



English-Speaking Committee

NEWSLETTER

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UNESCO World Heritage List

This list was developed under articles embodied in the World Heritage Convention. In effect since 1975, the World Heritage List now contains 165 of the world's most significant cultural and natural sites. Selection is made through a World Heritage Committee comprising representatives of the countries signatory to the Convention.

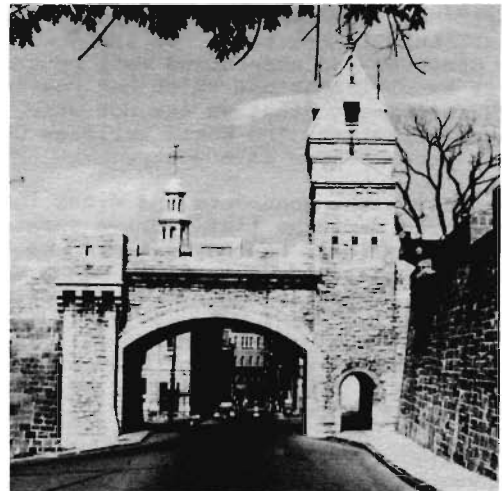
At its meeting in Florence, Italy, December 5th-9th 1983, the World Heritage Committee considered more than 40 nominations and decided to include the following 29 sites on the List:

- . São Miguel das Missoês (Brazil)
- . Ancient City of Nessebar/ Monastery of Rila/ Srebarna Reserve/ Pirin (Bulgaria)
- ** Wood Buffalo National Park (Canada)
- . Sangay National Park (Ecuador)
- . Pilgrimage Church of Wies (Federal Republic of Germany)
- . Place Stanislas à Nancy/ Church of Saint-Savin-sur-Gartempe/ Cape Girolata/ Cape Porto/ Scandola Nature Reserve (France)
- . Ajanta Caves/ Ellora Caves/ Agra Fort/ Taj Mahal (India)
- . Comoé National Park (Ivory Coast)
- . City of Cuzco/ Machu Picchu (Peru)
- . Centre of Angra do Heroísmo, Azores/ Monastery of the Hieronymites/ Convent of Christ (Portugal)
- . Vallée de Mai Nature Reserve (Seychelles)
- . Convent of St. Gall/ Convent of St. John at Mustair/ Old City of Berne (Switzerland)
- . Grey Smokey Mountains National Park / La Fortaleza and San Juan Historic Site (USA)

** The addition of Wood Buffalo National Park brings to a total of eight the number of World Heritage Sites proclaimed within Canadian boundaries. In making this declaration, the Committee called attention to the harmful consequences that the eventual construction of a dam on the Slave River could have for the integrity of the site, and urged the authorities to inform the Bureau in the event that such a project were planned.

In 1984, Canada will be submitting the following nominations for inclusion on the World Heritage List as properties of global significance:

1. THE CANADIAN ROCKIES, in the category of outstanding natural property, meets all four of the criteria for designation.
 - . The area includes the Burgess Shale, a site containing fossils representing a major stage in the earth's evolutionary history.
 - . The Columbia Icefield complex and Maligne Valley are examples of combinations of features which represent significant geological processes.
 - . The landscape is one of exceptional beauty, containing a number of different environments and scenic places.
 - . There exists a wide variation in the quality of vegetation, providing undisturbed habitats for many species of wildlife. The Rockies shelter a number of species which are considered as vulnerable; the grey wolf, bighorn sheep, the grizzly bear, and woodland caribou.



Parkes Canada

2. THE HISTORIC TOWN CENTRE OF QUEBEC CITY, in the category of outstanding cultural property:
 - . Quebec City is the Birthplace of French civilization in America; it is witness to the contributions made by one of the three European civilizations which participated in the discovery and development of the largest continent in the world.
 - . It is the only fortified city in North America completely surrounded by fortification walls. The original urban spacial distribution and an eloquent legacy of architectural components have survived some four centuries of evolution, virtually intact.

The cultural and natural heritage of a nation are amongst its most important and priceless possessions. They are irreplaceable; any loss or serious impairment of them is a tragedy, not only for the nation concerned, but for humanity itself.

