

## A WORD FROM THE EDITOR

Change within continuity - this phrase explains the new organization of this issue of the Newsletter. You will find certain articles re-grouped under four new rubrics, "**Doctrine & Research**", "**Professional Services & Expertise**", "**Information & Communication**", and "**Administration & Management**"; the four orientations of Icomos's policy as defined by the annual meetings of the Advisory and Executive Committees last December.

It is important that the activities of the National and International Committees follow these orientations in order to harmonize and to promote the public image of our organization.

This is not a new presentation, though we do attempt to make each issue more interesting and more informative, but rather a better organization of the activities of Icomos. You will note that the old headings may still be found on the same page.

Please write to give us your impressions or your suggestions on the presentation of the Newsletter, which brings you information on the world of conservation in general and on Icomos in particular wherever you may be. We would be pleased to publish your remarks.

## NEW YEAR S WISHES FROM THE BUREAU AND THE ICOMOS SECRETARIAT

In response to the deluge of holiday wishes which we received from the four corners of the world, the Bureau and the Icomos Secretariat extend their best wishes for 1983.

## NEW MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS POLICY

A new membership subscriptions policy, in effect as of 1983, was adopted by the Executive Committee at its 29th session in Paris, last December 11-12, 1982. (see details under "Icomos Meetings", The Treasurer General's Report).

## ICOMOS TELEX 240918 TRACE F Ref. 617 -

Note well this new telex number for Icomos ! You can always reach us here. On the other hand, we must know your telex number if you have access to one. We appeal to **all the members** and especially to **all Chairmen** of the National and International Committees to send us the telex number of their administration, association, office, or simply of their friend where they can be reached.

## MONUMENTUM SUBSCRIPTION

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## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF HISTORIC MONUMENTS AND SITES, 18 APRIL 1984

The Icomos Executive Committee voted to name April 18th the "International Day of Historic Monuments and Sites". So that we may concentrate our efforts for the preparation of this important event, the first day will be celebrated on **April 18th, 1984**.

## REPLACEMENT OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT IN PARIS

Many of our members proposed their candidatures for the post of director of the secretariat and we would like to thank them.

However, taking into account many considerations, and on the recommendation of the Bureau and the Advisory Committee, the Executive Committee decided to proceed to a **broad consultation** of all the National Committees on the possible **modification of the Icomos Statutes** concerning the posts and responsibilities of the Secretary General and the Director of the Secretariat. In this case, the definitive decision on this question may be made only by the **May 1984 General Assembly**.

Until then, the direction of the Secretariat has been given to the present Chief of the Documentation Centre, **Madame Delphine Lapeyre**, who will assume her new functions on May 1st, 1983.

## ICOMOS AND THE AFRICAN ARCHITECTURAL HERITAGE AT ABIDJAN

**Advanced Seminar on the Principles and Techniques of Conservation Applicable to the African Architectural Heritage, Abidjan, 2-18 December 1982.**

Has Africa finally "taken off" ? We may well ask ourselves **this question and be gratified that this continent is now making a concerted effort to protect its architectural heritage**. Unesco initiated this meeting on the **preservation of the architectural heritage** in the francophone countries of Africa, with the cooperation of the **African Cultural Institute (ICA)** for its organization, of **ICCROM** for the seminar leaders, and with the participation of **ICOMOS** through the presence of its President, Mr. Michel Parent.



The Fort of Elmina St-George, Ghana  
(Photo F. Johnson/Unesco)

This meeting had a **triple objective**, aimed at : 1) providing an occasion where those responsible for the protection of the cultural heritage might discuss the principles and criteria of architectural conservation and their application in the African countries ; 2) to inform them of the current state of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention, of the application of nomination criteria for the World Heritage List, and the possibilities for technical cooperation offered by the World Heritage Fund ; 3) to induce other concerned public services to take into account the problems and needs of the preservation of architectural heritage and to support the various safeguard associations. For each of the objectives there corresponded, respectively : 1) an advanced seminar on the principles and techniques of conservation applicable to the African architectural heritage ; 2) an information session on the implementation of the World Heritage Convention ; 3) a symposium on the protection of the African architectural heritage.

The participants, from **9 African countries** (Angola, Benin, Chad, Madagascar, Mauritania, Senegal, Togo, Upper-Volta, Zaire) presented the nature of the architectural heritage and the protective measures of their respective countries. They noted that **architecture is the most concrete expression of history**, of cultural values, of the social organization and the know-how of a people, and that the acceleration of the development of modern life and the introduction of industrialized techniques threaten the architectural heritage ; and that it is consequently the responsibility of all the African governments to preserve it. Nonetheless, the **problem of habitations** for the least privileged and habitations in general in the developing countries must not be forgotten.

The **symposium on the protection of the African architectural heritage**, resulting from the work of the seminar, introduced one of the essential problems of Africa : the cultural identity, felt by its peoples with a profound acuity. The work of the symposium focussed on the following six themes for reflection :

- the cultural meaning of the heritage and protection policy (O. Konare, Mali)
- the architectural heritage in relation to the government programme in the context of regional planning and development programmes (B. Kindo, Ivory Coast)
- the development of contemporary architecture in the proximity of an historic monument in the urban and rural zones (K. Mebra, Ivory Coast)
- the problems of town planning within protected zones (T. N'Gom, Senegal)
- the importance of the cultural heritage for tourism (S.A. Meda, Upper-Volta)
- educational activities for promoting knowledge and love of the cultural heritage (Y. Sekongo, Ivory Coast)

Please address any requests concerning the above communications to the Unesco-Icomos Documentation Centre.

