

# WOAM NEWSLETTER

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ICOM-CC WORKING GROUP

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## 1. FROM THE COORDINATOR

Dear Colleagues

So – we encounter 2011 and new events, challenges and work tasks. I hope you are all well and that your institutions are surviving the financial crisis without severe reductions in budgets. Before leaving 2010 completely, Emily and I still have one job to complete; the final editing of WOAM Proceedings from our working group meeting in Greenville. Unfortunately, editing and preparing the final layout are more time consuming than we imagined from the start. At present, we hope that the test manuscript is ready for the publisher by the end of March – at the latest – if we succeed with this, the book should be published before summer.

2011 will host a very special event; in Stockholm the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the raising of the *Vasa* will be celebrated. As 2011 also is the International Year of Chemistry, a shipwreck conference merging these themes will take place in October – you will find information in this Newsletter. Please note also, that **the early bird registration for ICOM-CC meeting in Lisbon is March 31<sup>st</sup>**. I hope to meet many of you in Lisbon. At the moment, 4 papers are being judged by the editorial committee. The final selection – thus the final content of the WOAM program for the conference - will be available in

April. Fortunately, it is a lot easier to have your ideas, information and small reports published in the WOAM newsletter, just mail them to me. Deadline for contributions to the next WOAM Newsletter is June 15<sup>th</sup> 2011.

*Kristiane*

[kristiane.straetkvern@natmus.dk](mailto:kristiane.straetkvern@natmus.dk)

## 2. COLLEAGUE'S CORNER

**David Grattan is Retiring** from CCI. David Grattan, manager of conservation research at the Canadian Conservation Institute, will retire on February 17. During his 33 years at CCI, David has developed a reputation for his creativity and common sense, his humanity and ready ear, and his avid curiosity about everything – not to mention his sense of fun and a certain proclivity for costumes. He has been constantly involved in the activities of the conservation world; he was twice chair of ICOM-CC and received ICOM Canada's Award for excellence in contribution to Canadian museology in 2007. During his very active research career, he became a recognized expert in a number of areas including waterlogged wood and preservation of polymers, David Grattan was coordinator for the WOAM group in the beginning of the 1980's.

### 3. CONFERENCES AND COURSES

#### SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT

#### **4<sup>th</sup> symposium on Preserving Archaeological Remains in situ (PARIS<sub>4</sub>)**

**May 23<sup>rd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> 2011**

**at the National Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen**

International legislation, such as the Valetta treaty, calls for the “conservation and maintenance of the archaeological heritage, preferably in situ”. Since 1996 research into in situ preservation has been presented at a series of international conferences: Preserving Archaeological Remains in situ (PARIS). The fourth of these conferences will be held in Copenhagen at the National Museum of Denmark in May 2011. A preliminary programme may be found at the conference homepage [www.natmus.dk/paris4](http://www.natmus.dk/paris4).

After fifteen years of research and practical application the time is ripe to evaluate the efficacy of in situ preservation as a means of managing the cultural resource. The key aim of the conference is to present and discuss the latest knowledge, focusing on long term studies of degradation and monitoring of archaeological sites preserved in situ in urban, rural and marine environments.

One of the strengths of the PARIS conferences is their multidisciplinary nature bringing together scientists, heritage managers and policy makers. At this 4<sup>th</sup> conference more than 50 presentations from practitioners and stakeholders will cover the following themes:

- 1. Degradation of archaeological remains. Can we quantify degradation rates and what rates are acceptable?**
- 2. Monitoring and mitigation case studies – with special focus on long term projects. How, and how long, should sites be monitored?**
- 3. Protocols, standards and legislation for monitoring and management. Is it realistic to make multinational standards when the sites and national legislations are so variable?**
- 4. Preserving Archaeological Remains in situ. Can we document the effectiveness of in situ preservation after nearly 2 decades of research?**

All sessions will be led by two chairmen: one practitioner and one administrator, who will both evaluate and comment upon the presentations. The presentations will be published in a special edition of the peer reviewed journal Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites.

For further information and registration please visit the conference homepage [www.natmus.dk/paris4](http://www.natmus.dk/paris4)

**Henning Matthiesen & David Gregory**

Senior researchers, in situ preservation

Conservation department

**National Museum of Denmark**

## The ICOM-CC 16th Triennial Conference, Lisbon, September 19-23, 2011

### Conference Theme: Cultural Heritage/Cultural Identity – The Role of Conservation.

The conference theme aims to capture the recognition by communities or nations of the importance of affirming their cultural heritage in this era of globalisation, as they evolve through contact and exchange with other cultures. Considering this trend, the conference will explore and compare different approaches regarding conservation policies and methods, as well as scientific methods for studying materials and technologies, in order to improve our understanding of the role of conservation in valuing heritage and its relationship to other areas such as sociology, economy, and politics, which are vital in ensuring the sustainability of communities.

The ICOM-CC Triennial Conference in Lisbon will be an opportunity to share methods, studies and strategies to value individual cultural identities through heritage conservation by addressing topics such as:

- The relationships between cultural heritage and cultural identity
- National and international conservation policies
- The importance of interdisciplinarity in the preservation of cultural heritage
- The development of research and education in heritage conservation
- Standards, practices, and methodologies for heritage conservation.

Visit the conference website at: <http://www.icom-cc2011.org>  
Final acceptance of papers for the conference is April 15, 2011.

#### Registration has now started!

See <http://www.icom-cc2011.org/registration.aspx>  
Register at the "early bird price" before March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2011!

