1. FROM THE COORDINATOR

I have lots of information to discuss. We had a successful WOAM conference in Istanbul, Turkey last May. The next major conference is the ICOM-CC Triennial in Melbourne Australia. Hopefully those of you eager to visit the land of OZ will manage to attend the conference. As people will have travelled great distances to attend the ICOM-CC conference in Melbourne Australia this fall it was felt that they should make the (relatively) short hop to Freemantle to explore the shipwreck galleries and continue discussions in more depth on acid, iron and sulphur in waterlogged organic materials, in situ preservation of shipwrecks, and environmental controls- a mini WOAM. There will be lots of delightful side trips. I am happy to announce that the location of the next WOAM in 2016 has been selected. There seems to be a plethora of conferences to attend concerning shipwrecks and the treatment of wet materials in the next year. For more information see the two Conference sections. As promised at the conference I want to get the ICOM-CC Forum active and see if it is a way to stimulate debate on various topics. See the article on the ICOM-CC Forum.

WOAM Conference 2013

The 12th WOAM conference held in Istanbul, Turkey last May was a great success. It was attended by about 150 people from 30 different countries. Due to the large number of papers
submitted, the conference was extended from the customary four days to five. This allowed 53 papers to be presented and 22 posters to be displayed.

As usual the coffee breaks and receptions were noisy events with the meeting of old and new colleagues and the exchange of information. The host organizing committee did a fabulous job. The conference was hosted in the newly completed university conference center, a well-appointed facility which easily handled the multiple technology demands while providing comfortable seating for all. A particular thanks to Evren Türkmenoğlu and his assistants for the smooth-running of the AV equipment. The receptions and particularly the banquet were fabulous. The banquet, on a yacht floating on the Bosphorus past the ancient city, came with lots of sunshine, a warm balmy night and a belly dancer. A highlight was the tour of the excavation site and the conservation laboratory of the Yenakapi ships. The site tour was enlivened by a recent accident where a building crane arm had crashed into the recently built subway station. The laboratory is equipped with a Folsom arm for accurate 3-D digital drawings of the finds. A warm thanks to all the organizers including our host Dr. Ufuk Koçabas.
Tour of Yenakapi ships site  
Tour of Yenakapi site labs  
Folsom Arm  
Tour of Laboratory  
Blue Mosque  
Tour of Blue Mosque  
Tour of Hippodrome
Several themes emerged during the conference with interesting papers on comparing different wood treatment outcomes. Kauramin - a treatment using melamine resins, iron/PEG and oxygen degradation, freeze-drying, and the latest trend, now that major shipwreck projects have been completed and the ships have gone on display, of the problems of sagging ships. There were several papers on the engineering solutions to supporting and monitoring movement as well as a paper on how to move ships to various museums for display. Of interest to the users of PEG are two excellent papers. In the first, by S. Norbash, I. Bjurghager and G. Almkvist, on the “Impact of iron compounds, oxygen and additives on the degradation of oak wood – modeling of the Vasa wood” the experimental work showed that tensile strength decreases due to the iron compounds in the wood and that PEG actually acts as an anti-oxidant protecting the wood from deterioration. Degradation is most severe in the early period when oxygen and water are present in large amounts and now that the ship is dry degradation rates are now relatively low. The second paper by M. N. Mortensen and H. Matthiesen entitled “Oxidative degradation rate of conserved archaeological wood under display conditions” determined that PEG is not responsible in itself
for oxygen consumption in conserved wood and the resulting related degradation of the wood. This should provide some relief to museums with PEG-impregnated shipwrecks. “The KUR Project: A comparison of different methods to preserve waterlogged wood” by Markus Wittköpper was interesting as the project had sent selected samples of common wood species in different degrees of degradation to various conservation labs to be conserved by various waterlogged wood techniques. These treated samples were then collected and the results for dimensional stability, price and handling were systematically measured and evaluated. For more information see Publications and Websites section. Tom Sandström’s et al. paper “Desalination and re-conservation of alum treated wooden artifacts” studied how to reverse this destructive treatment. There were many more papers all equally interesting.

Best quote concerning the conference was “This conference is fabulous. Now I know why you all flock to WOAM like lemmings”.

