

WOAM NEWSLETTER

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ICOM-CC WORKING GROUP

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1. FROM THE COORDINATOR

This is last WOAM newsletter from my hand; as after the ICOM-CC meeting in Lisbon in September, a new coordinator will take the chair. To me, this post has most of all been inspiring. Working with wet organic archaeological materials occupies a rather limited number of professionals. The WOAM coordinator post provides an extremely good position for connecting these professionals, their knowledge and experiences in a worldwide framework. I shall definitely miss it. Fortunately, there is no need to worry regarding the continuation of the working group, as the WOAM community holds a lot of engaged and well qualified members. In Greenville, we nominated Tara Grant from the CCI as our candidate for the WOAM coordinator position. Moreover, Khôi Tran and Emma Hocker have accepted to continue as assistant coordinators. I shall stress,

however, that although we have a nominated candidate, in order to follow the ICOM-CC by-laws, the possibility of further nomination is open until 24 hours before the election in Lisbon.

I hope to see many of you in Lisbon. We have four papers accepted in our working group (see page 5) and there are several interesting presentations in the other working groups – to see them all, follow this link: [list of contributions](#). Keep up the good work, all of you – and please continue to share your research results, your successful treatments and as well as the not-so-successful experiences with your WOAM colleagues.

All the best to all of you!

Kristiane

kristiane.straetkvern@natmus.dk

2. COLLEAGUE'S CORNER

The Faculty of Science, at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden announces a two-year appointment as:

Postdoctoral Fellow in Conservation of Cultural Heritage Objects

The Department of Conservation at the University of Gothenburg invites applications for a two-year postdoctoral position in conservation of cultural heritage objects. The department offers professional degrees and research programs that address cultural heritage preservation issues including: urban environments, landscapes, buildings, gardens, and object conservation. At the Gothenburg campus, the department offers university degree programs in conservation of cultural heritage objects and in building preservation. At the Mariestad campus, programs are offered in traditional building craftsmanship, garden craft and design, and landscape conservation.

The Department of Conservation is a part of the Faculty of Science, which opens up possibilities for both cross-disciplinary cooperation and access to a large number of advanced as well as basic laboratory facilities. The Department is in a development phase where efforts are being made to strengthen the scientific element of our research. This postdoctoral fellowship is part of this strategic development.

Responsibilities

The post-doctoral research project should be a cross-disciplinary approach to the long-term preservation of cultural heritage, preferably, archaeological remains. The fellowship will give particular emphasis to the application of science. It should include field studies and/or experimental laboratory work and be in cooperation with scientists both inside and outside the department, if possible. The successful candidate will have teaching responsibilities up to 20%. If the

applicant does not already have formal teaching qualifications, the successful candidate will be expected to complete coursework in higher education pedagogy during the period of appointment.

Qualification requirements

To qualify as a postdoctoral fellow you must have completed a PhD in a subject area relevant for the position or you must have a foreign degree corresponding to a PhD in a subject area relevant for the position. Preference will be given to candidates who have been awarded the degree no more than three years before the application deadline. Applicants with a degree awarded earlier may also be preferred if specific reasons exist. Such specific reasons may be a leave due to illness, parental leave or other similar circumstances. The successful applicant will be expected to be able to teach in Swedish or English.

Assessment

The applicant should have well-documented relevant research experience and publication record. This will be demonstrated primarily by publications in international scientific journals. Priority will be given to the applicant with proven ability to work both independently and within a research team.

Further information about the position

Interested candidates can obtain more details about the position from Associate Professor Charlotte Gjelstrup Björdal (e-mail: charlotte.bjordal@conservation.gu.se) and Professor Elizabeth E. Peacock (Phone +46 (0)31 786 4712, email: elizabeth.peacock@conservation.gu.se). Dnr PERM 2011/191.

Further information about the department can be obtained from Professor Ola Wetterberg, Head of the Department of Conservation (Phone +46 (0)31 786 4702, email: ola.wetterberg@conservation.gu.se).

For further information about the department, please visit our website at <http://www.conservation.gu.se/english>.

Extent of employment

The post-doctoral position is limited to two years, fulltime (100%). The starting date is negotiable with a preferred starting date around **1st of October**.

Union representatives

SACO Martin Björkman, phone + 46 (0)31 786 3608.

