

THE UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN INTERNATIONAL PRESERVATION PROGRAMS

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The celebration of the United States Bicentennial is an appropriate occasion on which to review and analyze our national preservation program. Not only does it mark 200 years of independence, but more significantly for the preservation movement, the Bicentennial year comes exactly 10 years after the passage of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966—the milestone legislation in the United States preservation program.

Rather than restate the evolution of the various federal, state, local and private programs protecting America's heritage, this issue of *Monumentum* seeks to define and interpret their interaction and consequent effect on the urban and rural landscape and on the American lifestyle. It will become evident through the succeeding essays in this publication that the concept of cultural and historic preservation has gradually changed. Today it reflects an awareness that conservation is not a luxury, but a necessity in order to maintain a sense of personal and national identity. The United States being a "nation of nations" has many diverse cultural antecedents, all of which have helped make contemporary America what it is today.

In order to save this unique quality, preservationists have learned to work together, regardless of their backgrounds and individual concerns. Because preservation is carried on in this country through the interaction of a multitude of federal, state and local agencies and private institutions, rather than through one centralized governmental body or cultural ministry, which is frequently the case in other countries, Americans have learned the value of combining the individual strengths of many organizations to obtain a greater effectiveness. Through this process Americans have also acknowledged the possibility of accepting traditional as well as innovative ideas in the preservation field that have been used successfully abroad. This continual search for new solutions has led to an increasing amount of United States exchange and involvement with international as well as national preservation programs.

An atmosphere of harmony and a willingness to share specialized information prevails in the field of preservation and conservation, bringing with it a true concern for monuments, sites and entire settlements of significance to the world's cultural heritage. Indeed, this sense of international cooperation was instrumental in the

adoption of the UNESCO World Heritage Convention in 1975, through which international cultural and natural resources will be protected for succeeding generations. It is our purpose here then to provide a survey of the major governmental and private groups concerned with preservation in this country, in order to better understand the degree of United States involvement in international preservation programs in 1976. It is an impressive array and indicates an encouraging sign of cooperation and commitment to the conservation of the world's cultural resources.

THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The U.S. Department of State facilitates and supports the efforts of both governmental and private organizations interested in the preservation of the world's cultural and historic heritage.

The Department provides encouragement and support in a variety of ways. For instance, it coordinates United States participation in the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property in Rome. It serves as an observer on the International Centre Committee and as an invited participant on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. It sponsors international exchanges of professionals concerned with preservation.

At the intergovernmental level, the Department of State supports the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). UNESCO has focused attention on historic preservation and conservation for more than three decades; at the same time it has acted as a clearinghouse and catalyst for training projects, fund raising and exchange of experts.

The United States seeks to increase understanding and cooperation between the people of the United States and other peoples throughout the world, thus furthering the mutual appreciation of cultural and educational values. As a part of this effort, the Department of State is increasingly concerned with protection of cultural patrimony and preservation of historic properties and art objects.

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THE ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

In the 10 years since its creation by the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation has acquired significant responsibilities in international programs for the conservation of cultural resources. Established to advise the President and Congress in preservation-related matters, and specifically to comment on federal and federally aided projects affecting recognized historic properties, the Advisory Council officially became involved in international activities in 1971 when the United States became a member of the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property in Rome, Italy. Through an amendment to the National Historic Preservation Act, the Advisory Council was responsible for guiding the U.S. membership in the Centre. To supervise this task the Council created an International Centre Committee of 29 professional organizations and federal agencies with interests and programs closely related to those of the Centre.

To further the exchange of preservation and conservation expertise between the United States and foreign countries, the primary role of the International Centre Committee is to publicize the Centre's educational programs in conservation, screen United States applications to the Centre's training courses, and to recommend United States professionals to participate in the Centre's training and technical assistance programs. In exchange the Centre has provided the United States with scientific analyses of conservation problems involving the Capitol in Washington, D.C., and the Spanish missions of San Antonio, Texas. The Committee has also sponsored a number of other international exchanges and conferences, such as the 1972 European Traveling Summer School for Restorationists held for American students, and a 1974 seminar in Poland for United States preservation specialists. In an effort to encourage a dialogue between restoration architects and museum conservators, the International Centre Committee organized in September 1972 and cosponsored with the Centre an international conference on conservation of building materials.