Travel Grants

Seven travel grants, covering the cost of the conference registration, were given out to students, speakers and WOAM members. Although an order of preference had been established only seven applications were received and all seven received the grant. Fortunately I had a spread of grantees from different countries, at different stages of their careers as well as some from economically depressed countries. They were: Aymeric Raimon of France, Virginie Ternision of the USA, Fatma Esra Altinanit Bicer of Turkey, Kasia Bernaciak of Ireland, Jane Hamill of Sweden, Dimitris Tsipotas of Greece, and Jim Spriggs of the United Kingdom.

ICOM-CC Forum

At the last WOAM conference we had a roundtable discussion. The two topics debated were the ethics of cutting large artifacts to make it easier for treatment or handling, and the irreversible Kauramin treatment. It turned out to be a lively debate.

To facilitate further discussions WOAM decided to use the ICOM-CC Forum to continue discussions on various topics. The Forum is available to non-ICOM-CC members. Go to www.icom-cc.org, select the tab at the top of the page called Forums, at the top of the Forum page is a link “sign up for a forum only account”, fill in the information boxes and submit. I hope non-ICOM-CC members will make the effort to become involved in the discussions.

To Cut or Not to Cut: The Ethics of Cutting Shipwrecks

The first discussion I have planned will be on the ethics of cutting large ships into smaller pieces in order to accommodate excavation, treatment or simply to get the boat into the museum. At the WOAM conference I noted a surprising number of papers on the conservation of ships which involved cutting the ship into pieces. Reasons for cutting the ships generally related to the large size. Size ranged from a 30m long Gallo-Roman barge, to a Viking long boat to a bronze-age log boats. Cutting allowed for ease of removal from the site or allowed the wood to fit into the freeze-dryer or through museum corridors. Other treatments involved removing the original corroded iron nails and cutting away sulphite contaminated wood from around the nail holes to prevent the formation of sulphuric acid. It seemed sad to me that a bronze-age log boat carved out of a single log, that had survived thousands of years intact and that had been excavated intact was cut into sections as soon as it came into the hands of conservators. Large ships such as the
Vasa, the Mary Rose and the Bremen Cog were recovered intact and not cut into sections to facilitate treatment or handling so it is not a necessity. Arguments run that it was too difficult to remove intact due to fast moving currents or an isolated or difficult excavation location, there was a lack of time, a lack of tanks or facilities large enough to treat the ship intact, that cutting the ship into sections reduced the time to treat, the deadline for exhibition was extremely short or that the boat could not turn the corner into the museum gallery or that the museum audience was happy regardless of whether the ship was cut or not. In the end, most of these decisions really come down to saving money. I know that one administrator attending the conference was eagerly asking questions about how much time and money cutting the ships into sections saved the institutions. Now money is always a consideration in conservation projects but at what point does allowing cost to be the driving force compromise a treatment to the point it crosses the line between expedient and unethical? Does it really matter since most shipwrecks are only partially intact with parts missing whether it is cut into further sections? Or do conservators compromise because they have little power within the decision-making hierarchy? I will state for the record that I have not dealt with the reality of a shipwreck so that allows me to remain a bit of a purist with regard to treatments. I would encourage all those who have treated shipwrecks to contribute to this discussion and see if there is a line drawn in the sand that we won’t cross.

I hope you will all contribute or follow the discussion. Keep it polite and let’s see if we can effectively use the Forum. If this Forum is successful then other suggestions for Forum topics are welcome. Please just write a short article stating your viewpoint and send it to me for posting.

NEWS

Mary Rose Trust, Portsmouth, UK

The Mary Rose museum opened in Portsmouth Historic Dockyard in May 2013.
Since opening, over 340,000 people have passed through the doors. It is the first time that the Tudor ship is on display alongside many thousands of her artefacts. Displayed together these finds provide a unique insight into life in Tudor times. The hull can currently be viewed through windows undergoing controlled air-drying. In 2016 the enclosure will be opened so that visitors can walk through the same space the ship occupies.

The Mary Rose Trust is pleased to announce that the PhD thesis of the late Dr Glenn McConnachie will shortly be available on the Conservation section of their website. Glenn worked at the Trust for over 25 years and personally conserved a large number of the artefacts currently on display and his research was fundamental to the current air-drying of the Mary Rose hull.