OFR/S Stefan Schedin, phone + 46 (0)31 786 1167.

SEKO Lennart Olsson, phone + 46 (0)31 786 1173.

Application

Application must include:

- complete curriculum vitae
- letter of motivation outlining interests and proposed research Project
- letters of recommendation / names and contact details of referees
- copies of degree certificates and transcripts of academic records (attested)
- complete list of publications, including submitted and accepted manuscripts
- electronic copies of 5 relevant publications
- explanation of selection of publications for consideration

The application must be sent electronically in PDF-format to anstallning@gu.se. The reference number of the position must be specified in the subject line. The application must be divided into two files:

1. One PDF-file containing the application, CV, list of publications, certificates and all other documents that the applicant wishes to be considered.

2. One PDF-file containing the 5 publications that the applicant wishes to be considered.

If the publications that the applicant

wishes to be considered are not available in digital form, they must be sent separately – in three complete sets – by regular post (the reference number of the position must be specified) to the following address:

Registrar, University of Gothenburg, Box 100, SE-405 30 Gothenburg, Sweden.

Completed application materials must be received in the University of Gothenburg's Registrars Office on or before the **1st of September 2011**.

A Historic Scotland/University of Glasgow Studentship Award

Start date 1 October 2011:

Structural and Mechanical Integrity of Historic Timber

Background

Timber has been a major building material in Scotland for millennia. Historically it has been used in a number of ways including structural building support, cladding, ceilings, floorboards, window frames, doors and many others. In preserving historic and traditional buildings, a balance needs to be struck between retaining as much of the original building fabric as possible, and maintaining a sound building that is safe to use.

Timber is subject to decay over long time scales through chemical degradation and biological attack. Degraded timbers often need to be replaced with modern equivalents. Some timbers survive remarkably well over time, but the mechanical and chemical properties of these timbers are not well understood. This can lead to some cases where historic and modern timbers co-exist in a building, often in physical contact with each other.

The properties of replacement timbers that co-exist with the historic material is a key factor in this studentship. The principal outcome of this project will be a detailed,

science-based platform for guiding the selection of new timber to repair historic buildings.

Skills and Qualifications Required

Applications are invited from candidates with first-degree qualifications in a suitable field such as chemistry, materials science, timber science or heritage science. For UK candidates a first class or upper second class honours degree is required. For candidates from outside the UK the minimum qualification is at a similar level. An interest in built heritage or archaeology is essential.

Research Activities

This studentship will aim to address a number of key questions including:

1. What are the physical, structural and chemical properties of historic timber?
2. How do these compare with modern replacement/repair timbers?
3. What effects do new timbers have on historic timbers when joined together in a building?

A number of spectroscopic, microscopic and other techniques will be utilised to understand these materials.

Support and Environment

This studentship will be hosted at the Department of Chemistry at the University of Glasgow, as a part of Dr. Jarvis' research group. This group consists of a number of students analysing various aspects of timber and related products, and has a long track record of successful research and publication in the field of timber and cellulose science.

Historic Scotland will provide a support network of people interested in the end-use of this research, including architects, policy managers, scientists and conservators. The project will have undoubted value in respect to policy and knowledge transfer to relevant stakeholders including Historic Scotland, National Trust for Scotland, and other

owners and managers of historic and traditional buildings. The advanced training and relevance of the topic to such a range of stakeholders therefore offers strong prospects for further career advancement for the successful student.

Dr Michael C. Jarvis (Supervisor)
Dr Craig Kennedy (Historic Scotland – Co-Supervisor)

Enquiries/Application

Applications are invited from suitably qualified. Informal enquiries to Dr. Jarvis – mikej@chem.gla.ac.uk

Excavation in central Stockholm.

The largest archaeological investigation since the Helgelandsholmen excavation at the end of the 1970s is taking place this summer in central Stockholm in combination with the laying of the new Citybanan train line. Working in a 24-meter deep shaft, two teams of archaeologists from the Maritime Museum are excavating a 1500-square meter area at Riddarholmen between June and August. Finds from the Middle Ages and Viking times are expected, including boats and remnants of the old harbour quay.