While the Advisory Council's involvement with the International Centre is on an intergovernmental level, the Council also works with international nongovernmental organizations. One such organization is the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS). The Advisory Council provides a secretariat for the American coordinating committee, US/ICOMOS, and participates in a variety of ICOMOS programs.

As a cabinet-level advisory body on preservation matters, the Advisory Council is frequently called upon by the Department of State to coordinate the United States response to international documents relating to the preservation of cultural property. Over the past several years, the Council, in consultation with its member agencies and professional organizations, has prepared United States comments on the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention and Recommendation and the 1975 UNESCO "Preliminary Draft Recommendation Con-

cerning the Safeguarding of Historic Towns, Quarters and Villages and Their Surroundings, and Their Integration into Contemporary Life." For the United States position on HABITAT, the 1976 International Conference on Human Settlements, the Council emphasized not only the concept of the conservation of cultural resources, but also the importance of cultural values in a human settlement.

The Advisory Council also assists foreign organizations and governments by providing information on the structure and operation of our national preservation program. Within the past year, the Council reviewed drafts of historic preservation legislation for both Canada and Australia. In other bilateral efforts, a representative of the Advisory Council sits on the Committee of Archaeologists and Landscape Architects for Safeguarding the Temples of Philae in Egypt, and another serves on the Committee of International Consultants to Safeguard the City of Venice.

As a result of participation in a United States Information Agency (USIA) sponsored seminar on housing and historic preservation in Leningrad, the Council has initiated cooperative programs with other federal and private organizations to supply information on preservation-related topics of international concern. One such project is to provide USIA with preservation materials for distribution to U.S. posts in foreign countries.

The scope of the activities of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in international and foreign preservation programs in 1976 is varied, encompassing involvement in both the intergovernmental and nongovernmental sector. The Council's unique position in the national historic preservation program enables it to provide assistance to the Department of State and other federal agencies regarding United States policy in this area, as well as to international organizations and foreign governments seeking advice and guidance in preserving their own cultural resources. In this manner, the Council has a significant input into a variety of bilateral and multilateral preservation programs.

Clement M. SILVESTRO
Chairman

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The Historic Sites Act of 1935 declared that it is "a national policy to preserve for public use historic sites, buildings and objects of national significance for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States." A generation later, in this our Bicentennial year, the National Park Service can reflect with pride upon the progress that has been achieved making that policy a living reality across America. Through a series of congressional and Executive mandates stretching over 41 years, the Park Service has established a role of leadership in preserving, restoring and maintaining the historic and cultural resources of the nation at the local, state and federal levels. The 167 historic areas maintained by the National Park Service include such diverse resources as the Statue of Liberty in New York City Harbor and

the prehistoric cliff dwellings of Mesa Verde, Colorado. In addition, the historic preservation programs administered by the National Park Service for the Secretary of the Interior have become the heart of the national commitment to preserve our cultural heritage. These programs make an impressive roll call: the National Register of Historic Places, the Historic American Buildings Survey, the Historic American Engineering Record, the National Historic Landmarks Program, the Historic Preservation Grants-in-Aid Program, the Interagency Archeological Services Program, the Interagency Historic Architectural Services Program.

Unifying all of our work is the profoundly held belief that the quality of man's setting is inseparably linked to the quality of man's life. Essential to that setting are those tangible testimonies to human achievement—more than stone, more than wood, more than steel—that give scale and texture, identity and a sense of neighborhood.