#### Application for grants!

Thanks to The Getty Foundation, the International Council of Museums (ICOM) is able to offer a limited number of travel grants to museum and/or conservation professionals from low or lower middle income countries in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, and Latin America to attend the 16th Triennial Conference of the ICOM Committee for Conservation (ICOM-CC). For more information, go to the [ICOM-CC](#) or [ICOM-CC conference](#) website.

To send the complete application form, see <http://www.icom-cc.org/54/document/application-form-grants-lisbon-2011/?id=930> (preferably by e-mail) to the ICOM-CC Secretariat **BEFORE 28 FEBRUARY**, 2011.  
Documents received after the deadline of 28 February, 2011 will not be considered.

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE SHIPWRECKS 2011

### Chemistry and Preservation of Waterlogged Wooden Shipwrecks October 18 – 21, 2011, Stockholm, Sweden

The chemical and biological aspects of preservation techniques and degradation processes of many waterlogged wooden shipwrecks is the subject of current intense research in several countries. In order to discuss this multi-disciplinary work and to summarize the present knowledge this international conference is organized as a joint effort by the Vasa Museum and the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. We hope it will attract researchers, conservation scientists and conservators working in this field and stimulate networking and co-operation. Contributions on all aspects of preservation science are welcomed. Topics will include:

- *State-of-the-art characterization methods for waterlogged wood*
- *Wood degradation: rates and mechanisms of chemical and biological processes*
- *The influence of these processes on timber mechanical strength*
- *The stability of consolidants and their influence on wood properties*
- *External museum parameters - their influence on degradation processes*
- *New consolidants and conservation methods*
- *Case studies - conservation and research projects in progress*

The scientific sessions will take place at the Royal Institute of Technology and activities will also be arranged at the Vasa Museum:

- **Tue Oct 18:** Arrival, registration, informal get-together reception
- **Wed Oct 19:** Full day conference. Evening reception at the Maritime Museum
- **Thu Oct 20:** Full day conference. Evening banquet at the Vasa Museum
- **Frid Oct 21:** Half day session, departure late afternoon

Registration opens at **March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2011**. Proposals for contributions (oral or poster) should be submitted as a one page abstract giving title, authors, affiliation and a short summary.

**Deadline** for submission is **April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2011**.

**Abstracts** should be sent to: [info@shipwrecks2011.com](mailto:info@shipwrecks2011.com).

**Further information** at the conference web site: [info@shipwrecks2011.com](mailto:info@shipwrecks2011.com).

**For questions**, please contact [info@shipwrecks2011.com](mailto:info@shipwrecks2011.com).

This conference is part of the celebrations of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the raising of the Vasa in 1961, and of the International Year of Chemistry 2011. For further information and registration please visit the conference homepage <http://shipwrecks2011.com/>

**Welcome to Stockholm!**

#### 4. EUROPEAN STANDARDS FOR WATERLOGGED WOOD?

On January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> a COST ACTION IE0601 meeting was arranged at the National Museum of Denmark. The meeting was initiated by the coordinators of the Wood Science for Conservation of Cultural Heritage (WoodCultHer) action, Marco Fiovanti from University of Florence and Charlotta Björdal from SP Technical Research Institute of Sweden. The meeting focused on standardisation of waterlogged archaeological wood and the aim of the meeting was to discuss the possibilities for establishing two European standards for waterlogged wood. The standard proposals are intended to focus on principles for treatment and will be presented in the CEN committee this spring. If accepted, a European group of conservators and specialists in the field will be invited to work further with the two proposals. The proposals are:

##### 1. Guidelines for protection and management in terrestrial archaeological sites

The aim is to establish one single European standard for managing waterlogged wood during archaeological excavations in order to guarantee protection and preservation of wooden objects. Its adoption will simplify and enhance procedures in connection with conservation and long term preservation. The standard will provide principles to secure waterlogged archaeological wood from the time of exposure during excavation, until it reaches the conservation laboratory when working on terrestrial sites.

##### 2. Conservation of cultural property - Waterlogged archaeological wood – Guideline for characterization

The aim is to establish one European standard for providing information about the physical, chemical, and biological states of the wooden remains as a whole in the field. This standard will provide a guideline for characterization of waterlogged archaeological wood in relation to excavation and conservation of waterlogged archaeological wood.

#### 5. WOAM PROCEEDINGS 1981- 2007

For the moment, WOAM Proceedings no. 4 to 10 are available, no 4 to 9 can be purchased (incl. VAT and postage) for 50 Euros, no 10 from Amsterdam can be purchased for 60 Euros. See list of contacts below.

No	Conference	Year	Contact person and e-mail	Contact adress
4	Ottawa	1981	Tara Grant (tara.grant@pch.gc.ca)	CCI, Canadian Conservation Institute, 1030 Innes Road, Ottawa ON, K1A 0M5
5	Grenoble	1984		
6	York	1996		
7	Grenoble	1998		
8	Stockholm	2001	Frau Schwiars (info@dsm.museum)	Deutsches Schiffahrtsmuseum, Hans-Scharoun-Platz 1, D. 27568 Bremerhafen
8	Stockholm	2001		
9	Copenhagen	2004	Kristiane Strætkvern (kristiane.straetkvern@natmus.dk)	The Cons. Dep., The National Museum of Denmark, I.C. Modewegsvej, Brede, DK-2800 Kgs. Lyngby
9	Copenhagen	2004		
10	Amsterdam	2007		