Recognizing that the world's cultural and natural heritage transcends national boundaries and must be preserved for future generations, the member states of Unesco, in 1972, unanimously adopted a Convention concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, known in short as the World Heritage Convention. As of December 1983, 74 states had adhered to the Convention. Canada adhered in 1976.

What do we all get from this Convention?

First, I would say that knowledge and understanding are the most important immediate benefits. As we start discovering all these masterpieces and unique treasures of disappeared or living civilizations, our minds start to open up. We didn't know that there were so many important cultural properties and of such high quality. "I have never heard this name before"... is probably our first reaction to names like Tikal, The Cavalier of Madara, Shibam, Mesa Verde, Taxila, Head Smashed in Buffalo Jump, Polonnaruwa, Valcamonica, Ouro Preto, Ohrid and Roeros. I can assure you that a visit to any of these sites would astonish you.

Many of us tend to think that because there are satellites above our heads which can photograph every square meter of this planet, everything has been seen and recorded. The World Heritage Convention makes us understand that this is not true. We are just beginning to discover and understand many of the marvels left by civilizations which had reached levels of refinement that we are not sure to ever reach ourselves. The World Heritage Convention is a great lesson in modesty.

Secondly, the monuments and sites included on the World Heritage List receive special attention from their own governments and from the international community. This means more money and more protection generally.

Thirdly, more and more Icomos experts and professionals are being requested to give advice or to prepare conservation programs for the listed properties.

Finally, I would say that the World Heritage Convention is a crucial instrument in developing world interdependence for the conservation of historic monuments and sites. The Pyramids of Egypt, the Pantheon in Rome, the Palace of Versailles or the Ashanti buildings in Ghana are no longer the sole responsibility of the countries in which they are located. It is for all of us to make sure that these treasures are kept for future generations.

Francois Leblanc

THE WORLD HERITAGE EMBLEM

The World Heritage Emblem symbolizes the interdependence of cultural and natural properties; the central square is a form created by man and the circle represents nature, the two being intimately linked. The emblem is round, like the world, but at the same time it is a symbol of protection.

Activities undertaken by the Secretariat in Paris include a philatelic programme similar to those of UNICEF. This activity could, with no additional cost to the World Heritage Fund, bring in 10% of the total sales profit, meaning earnings which could be evaluated at \$100,000 per year. Furthermore, a contract was signed with a Spanish editor specializing in nature photography, INCAFO, for the publication of a series of illustrated volumes on the World Heritage Sites (one volume per year containing approximately twenty properties per volume). It is agreed that 5% of the income from these sales will be attributed to the World Heritage Fund, and that Unesco will acquire the use of all the photographic material of INCAFO, including a wide selection of good-quality slides, for non-profit making purposes.

Chairman's Message

Herb Stovel

This newsletter has a new format, and a new editor, Anna Kozlowski. Whether she volunteered for the job, or was volunteered by an eager executive, is a matter for future historians to debate. I think that you'll find her contributions go well beyond the matter of format, and that this newsletter takes a major step forward in explaining what's going on in the international preservation scene.

A number of important events have marked the beginning of 1984 within ICOMOS Canada:

1. Further to the contribution already made by the Government of Canada in sponsoring François Leblanc for 4 years as Director of the Icomos Secretariat in Paris, and thanks to the initiative of Jacques Dalibard, Parks Canada is contributing \$40,000.00 to ICOMOS in 1984. \$10,000.00 has been allocated directly to support administrative functions within the central Paris office, relieving our national committee of the need to contribute to Paris through membership dues. (The \$15.00 annual assessment for the English-Speaking Committee is based on the cost of production for newsletters and mailings from within Canada.)
2. "The Appleton Charter for the Protection and Enhancement of the Built Environment", (developed in Appleton, Ontario, last August), is a made-in-Canada charter, intended to address Canadian problems and to set standards for the quality of conservation work. It has been adopted by the Ontario Ministry of Citizenship and Culture, and the Ontario Heritage Foundation, for direction in evaluating grant proposals. Although accorded no binding authority and by no means the only instrument used to guide grant evaluation, this step is a welcome



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