As the first nation to ratify the World Heritage Convention in 1975, the United States is committed to the goals of international historic preservation. The National Park Service shares these goals. We have long been active in world-wide programs, not only in government-to-government programs, such as the Agency for International Development (AID), but in support of the broader programs of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) and the International Centre for Conservation in Rome. Members of the National Park Service staff work as far afield as Leningrad and Kathmandu, Jordan and Indonesia. I am pleased that the National Park Service has been asked to be of assistance in preserving the cultural patrimony of other nations. We have much to give and much to receive by such exchanges. The legislative seed planted 41 years ago, "for the inspiration and benefit of the people of the United States," has grown to include not only the cultural resources of this country but those in countries around the world.

Gary EVERHARDT
Director
National Park Service

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

The Smithsonian Institution, an independent establishment dedicated to public education, basic research and national service in the arts, sciences and history, was founded in Washington, D.C., 130 years ago. The founder of the Institution was a wealthy Englishman, James Smithson, who bequeathed to the United States his entire fortune to create an institution "for the increase and diffusion of knowledge among men." Since then, the Smithsonian has become one of the world's leading research centers and one of the world's largest museum complexes, attracting nearly 20,000,000 visitors annually.

From the start, the Institution's activities have been inter-

national in scope. Centered on the Mall in the heart of Washington, D.C., it also operates major facilities and activities in other parts of the nation's capital, across the United States and overseas. It arranges for the exchange of publications, organizes and participates in archaeological and other expeditions, arranges for the exchange and training of specialists, shares its collections through national and international exhibitions and carries out research through its scientists and scholars. The Institution's interest in preservation begins with its own historic structures. The best known is its "Castle," designed by James Renwick and constructed between 1847 and 1855. The Arts and Industries Building, designed by Cluss and Schulze between 1879 and 1881 is another major monument. More recently, the Institution acquired the old Patent Office Building designed by William P. Elliot and constructed between 1836 and 1867. Finally the Renwick Gallery, designed also by James Renwick and erected between 1859 and 1874, was saved from oblivion.

Perhaps because the Institution has been so keenly aware of the importance of those buildings entrusted to its care, it has also participated in or encouraged numerous efforts on behalf of the architectural heritage of mankind outside the United States. Smithsonian staff, administrators and scholars have actively supported the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural Property in Rome. The Institution's Office of International Activities has been involved in the United States' participation in the 20-year-long effort to help salvage the monuments of Nubia, many of which were destined to be irretrievably lost under the rising waters of Lake Nasser. The most spectacular efforts were the dismantling and reinstallation of the immense temple of Abu Simbel and, more recently, the removal of the temples of Philae to a nearby and higher island in the now permanent lake formed between the two Aswan dams.

The Institution has followed with concern the gradual disintegration of Moenjodaro, that great archetype of a city in the lower Indus valley, a city whose full importance has been realized in the last decade. Partly as a result of ambitious excavations that revealed its magnitude, Moenjodaro is now gradually crumbling away. Also of concern to the Institution are the effects of time and unstable terrain on the great monuments of Borobudur in Indonesia, which are being consolidated by an international team of experts.

Conservation and preservation are vital activities, indispensable for transmitting our understanding of ourselves. Perhaps nowhere is this more evident than in the urban environment, where the architectural forms that make up a city are reflective of the values and the accomplishment of past cultures. It is the task of all concerned with learning and knowledge to see to it that means are found so that the best of that which our forefathers wrought and which can provide so much inspiration, delight and sense of continuity to our environment is not only preserved, but indeed enhanced by our respect and our care.

S. Dillon RIPLEY
Secretary
Smithsonian Institution

NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

The National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States has participated in preservation on an international level since its founding by an act of Congress in 1949.