**ARC-Nucléart Conservation Centre, Grenoble, France**

**Conservation of a Gallo-Roman boat, Arles, southern France**

AR3 is a 31 meter long flat-bottom stone-carrier, Gallo-Roman boat from the 1st century AD found in the Rhône River in front of Arles in southern France. It was excavated, cut into 10 sections and lifted during a 7 month underwater work in 2011 and the boat was expected to be exhibited in Arles archaeological museum by 2013.

Two years of non-stop, exhausting work has been necessary for ARC-Nucléart’s staff to manage to impregnate (PEG 2000) and freeze-dry the wood (31 freeze-drying sessions), to make a “sur mesure” frame support and to restore the complete boat. More than 30 people worked on this
huge project including restorers, archaeologists, curators, welders, scientists, technicians, and engineers. In October 2013 AR3 was successfully presented to the public in a new built unit of Arles museum.

**Restoration of six Antic shipwrecks, Marseille, southern France**

The history of the city of Marseille goes back more than 2600 years. In 2010 the Marseille History Museum was temporarily closed in order to be completely refitted. The museum has a very rich collection of Antic boats from the Greek and Roman periods excavated during the last 50 years. Some of them had not been treated or restored yet. The new museum presentation planned to exhibit all six of the boats. Treatment and restoration work was very different from one boat to another. ARC-Nucléart was in charge of the treatment and restoration. Some of the boats had already been restored but the support had to be changed, others were already treated but had to be restored and framed, and other boats were poorly stored in wet conditions and had to be treated from the waterlogged stage to the final restoration and framing. The museum reopened in September 2013 and now exhibits 2 sewn boats from Greek archaic period (6th century BC) and 4 Roman boats from the 2nd and 3rd century AD.

Henri BERNARD- MAUGIRON, conservator, leader of the Arles and Marseille boats projects.

![Fig. 1: AR3 Gallo-Roman boat in the Arles Archaeological Museum](image)
Fig 2: AR3 Gallo-Roman boat in the Arles Archaeological Museum

Fig. 3: Greek-period shipwreck in the Marseille History Museum
Conservation of a II century Gallo-Roman boat from Lyon

The shipwreck LSG 4, from the Gallo-Roman period, is a 28 meter long flat-bottom boat. Only 18 meters have been salvaged. The boat was excavated, during the construction of the underground St Georges car-park at Lyon, from the edge of the Saône River in 2003-2004. At the same time, 15 other shipwrecks dating from the Roman period to the XVIII century were discovered.

Due to the on-going construction of the car-park, the lifting of the shipwreck from the site was only possible by cutting it into six sections and supporting it with metal frames. The sections were then stored underwater in a lake near Lyon for ten years, waiting for a museum display project to be set up. As planning is now complete, operations have started. Sections were lifted out of the lake at the end of January 2014 and transported to ARC-Nucléart for conservation. The treated boat is expected to be returned to the Lyon Archaeological Museum in the autumn of 2016.

Laure Meunier-Salinas, conservator, leader of the LSG 4 boat project

Fig. 4: LSG 4 shipwreck at the excavation site Lyon St-Georges
Centre de conservation du Québec, Québec City, Canada

Outdoor Freeze-drying; playing with water-logged wood in the cold

In 2011, the Centre de conservation du Québec (CCQ) was asked to treat three sewer sections dating from the 17th century, discovered among remains associated with the founding of Montréal. The artifacts were unearthed during a dig for the expansion of the Pointe-à-Callière, the Montréal Museum of Archaeology and History. Discovered during the summer, the pieces were rapidly sent to Québec City for treatment, but our tanks and freeze-dryer units were not long enough to accommodate them.

After a short brainstorming, we decided to use a modern sewer section made of PVC for the pre-treatment, in combination with outdoor freeze-drying. This solution allowed us to insert into a pre-treatment tank the two longest fragments. The tank was fitted with a vent on top that allowed us to fill it with a 10% PEG 400 solution that was increased to 20% after 4 weeks. For the shorter section, which was bigger in diameter, another existing tank was used with the same solutions. This pre-treatment was conducted during the fall of 2011.

