of news between the continents. **An advisory group** was established with regional contact persons:

Vicky Richards: Australia

Emily Williams: US

Tara Grant: Canada

Emma Hocker: Scandinavia

KhoiTran: Europe outside Scandinavia

For this meeting, **scientific peer review** (SPR) of papers was introduced. The purpose of the peer review was primarily to attract scientists to our conferences and to meet the demands from colleagues in research institutions. 14 authors submitted papers for scientific review. 12 of the submitted papers were accepted following peer review. They will be published in the WOAM proceedings with the other contributions, but with a SPR indication. The procedure has been evaluated among the reviewers and the conclusions were:

- Clearer guidelines (incl page limits!) are required.
- Distinguish between review and editorial work
- Improve methods for mailing large files. Perhaps introduce: "yousendit" a free internet service to send large attachments see: <https://www.yousendit.com/>.
- "Track changes" in the manuscripts reveals the identity of the reviewer.
- A forum for discussion between the reviewers would be useful.
- Advised changes to the manuscripts have to be followed.

We should continue to have both scientifically peer reviewed and non reviewed papers published in WOAM proceedings, but:

- Adopt guidelines from SiC or similar journals
- Establish a peer review committee and a lead editor
- Allow communication between reviewers
- Ensure that all manuscripts receive final editing before printing, introduce same fonts, headings etc. for all manuscripts, check spelling and grammar.
- The review procedures should ensure that the Working group meetings and WOAM proceedings remain inclusive.

A peer review committee was established. In cooperation with a lead editor they shall:

- Undertake the scientific peer review of manuscripts
- Evaluate and rank contributions for ICOM-CC meetings.
- Edit the WOAM Proceedings

Peer review committee members for the triennial 2007-2010 are:

Vicky Richards (Australia)

David Gregory (Denmark)

Poul Jensen (Denmark)

Theo Skinner, (Scotland)

Others will be approached

Lead editor: Hans Huisman (The Netherlands)

The role of the Coordinator is to:

- Edit WOAM Newsletter (information gained from advisory group and all members).
- Distribute information from the DB, other WOAM members and WG Coordinators.
- Revise addresses and other membership details.
- Plan WG meetings with the local organisers and the peer review committee
- Co-ordinate abstracts and manuscripts for meetings.

- Establish contacts.

Kristiane Stråtkvern accepted to continue in the post as coordinator of the WOAM group for another triennial.

Anton Wevers suggested that we find a way to store the **WOAM Library / archives**. The archives sit with the coordinators and are thus widely spread. Some of the proceedings are sold out. It was suggested that pdf files are made of these books. However, the pdf files should not be made until the stores are empty. Copyright might be a problem. ICOM-CC is improving the facilities for digital storage of archives, conference publications etc. Thus, the present problem is not finding a suitable site, but that someone has to do the job.

At the end of the conference, the idea of a power point presentation including all the different projects and results was discussed. A **“WOAM Commercial”** including a summary of the contributions might be a way to help colleagues to argue for their participation in future meetings. Gabriele Zink, Stiftung Schleswig Holsteinische Landesmuseen, has volunteered to prepare this presentation. All she needs is **one or two** significant PP slide from each speaker. The presentation will be distributed to all. Please send your slide by 18. December 2007 directly to Gabriele:
zink@schloss-gottorf.de

Thomas Nilsson informed on the new European conservation programme, the COST project
**Action IE0601: Wood Science for Conservation of Cultural Heritage
(WoodCultHer)**

The Action has had two meetings; on 18-19 April 2007 in Brussels and 8-9 June 2007 in Tervuren, Belgium. This COST Action aims to improve the conservation (including study, preventive conservation and restoration) of European Wooden Cultural Heritage Objects (WCHOs), by fostering targeted research and multidisciplinary interaction between researchers in various fields of wood science, conservators of wooden artworks, other scientists from related fields. Special emphasis will be given to the ageing of wood material (e.g. its factors – physical, mechanical, biological, chemical, environmental – and their interactions), methods for studying long-term deterioration, interactions between WCHOs and the environment (in the atmosphere and in the soil, thus including archaeological wood), evaluation of long-term compatibility of methods and products for restoration, evaluation of equipment for the diagnosis, restoration, monitoring and conservation of WCHOs, implementation of results into preventive conservation practice and standardization.