The reasons for such involvement are varied. As the sole national, private preservation organization in the United States, the Trust has been a natural focal point for research on international preservation, information exchanges and cooperation between preservation groups in the United States and other countries. The organization believes that international cooperation can only work to the benefit of the preservation movement around the globe. A solution to one preservation problem may have other applications elsewhere in the world. There is a growing realization in many countries that the quality of life is directly related to the quality of the environment, and that on this small planet what one nation does about its environment affects—and is affected by—other nations' actions. Finally, such international cooperation fosters the concept of togetherness—the awareness that immediate and urgent preservation needs are being met by many people in many places. Just as the saving of an old building cannot be isolated from what goes on elsewhere in its neighborhood, neither can a preservation movement in one country flourish without a free and full exchange of information and enthusiasm with movements in other countries.

The National Trust is involved along with similar organizations in international research, publications, tours and educational travel programs, exchange visits and conferences. It maintains relevant information on historic preservation in other countries, including publications, research, laws, principles and techniques. And it makes available to groups in other countries information on American programs and techniques. While much of the cooperation has been with English-speaking countries, the National Trust is actively seeking to strengthen ties with groups in non-English speaking countries as well. Part of the program includes publications exchanges. More than 70 organizations outside the United States regularly receive National Trust publications, and many of these groups send their publications to the United States through the National Trust. Some are available for sale at National Trust bookshops.

The library at National Trust headquarters maintains files of publications, photographs, correspondence on about 40 countries and newspaper clippings. Its collection contains books from foreign preservation groups and about international preservation activity. The film collection of the Trust includes films produced outside the United States.

The National Trust's publishing activities have often included international concerns in preservation. Trust periodicals, *Preservation News* and *Historic Preservation*,

as well as special reports from tours abroad and international conferences have addressed international preservation issues. The Trust is preparing to publish a list of American and foreign training opportunities for students in preservation. Cooperating in the effort are the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the American Institute of Architects. An international directory of major preservation organizations in more than 80 countries is also planned.

In order to acquaint American preservationists with activities elsewhere in the world, the National Trust sponsors tours to a number of countries to view houses, monuments, historic sites and villages. Some of the tours arranged by the Trust are for public officials and planners, while others are aimed at its members.

When official visitors from abroad come to see preservation efforts in the United States, they often meet with members of the National Trust staff as part of the itinerary arranged for them by the U.S. State Department. The Trust may assist other foreign visitors with their trips to the United States. In addition, National Trust representatives participate in conferences and special events in other countries as speakers and observers, and the Trust is in contact with groups abroad through correspondence.

Intensive study of preservation in other countries is fostered by the National Trust in cooperation with other groups through a variety of programs and scholarships. A team of three United States preservation professionals is currently working in England through the Royal Oak Foundation, and one Trust staff member is selected each year to study at Attingham Summer School in Great Britain. Another Trust-sponsored scholar is studying preservation in Poland for two years, and in 1975 a group of 13 professionals toured Great Britain and attended the Congress on the European Architectural Heritage in Amsterdam. There has also been Trust involvement in United States-Soviet Union exchange programs. Preservationists from abroad are occasionally invited to speak and observe at Trust meetings and conferences.

Cooperation in conferences, including speaker exchanges and cosponsorship arrangements, is a significant part of the National Trust international exchange policy. Most recently, the Trust cosponsored the International Conference on the Preservation and Restoration of Gardens and Landscapes and the seminar on Architecture and Historic Preservation in Central and Eastern Europe.

International relations are further fostered by National Trust officials serving on boards and committees of groups outside the United States. For example, a former Trust executive director was a vice president of ICOMOS and a Trust vice president is a member of the Executive Committee of U.S. National Committee of ICOMOS and national editor of the 1976 issue of *Monumentum*. American private preservationists are also represented by the Trust on the U.S. International Centre Committee and the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO, and at the request of the U.S. Department of State they comment on UNESCO recommendations and conventions that relate to historic preservation.

The National Trust works with the United States govern-

ment and the governments of other countries, acting as a channel for preservation information and programs. It is discussing with the Department of State several potential programs, including circulation of Trust publications to the U.S. Information Agency libraries, increased emphasis on preservation in the Department of State's foreign visitors program and inclusion of preservation in the Fulbright Scholarship program.