Because the CCQ is located in Québec City, with no shortage of cold days throughout the winter months, the use of outdoor freeze-drying is a frequent occurrence. We have used it in the past to treat many waterlogged artifacts, from dugout canoes to ships’ timbers. This time, we put to use our triangular shelter located on the roof of our building. (Figure 1) The process is, of course, closely dependent upon ambient outdoor conditions, namely, the amount of sun available and the wind prevalence. Its biggest advantage is that it relies entirely on the energy put at our disposal by Mother Nature, which also means we have very little control over the actual process.

Fig. 1: A view of the outdoor freeze-drying shelter, located on the roof of the Centre de conservation du Québec in February 2012. In this picture, the doors are currently closed. The wooden platform in the foreground helps in levelling the scale when the weighing is done. Picture by André Bergeron
The main section is fitted with rigid plastic sheeting, which allows the sun to penetrate inside and warm the air. With two openings at both ends, the doors are opened whenever the wind is strong enough to evacuate water vapour sublimating from the wood surface. While the light measures more than 70,000 lux outside of the shelter, it is reduced slightly to 48,000 lux inside, because of the slight opacity of the plastic. Interestingly, the UV absorber within the plastic helps with the UV reduction; a total of 392 uWatts/lumen outside the shelter is reduced to 37 uWatts/lumen inside. The difference in temperature varies greatly from day to day. A temperature of -4.0 °C outside the shelter is warmed up to -1.9 °C inside on a windy day, while on a day with light wind, an outside temperature of -4 °C, can climb to +7 °C inside the structure.

In the beginning of January 2012, the sections were placed inside the shelter on the roof, where the treatment was monitored on a daily basis.

Fig. 2: Conservators Patrick Quirion and André Bergeron placing one of the sewer sections on the padded platform that can be moved back and forth at will. This is very convenient for an easy access to heavy artifacts. Picture by Michel Élie.

Maintenance entailed removing the fallen snow from the structure and opening the doors as needed. Weight loss allowed us to evaluate the speed of the treatment. On March 15th, as the temperature was rising above the freezing point, the pieces were brought inside and covered with polyethylene sheeting pierced with small openings to control the rate of drying. Until now, the pieces have behaved well and should be available for display when the museum requires them.

André Bergeron, Centre de conservation du Québec, andre.bergeron@mcccf.gouv.qc.ca
CONFERENCES

ICOM-CC and Related Conferences

WOAM 2016
2016
Florence, Italy

The next WOAM conference will be held in Florence in 2016. It will be hosted by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Forestry at Florence University and coordinated by Dr. Marco Fioravanti. As part of the conference there will be a side trip to the archaeological site of Pisa, where many waterlogged wooden ships have been recovered and are now undergoing treatment. During the Pisa visit, it may be possibility to view a robotic submarine specifically designed for archaeological surveys, part of a European Research Project coordinated at Florence University. A post-conference trip to the Lombardy region to tour archaeological sites around Lake Garda, recently established as an UNESCO trans-national site, is also being planned. Stay tuned and I hope to see everyone in 2016.

17th ICOM-CC Triennial Conference
15-19 September 2014
Melbourne, Australia

The 17th Triennial Conference will be held from 15–19 September 2014 in Melbourne, Australia. The theme is “Building strong Culture through Conservation”. The keynote speaker will be a person familiar to older WOAM members, Dr. Ian McLeod. The Wet Organic Archeological Materials Working Group will be presenting three papers. Updated information about the conference can be found at www.icom-cc2014.org.