Keywords : Wood, Cultural Heritage, Conservation, Deterioration, Ageing

Please contact your COST Country Coordinator if you are interested in becoming a member of the Action. MoU : 317/06

CSO approval date : 20/11/2006

Entry into force : 07/02/2007

End of Action : 17/04/2011

<http://www.cost.esf.org>

WG programme 2007-2010

The WG meeting discussed the results from the former programme and decided to work on the following issues in the period 2007-2010.

- In-situ preservation and reburial
- Degradation and conservation of leather and other organic materials
- Conservation of very large timbers
- Impregnation agents and drying methods
- Problems of wood retreatment – practicalities, ethics & risks.
- Sulphur/iron acid formation in organic materials
- Analytical techniques for organic materials
- Reports on ongoing conservation projects (The Pisa ships, The Roskilde ships, The Newport ship, The Mary Rose)
- Post conservation care
- Composite objects

Possible **locations for future WOAM conferences** were discussed. As many of the latest conferences have taken place in Europe we should now look outside Europe. The first priorities are:

2010: University Greenville, North Carolina (Sarah Watkins-Kenney, Emily Williams and Howard Wellmann)

2013: Perth/Fremantle, Australia (Vicky Richards)

Other colleagues and institutions have also made some very interesting offers to be considered in the future:

Bonn, Germany (Axel Peiss)

Canadian Conservation Institute, Quebec (Tara Grant)

In order to improve the timing in relation to the call for papers/preprints procedures for the ICOM-CC triennial meetings, the 11th WOAM conference will take place by the end of **May 2010**.

3. COLLEAGUES' CORNER

Mary Rose Conservation Update

Glenn McConnachie,
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www.maryrose.org

This year saw the 25th anniversary of the raising of the *Mary Rose* hull, Henry VIII's warship, which sank off the coast of Portsmouth, UK, in 1545. Following its recovery in 1982, the 300 ton remains of the hull were housed within a dry dock inside Portsmouth Naval Base, where she remains on display within a specially built enclosure. A passive holding phase, spraying the timbers with chilled fresh water, was immediately set up and continued for twelve years before the active conservation programme could begin in 1994. Thirteen years on, the wet conservation programme is in its final stages and sprays are due to be turned off some time in 2011.

Preparations for active conservation began in 1993, with the construction of a new spray system, made up of a 500m network of polypropylene pipe work and over 300 stainless steel atomising nozzles. New pumps, filters, recirculation tank and conservation enclosure were also installed. The new system was switched on in September 1994, recirculating 28,000 liters of polyethylene glycol (PEG) 200 solutions on to the hull

timbers. Incremental increases took the PEG concentration from 5% w/v in the first year up to 40% w/v in 2005. 'Phase I' came to an end in 2006, when the PEG 200 solution was replaced with 40% w/v PEG 2000.

A two year 'capital works programme' was implemented in 2004, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. Its aim was to provide additional heating and insulation systems to keep the PEG 2000 solution mobile enough to spray and circulate efficiently. A super-insulated 'hot box' was constructed around the hull, and three separate heating systems were installed to keep the PEG solution at the correct temperature. 'Phase II' was initiated in May 2006 and will continue until 2011, with a final concentration of at least 50% w/v and temperature of around 26°C.

Before active conservation ends, a window of opportunity exists in which chemical additives might be introduced to the spray system to address the so-called 'sulfur problem'. Work to further understand this and to identify potential chemical treatments continues at the Mary Rose Trust, through important collaborations with the Universities of Kent and Portsmouth, the National Museums of Scotland, 'Diamond' (the UK's new synchrotron light source) and of course the 'Vasa' team in Sweden.

'Phase III', the air drying of the hull, will commence in 2011, and is expected to take 4 – 5 years to complete. A series of studies has looked at the drying behaviour of timber samples from the hull under a range of drying conditions. Results have shown that no advantage is gained from using slow drying schedules, initiated at higher relative humidity. Some further work is required, but it is likely that the hull will be dried at or near 55% relative humidity and 20°C, the conditions proposed for the final display environment.