To date, excavation has concentrated in the backfill layers behind the old quay wall built in the 1860s. The objects found include 18th century pottery, 17th century clay pipes, coal (probably from the many steam ships that operated around Stockholm) and brick and stone building materials ranging from the medieval period up to the 19th century. ACTA Konservering in Stockholm has been contracted to conserve the finds.

The work may be followed on the Maritime Museum's blog:

<http://sjohistoriska.se/sv/Kustnerunt/Marinarkeologi/Blogg/>

3. CONFERENCES AND COURSES

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>

The [list of contributions](#) (papers and posters) by Working Groups is available for download on the website. Also, as per the ICOM-CC by-laws, [the list of candidates](#) for election for the 2011-2014 Directory Board is posted on the website.

Register now! See <http://www.icom-cc2011.org/registration.aspx>

Preliminary Schedule for **the WOAM session:** Thursday, September 22, 2011, 15-18:00

- **David Gregory:** Assessment of the state of preservation of the wreck of the Belgica: Implications for in situ preservation and conservation
- **Khôi Tran:** Characterization and Conservation of a gun carriage excavated from the 17th century HMS Stirling Castle shipwreck
- **Cristina Gómez González:** El proceso de recuperación de un conjunto de tablas policromadas del s. XV halladas en un contexto arqueológico en Alcózar (Soria). Nuevos retos metodológicos para la conservación".(The process of recovering a set of XVth century polychrome tables found in an archaeological context in Alcózar (Soria). New methodological challenges for conservation.)
- **Maj Ringgard:** Negative effects of aqueous rinsing of archaeological textiles
- Working Group meeting.

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
- **Fri Oct 21:** Half day session, departure late afternoon

For further information and registration:

please visit the conference homepage <http://shipwrecks2011.com/>

For questions: please contact info@shipwrecks2011.com.

This conference is part of the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the raising of the Vasa in 1961, and of the International Year of Chemistry 2011.

Welcome to Stockholm!

THE 15TH INTERNATIONAL COURSE ON WOOD CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGY ICWCT 2012

A course on the conservation of cultural heritage made of wood

Dates: 23 May - 29 June 2012

Place: Oslo, Norway (premises of Riksantikvaren)

Application: by the 30 September 2011 to ICCROM, wood2012@iccrom.org

Partners

The course is organized 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

Background and Content

The ICWCT was initiated as a response to a recommendation from UNESCO's General Conference in 1980, and it has been organized 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 course, including the UNESCO World Heritage Sites of Urnes Stave church and the Hanseatic Wharf in Bergen. Exercises and demonstrations are organized during the main excursion. The course concludes with a written exam, which awards university credits if passed.

The 2012 course will be based on curriculum followed in 2010, considering the evaluations of previous participants and maintaining the high technical and scientific approaches and standards from the previous courses.

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 and a study tour 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 work experience in their own country.

Lecturers

Between 20 and 25 lecturers will be contributing to the course. All are recognized 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.

Travel, Accommodation and Living Expenses

Participants will be responsible for their round trip travel costs to Norway. Accommodation for the period of the course, will be provided free of charge by the course organizers. In order to cover living expenses and transport within Oslo during the course, participants should plan for a minimum allowance of Norwegian Kroner 6000 (about 1200 USD) for the 6 weeks. In cases of proven financial need, and depending on the availability of funding at the time of the course, a limited number of partial scholarships may be granted.

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 is required.

Applications

Please fill the ICCROM application form (obtainable from ICCROM web site) and send it together with a full professional curriculum vitae (in English) to the contact address below. (Email applications are welcome. In the event that it is not possible to provide a scanned version of the necessary photographs and signatures, it will also be necessary to send a paper copy.)

ICCROM - Sites Unit

Via di San Michele 13

I-00153, Rome, ITALY

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

Email: wood2012@iccrom.org , Web Site: www.iccrom.org

For further information regarding the course, please contact:
Ms. Anne Nyhamar (The Directorate for Cultural Heritage), e-mail: any@ra.no

Application deadline

Applications should reach ICCROM by 30 September 2011 to ensure inclusion in our selection process.

Please note that the implementation of the course is subject to the approval of the ICCROM Programme and Budget 2012-2013 by the General Assembly of ICCROM to be held in November 2011 and by the approval of Riksantikvaren's budget for 2012 in December 2011.