ICOM-CC WOAM Post Conference Symposium 2014 (Mini WOAM)
22 –26 September 2014
Western Australian Museum
Fremantle, Western Australia, Australia

For schedule and prices see the information below. Please contact vicki.richards@museum.wa.gov.au Please note the Mini WOAM is not an official part of the ICOM-CC Triennial and is not eligible for funding from ICOM-CC. Participants are responsible for their own travel and accommodations.
ICOM-CC WOAM Post Conference Symposium 2014
Monday 22 – Friday 26 September 2014

Western Australian Museum
Shipwreck Galleries
Fremantle, Western Australia
AUSTRALIA
**Monday 22 September 2014**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>Registration at Shipwrecks Galleries</td>
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<tr>
<td>10:30</td>
<td>Welcome by Alec Coles, CEO WAM</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>Morning Break</td>
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| 11:30 | Round table discussion  
*Acid problems in treated waterlogged wood* |
| 13:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 | Round table discussion  
*Iron and sulphur removal from waterlogged organic materials* |
| 15:30 | Afternoon Break |
| 16:00 | Tour of the Shipwreck Galleries and Conservation facilities |
| 17:00 | Tour of the Maritime Museum, Victoria Quay |
| 17:30 | Welcome Reception – Maritime Museum balcony |

**Tuesday 23 September 2014**

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| 09:30 | Round table discussion  
*Approaches to in-situ preservation – conservation surveys and interpretation of data* |
| 11:00 | Morning Break |
| 11:30 | Round table discussion  
*Approaches to in-situ preservation – mitigation strategies and practical protocols* |
| 13:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 | Tour of the CRC in Welshpool |
| 17:00 | Pre-dinner drinks in Fremantle |
| 19:00 | Conference Dinner Fremantle |

**Wednesday 24 September 2014**

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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| 09:30 | Round table discussion  
*Cost effective methods for environmental control of exhibition and storage areas* |
| 11:00 | Morning Break |
| 11:30 | Round table discussion  
*Challenges in conservation* |
| 12:45 | Lunch |
| 13:45 | Captain Cook River Cruise Fremantle – Barrack St  
Pers. 18.00 AUD |
| 17:00 | Arrive Barrack St |
| 17:30 | Tour Bell Tower – pre-dinner drinks |
| 19:30 | Transport back to Fremantle |

**Thursday 25 September 2014**

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<th>Time</th>
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| 9:00 | 1. Fieldtrip to the *Omeo* and *James Matthews* wreck sites – examples of in-situ preservation  
Diving and/or snorkelling  
2. Tour of Fremantle Prison |
| 13:00 | Lunch |
| 14:00 | Round table discussion  
*Summation and symposium close* |
| 16:00 | Free evening |

**Friday 26 September 2014**

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<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>Swan Valley winery tour</td>
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<tr>
<td>15:00</td>
<td>Return to Fremantle</td>
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**COST = 200 AUD/130 EUR**

Incl. = included in registration fee  
Pers. = personal cost  
Minimum number of participants required is 5
Other Conferences

International Polar Heritage Committee Conference and Open Conference
25-28 May 2014
Copenhagen Denmark
www.polarheritage.com

The Future of Polar Heritage Environmental challenges in the face of climate change: detection and response.

The ICOMOS International Polar Heritage Committee is holding its next meeting and, in conjunction with the Polar Archaeology Network, an open conference in Copenhagen, Denmark on May 25th - 28th, 2014. The IPHC 2014 conference, co-organized with PAN, will be held at and hosted by the National Museum of Denmark in association with the Greenland National Museum.

The focus of the conference will be to bring together interested parties to discuss the future of polar heritage. The conference theme is about addressing environmental challenges in the face of climate change – how do we detect and respond to those changes.

The conference is open to heritage specialists, scientists, researchers, educators and students as well as participants from government, local community and industry. The formal AGM of the IPHC will be open to IPHC members only.

The conference topics include:

A. Environmental challenges in the face of climate change: Detection

Using new technologies and modeling tools for detecting threats to sites and buildings in the polar areas. Environmental monitoring programmes and techniques to investigate site stability and degradation of organic and non-organic materials.

B. Environmental challenges in the face of climate change: Response


International Forum on the conservation, restoration and museification of underwater cultural heritage
6-7 June 2014
Fedosia, Ukraine

The “Black Sea Underwater Research Center” and the Republican Committee of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea for the Protection of Cultural Heritage (Ukraine) invites you to participate in the first Eastern European “International Forum on the conservation, restoration and..."
museification of underwater cultural heritage”. The Forum will be dedicated to the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of World War I and the inclusion of objects from this period on the list of the underwater cultural heritage under the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage. The forum will be based at the Feodosia Restoration and Exhibition Center for Underwater Archaeology, part of the “Black Sea Underwater Research Center”. This forum will involve leading European experts in the field of conservation and restoration of underwater heritage. There are planned workshops and master classes on the specific techniques and technologies. Particular attention will be paid to the study of conservation and restoration in Poland, Croatia and Turkey. There will be a tour of the restoration laboratory in Feodosia. Participants interested in participating in the Forum should write to Victor Vakhonieiev in order to form part of the program.