Once dry, several structures that were removed underwater may be reinstated into the hull, including near complete cabins. These timbers, along with several thousand artefacts, are currently held in wet storage and will be conserved and made ready for display

for the first time from 2012 onwards. The Mary Rose Trust hopes to bring together the hull and objects in a purpose built new museum, built around the hull's current home inside No.3 dry dock. A detailed proposal has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund, the outcome of which will be announced early in 2008.

Recent 'Mary Rose' and related conservation publications:

Jones, M. (2003) For future generations. Conservation of a Tudor maritime collection. Portsmouth: The Mary Rose Trust.

Sandstrom, M., Jalilehvand, F., Damian, E., Fors, Y., Gelius, U., Jones, M. and Salome, M. (2005) Sulfur accumulation in the timbers of King Henry VIII's warship *Mary Rose*: A pathway in the sulphur cycle of conservation concern. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America* **102**, **40**, pp14165 – 14170.

May, E. and Jones, M. (2006) Conservation Science. Heritage Materials. Cambridge: Royal Society of Chemistry.

Wetherall, K., Moss, R., Jones, M., Smith, A., Skinner, T., Pickup, D., Goatham, S., Chadwick, A. and Newport, R. (In print). Sulfur and iron speciation in recently recovered timbers of the Mary Rose revealed via x-ray absorption spectroscopy. *Journal of Archaeological Science*.

Skinner, T. and Jones, M. (In print) Respirometry: A technique to assess the stability of waterlogged archaeological wood and other materials undergoing oxidative degradation. In: *Proceedings of the 10th ICOM Group on Wet Organic Archaeological Materials Conference, Amsterdam, 2007*.

The conservation of the *The Lac Gour Dugout*.

André Bergeron
andre.bergeron@mcccf.gouv.qc.ca
www.ccq.mcccf.gouv.qc.ca

A general public paper on the conservation work for a dugout is available through the Pointe-du-Buisson web site, both in French and English (see the following links)

<http://www.pointedubuisson.com/f-0401.html>

<http://www.pointedubuisson.com/e-0401.html>

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 will be in charge of the publishing; printing is planned to start during January 2008. Participants in the conference will receive proceedings free of charge. The book will also be available for sale after 1 March 2008 – the price will be announced in the next WOAM Newsletter.

Lead editors: Hans Huisman and Kristiane Strætkevren.

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.

RETIREMENT

Dr. Theo Skinner has announced that he retired from The National Museum Scotland, Section for Marine & Wetland Archaeology, at the end of November 2007. Theo will continue to do some research and has kindly accepted to remain a member of our WOAM Peer review committee.

Best wishes for a happy retirement Theo!

PS: We might consider establishing some sort of WOAM senior club; “Wet wood veterans”, “Oldies in Organics” or something

Kristiane Nov 2007



4. ICOM-CC DIRECTORY BOARD NEWS

A new issue of the ICOM-CC Newsletter is now posted on the ICOM-CC website:

<http://www.icom-cc.org>

5. 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 31st March 2008	After 31st March 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 (without preprints)	Euro 300		

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

Holding it all together - ancient and modern approaches to joining, repair and consolidation

A two day conference to be held at the British Museum on 21 and 22 February 2008

The conference aims to bring together conservators, scientists and curators with an interest in the methods by which artefacts have been manufactured, repaired (both in antiquity and modern times) and conserved by joining together a series of components, using such techniques as adhering, casting, soldering and luting. The provisional conference programme is available on the conference website http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/research_news/conference_call_for_papers.aspx

Registration is now open for this conference (registration form available via the website). Since the number of places is limited we would recommend early registration

Kind regards
Lynne Harrison
On behalf of the organising committee

The 13th International Course on Wood Conservation Technology ICWCT 2008

ICCROM is pleased to announce that the 13th International Course on Wood Conservation Technology - ICWCT 2008 will be held in Oslo, Norway from 26 May - 4 July 2008. This course is organised under the auspices of UNESCO by ICCROM, Riksantikvaren, NTNU, and NIKU.