#### **BASLE CONGRESS**

**University of Basle, Switzerland, March 28-31, 1983**

The programme of the **International Congress on Architectural Conservation** was sent to you with No.25 of the Newsletter. We remind you that the registration form should be sent to : **Voyages Kuoni S.A.**, Département Congrès, 26 Gerbergasse, CH-40001 Bâle, Switzerland, before December 31, 1982. Registrations are still being accepted ; however, you are advised to act quickly - the total number of participants is limited to 350 !

#### **VIIth ICOMOS GENERAL ASSEMBLY** **Rostock-Dresden, GDR, MAY 12-17, 1984**

After Italy (Rome, May 1981), the **German Democratic Republic** will host the Icomos General Assembly, which will be held in **Rostock and Dresden** from **May 12-17, 1984**.

We would like to point out that this General Assembly is of **particular interest**, not only as an occasion for you to assemble and thereby directly participate in the life of Icomos, but also because it falls on the **20th anniversary of the Venice Charter** (1964). Two further reasons, administrative and professional, call for your participation in this triennial event of Icomos.

On the **administrative level**, Icomos has reached a stage of expansion - of maturity - such that the administrative structure of the International Secretariat has been brought into question at the last sessions of the Advisory and Executive Committees and fundamental decisions entailing possible modifications of the Statutes may be made at Rostock. The General Assembly is also the time of elections of the Bureau (President, 5 Vice-Presidents, Secretary General, Treasurer General) and members of the Executive Committee. To enable the Secretariat to

verify the conformity of each National Committee's votes with the election rules of procedure, the Chairmen of the National Committees are **again reminded** to take all appropriate measures, on the one hand, to adopt **internal regulations or statutes**, and on the other, to **pay all membership subscriptions** due to Icomos, at least of the voting members, limited to 18 for each National Committee.

On the **professional level**, the general theme of the symposium which follows the General Assembly is the following : **"Monuments and Sites : their contribution to the definition of cultural identity"**. The work of the symposium will be to define cultural identity and its relation to monuments and sites. To this end, three sub-themes will be discussed on 1) **the impact of monuments and sites on the urban and rural environment**, 2) **monuments and sites and contemporary life**, 3) **restoration works and their impact on the cultural identity**.

Consequent to the communications and discussions on these three sub-themes, Icomos intends to formulate a final **"Declaration"** on the general theme. This is the reason for the interesting and innovative initiative to enable the members to participate in the reflection on these themes through their National Committees. Those among you who are interested in preparing a communication on one of the 3 sub-themes should contact the Chairman of their National Committee.

#### **RESEARCH & DOCTRINE** **CHARTER ON HISTORIC GARDENS KNOWN** **AS THE "FLORENCE CHARTER"**

The ICOMOS -IFLA International Committee on Historic Gardens, which met in Florence on May 21st, 1981, decided to formulate a charter on the protection of historic gardens which would be known by the name of that city. This charter was drawn up by the Committee in the aim of completing the Venice Charter in this particular field.

The following is a summary of the essential points of the Charter

##### **A. Definitions and objectives**

An historic garden, as an architectural and vegetal composition of public interest, **"is considered to be a monument"**. As such, the historic garden must be protected in the spirit of the Venice Charter but its preservation must be based on specific rules. Measures for maintenance, conservation, restoration and in certain cases, restitution, are required (art. 1 to 9).

##### **B. Maintenance, Conservation, Restoration, Restitution**

The maintenance of historic gardens is a fundamental and constant operation. When necessary, the replacement or the restoration of threatened elements may only be done according to the principles of the Venice Charter. Before undertaking any restoration or restitution, an in-depth study of the concerned garden is required, necessarily resulting in a project (art. 10 to 17).

##### **C. Utilization**

The conditions for the utilization of the historic garden, if it is open to be viewed and to be visited, must be well defined in order to preserve the substance of the historic garden and its cultural message (art. 18 to 22).

##### **D. Legal and Administrative Protection**

Legal and administrative measures for the identification, inventorying and protection of historic gardens must be taken by the responsible authorities who also ensure the financing of maintenance, conservation or restoration works. Furthermore, the training of qualified personnel to execute these works is fully as important as activities to promote respect for nature and for the heritage in the public opinion (art. 23 to 25).

Copies of the Charter are available from the Unesco-Icomos Documentation Centre upon request.

#### **International Symposium : "The Methodological Problems of the Protection and the Restoration of Rock Art Sites", Tbilissi -Erivan, 21-27 September 1982**

This international symposium was organized by the Icomos Soviet National Committee at Tbilissi and Erivan, from September 21 to 27, 1982. The participants stressed the scientific, historic and artistic importance of **rock art sites** of all kinds which can be found in most regions of the world, and which mark the important steps in the cultural evolution of humanity. Rock art sites, representing the most ancient architecture, sculpture, mural paintings and archaeological monuments, have