Dr. Viktor V. Vakhonieiev  
Head of Underwater Archaeology Department  
"Black Sea Underwater Research Center"  
14, Gogol str., Simferopol  
Ukraine, 95011  
e-mail vakhonieiev@gmail.com  
mobile +38 068 121-60-21

UNESCO Scientific Conference on Underwater Cultural Heritage from World War I  
26-28 June 2014  
Provincial Courthouse, Bruges, Belgium

Invitees: academics, researchers, historians, underwater archaeologists, relevant NGOs

From 2014 onwards, the submerged heritage from World War I will begin to come under the scope of the UNESCO 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. Given the importance of the conflict and its global political implications, UNESCO will take the opportunity to remind the general public of the significance of this heritage by organizing, in cooperation with the Government of Flanders (Belgium), a Scientific Conference on World War I underwater cultural heritage on 26 and 27 June 2014 in the Provincial Courthouse in Bruges. It will bring together expert scientists, academics and relevant NGOs from all over the world to discuss the naval history of World War I, the current state of World War I underwater heritage, and the many dangers threatening it.

Although World War I underwater cultural heritage is very extensive -- researchers estimate that there are thousands of sites that have yet to be discovered -- most of it has been insufficiently researched, displayed, and understood. Public knowledge of this heritage is virtually nonexistent. However, these World War I wrecks hold invaluable historic information in their hulls and are irreplaceable sources for the historical inquiry into the naval -- and indeed the general -- history of World War I.

The Scientific Conference will touch upon all the different aspects of World War I underwater heritage -- historical and archaeological research, legal protection and new methodologies for the preservation of large-scale metal underwater cultural heritage sites -- thereby making a substantial contribution to the coordination and defragmentation of research efforts and strengthening scientific networking.

The first day of the Scientific Conference will focus on the historical value of the wreck sites and on their possible contributions to the historical research on World War I and its underwater cultural heritage. On the second day, efforts will be made to find new solutions and possible
measures that can help to better preserve and protect World War I underwater heritage, which has suffered from many natural and man-induced destructions, like trawling, pillaging and industrial scrap metal recovery.

Researchers, academics, historians or underwater archaeologists who are interested in cooperating with UNESCO by presenting their papers at the Bruges Scientific Conference should forward their proposals to Ms Ulrike Guérin, Programme Specialist for the 2001 Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage, who can be contacted via e-mail: u.guerin@unesco.org or by phone: +33 1 45 68 8. We are looking forward to seeing you all at the Scientific Conference on World War I Underwater Heritage in Bruges.


3rd Conference on Chemistry for Cultural Heritage
July 1 - 5, 2014
Vienna, Austria

The main objective of the 3nd International Conference in Chemistry for Cultural Heritage is to provide a universal scientific platform for the international scientific community of chemists, conservators and restorers to present and discuss the major issues in conservation and restoration. We invite you to submit abstracts until Jan. 31st, 2014

www.chemch2014.org

5th Symposium on Preservation of Archaeological Remains In Situ (Paris 5)
April 12-15, 2015
Kreuzlingen, Switzerland

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. The six conference themes are 1. Preserving the archaeology of the Lake Constance area, 2. Past mitigation: Successes and failures, 3. Preservation in a changing climate and in extreme environments, 4. Degradation processes and rates of degradation, 5. First things first: Priorities for preservation, and 6. (Monitoring) + Mitigation. These presentations will be published by Maney Publishing in a special volume edition of Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites.
For more information and registration:
www.paris5.tg.ch
E-mail paris5@tg.ch