We are interested in inviting applications from career professionals with a minimum of three years work experience in wood conservation. Applications should reach ICCROM by the 15 January 2008 to ensure inclusion in our selection process.

The 13th International Course on Wood Conservation Technology - ICWCT 2008

Dates: 26 May - 4 July 2008 (6 weeks)

Place: Oslo, Norway (premises of Riksantikvaren)

Partners:

The course is organised under the auspices of UNESCO by:

ICCROM (International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural

Property) Riksantikvaren - The Directorate for Cultural Heritage, Norway

NTNU - Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway

NIKU - Norwegian Institute for Cultural Heritage Research, Norway

Background and Content:

The ICWCT was initiated as a response to a recommendation from UNESCO's General Conference in 1980, and it has been organised in Norway every second year since 1984. It is directed towards professionals who have been working for some years within the field of wood conservation.

The ICWCT covers a wide range of interdisciplinary topics. Theoretical and

practical aspects of wood conservation are given equal consideration throughout the course. Some of the most interesting cultural heritage sites constructed in wood in Norway will be visited during the main excursion at the end of the course, including the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Urnes Stave church and the Hanseatic Wharf in Bergen. Exercises and demonstrations are organised during the main excursion. The course concludes with a written exam, which awards university credits if passed.

Aim and objectives:

The aim of the Course is to promote cultural understanding and research in the field of wood conservation, and to be a valuable resource for the work of the individual participants in their respective countries. The main objectives of the course are:

- to give participants the theoretical and practical knowledge essential for diagnosing the causes of deterioration and for selecting the most appropriate methods of conservation and restoration of wood;
- to extend the knowledge of participants beyond their own professions for a broader understanding of different aspects and approaches to wood conservation;
- to bring people with various professions from different countries and cultures together for a mutual learning experience, drawing on different experiences, practices and approaches to wood conservation and use of wooden materials.

The Course programme

The Course programme is divided between lectures, laboratory exercises, conservation workshop exercises, field studies, museum visits and excursions. The curriculum includes six distinct but interconnected units covering

aspects of: properties of wood; factors affecting the decay of wood; principles of conservation at a global level; preventive conservation; conservation of objects and painted surfaces including archaeological wood and furniture; conservation of wooden buildings and structures, including wood working tools and machinery. The course will include a one-week onsite workshop outside Oslo and a study tour of 4 days to selected wooden heritage sites in Norway including two World Heritage Sites. As a part of the programme, each participant is expected to give a 20 minute presentation from his or her own work experience.

Lecturers

Between 20 and 25 lecturers will be contributing to the course. All are recognised experts within the field of conservation and with various geographic backgrounds and professional experience.

Exam

The course concludes with a written exam, giving 18 university credits if passed. A full time presence during the course period is required to be allowed to sit for the exam and to obtain the course certificate.

Fees

Participation is free of charge for the selected participants.

Participants

Applicants should be mid-career professionals with a minimum of three years work experience in wood conservation. It is of great importance for the success of the course that the participants have relevant experience to contribute to and benefit from the mutual exchange of ideas.

The number of participants is limited to 20

Language

The working language of the course is English. A good knowledge of English is essential for the benefit of the individual participant and for the course as a whole, and must therefore be documented in the

application. A certificate of language may be required.

Applications

Please fill the ICCROM application form (obtainable from ICCROM web site) and send to: ICCROM - Sites Unit

Via di San Michele 13

I-00153, Rome, ITALY

Tel: +39 06 58553 1, Fax: +39 06 58553349

Email: wood08@iccrom.org , Web Site:

www.iccrom.org

For further information, please contact:

Ms. Eir Grytli (eir.grytli@ntnu.no), Ms. Tone

Olstad (tone.olstad@niku.no) Ms. Merete

Winness (merete.winness@niku.no)

Application deadline

Applications should reach ICCROM by 15 January 2008 to ensure inclusion in our selection process.

Please note that the organization of the Course is subject to the necessary funding being obtained.