Network for Archaeological Wood and Chemistry

The Swedish National Heritage Board intends to strengthen the discipline concerned with “archaeological wood” through a project geared to the coordination and communication of knowledge in the field. The aim is to gather experience from previous research projects and to initiate additional complementary research and method development.
The project Archaeological wood and chemistry will establish and develop a new network in the field. The endeavor is part of the mandate to collect, coordinate and make research results
accessible, and is intended to act as a bridge between research and practical conservation. Two workshops on the theme Conservation science – in practice, have been arranged during the fall of 2013 bringing together Swedish conservators and scientists within the field. For more information please contact project manager Yvonne Fors, Swedish National Heritage Board, e-mail: yvonne.fors@raa.se

**BOOKS, JOURNALS AND WEBSITES**

**Conservation of Archaeological Ships and Boats – personal experiences**

By Per Hoffman, with Poul Jensen, Kristiane Straetkvern, Inger Bojesen-Koefoed and David Gregory, Jim Spriggs and Markus Wittköpper

Behind each archaeological shipwreck recovery lies a team of highly skilled specialists: divers, archaeologists, engineers, scientists, conservators, curators, historians, designers etc. While each boat found presents a unique combination of problems to be overcome, the most challenging aspect of all these projects has been the conservation of the degraded wood, iron and other materials that make up a ship’s hull and its contents. The materials and techniques used in this branch of conservation now are very different from those known about and used in the early 1960s when a truly scientific approach to conservation had yet to appear. The technology of waterlogged wood preservation has advanced enormously over the past five decades.

ISBN: 9781904982821 Binding: Hardback Pages: 182 Illustrations: 170 colour, 35 halftone Price: 45.00 GBP

Details at [http://www.archetype.co.uk/publication-details.php?id=181](http://www.archetype.co.uk/publication-details.php?id=181)

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**Alum-treated archaeological wood: characterization and re-conservation.**


The book is available online as a PDF at:

[http://samla.raa.se/xmlui/bitstream/handle/raa/399/9789172096677.pdf?sequence=1](http://samla.raa.se/xmlui/bitstream/handle/raa/399/9789172096677.pdf?sequence=1)

[Note: I had trouble with this link during the test run. It appears to be a problem with the web page. If it does not work try an Internet search on alum-treated archaeological wood]
The KUR Project

“The KUR Project: A comparison of different methods to preserve waterlogged wood” by Markus Wittköpper is a project where 900 selected samples of common wood species in different degrees of degradation were documented and then sent to various conservation labs to be conserved by various waterlogged wood techniques. These treated samples were then collected and the results for dimensional stability, price and handling were systematically measured and evaluated. All samples were 3D scanned before and after conservation to evaluate dimensional change. This data was transformed into an isometric projection and shrinkage can be determined to 1/10 mm.

This data will eventually be presented in a web page at www.rgzm.de/kur. Unfortunately there are still samples arriving in Feb 2014 and it is estimated that it will take at least 6 months to 3D scan, measure and enter the data. At the moment the database is only in German although the description of the different conservation methods is in both German and English. An English version will eventually be produced. If you aren’t perfect in German, it might be possible to use the (not completed) database with the help of a translation site from the University of Munich. http://www.leo.org/index_en.html

Developing new consolidants for archaeological wood

In 2013, Mikkel Christensen completed his PhD thesis carried out at the Dept. Of Chemistry, University of Oslo, but funded by the Museum of Cultural History, titled “Developing new consolidants for archaeological wood”. Can be downloaded at https://www.duo.uio.no/handle/10852/37411?show=full

ICOM-CC COPYRIGHT FORMS

All authors in ICOM-CC publications, including the WOAM Conference Proceedings, will now need to sign a copyright form before publishing their papers. Unfortunately this form was not finalized until May and was presented during the WOAM conference. A copy of the form is attached below for anyone interested in viewing the contents. As explained to me there is both a personal copyright and an ICOM institutional copyright. Authors have the intellectual rights and give permission for a specific version of the work to be published while the other "copyright" goes with the use of the ICOM-CC logo which should be used on all publications originating from ICOM-CC activities. ICOM (and ICOM-CC) is to be regarded as a quality brand. The logo implies that the work presented is delivered by professionals in the field. Its use is restricted to ICOM activities. WOAM is still working on finalizing arrangements with Istanbul University and the form will be sent out to authors when ready.
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