The National Trust hopes that such continuing exchanges and cooperation will benefit preservation everywhere, and the Trust stands ready to cooperate, both in receiving and providing information and experience, with others interested in the effort to preserve the past as a guide to the future.

Carlisle H. HUMELSINE
Chairman
National Trust for Historic Preservation

SUMMARY OF OTHER NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

A review of the United States preservation scene in 1976 would not be complete without mention of important contributions other organizations have made within the private sector. Although the federal government is accorded great recognition, historic preservation is an area in which private nongovernmental associations provide much of the momentum behind national programs, as well as United States involvement in international programs.

The extent and type of private associational participation varies tremendously, depending on the nature of each particular organization. (Because of its unique role in United States private preservation, the National Trust program is presented separately.) United States nongovernmental involvement in international preservation generally goes through one of three or four official routes. Participation may be funnelled through a parent international nongovernmental organization, directed through an organization's international counterpart, through representation on an advisory committee whose membership is composed of organizations with related interests or it may be carried out solely on an informal basis.

Thus in the first category there is the U.S. National Committee of the International Council of Monuments and Sites (US/ICOMOS), the International Council of Museums (ICOM), Committee of the American Association of Museums and the American Institute of Conservation (AIC). The latter is the American affiliate of the International Institute for the Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works (IIC).

The second type of United States international involvement can be illustrated by the American Institute of Architects (AIA), which maintains a liaison with the International Union of Architects (UIA), and the Pan American Federation of Architectural Associations (FPAA), both international nongovernmental organizations. There is the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), which maintains a relationship with the International Federation of Landscape Architects

(IFLA), also a nongovernmental organization.

A third possibility for input by United States organizations into international activities related to architectural restoration and museum conservation is through membership on an advisory body such as the International Centre Committee and the International Committee of the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO). Members of these committees represent international organizations including the Organization of American States (OAS), the International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP), the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) and the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

Other associations become involved in foreign and international programs on an informal or individual basis. The Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) sponsors foreign study tours and lends its support to foreign preservation campaigns out of professional concern for the preservation of the world's architectural heritage. Members of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) participate as individuals in international conferences or restoration projects.

In general, interest of United States private organizations in international preservation is evidenced through publications, representation on international committees, sponsorship and participation in international seminars, tours, exchange programs and technical consultations.

Some organizations, including the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the Society of Architectural Historians (SAH) and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE), have a national committee that deals specifically with historic preservation; members of such committees generally are those who take the greatest interest in international preservation projects. One of the most significant preservation groups in the United States, the Association for Preservation Technology (APT), is actually a Canadian-American organization, as is the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), whose major concern is history, yet it frequently publishes articles on technical aspects of restoration.

Although other organizations such as the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID) and the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) have international affiliates, most of their foreign participation is through study tours and representation at professional meetings.

Three major archaeological associations in the United States, the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA), the Society for American Archaeology (SAA) and the Archaeological Institute of America, have a common concern in working toward the United States adoption of the 1970 UNESCO Convention on the Illegal and Illicit Import and Export of Cultural Property. Another significant contribution to this field has been the establishment by the Archaeological Institute of America of four schools of archaeology abroad—in Athens, Rome, Jerusalem and Baghdad.

Museum professionals and conservators are represented in the United States by the American Association of

Museums (AAM), the ICOM Committee of the AAM and the American Institute for Conservation (AIC). As explained earlier, the latter two organizations operate internationally through their respective parent bodies. The AAM, a national organization, also has its international interests and has initiated an exchange program with the U.S. Department of State enabling foreign museum professionals to visit American museums. The AAM plans to expand the program so that American professionals may travel abroad.

Environment Forum is a recently created American organization that serves as a central platform for a number of conservation organizations. The Forum was appointed coordinator for all United States nongovernmental involvement in the Habitat Forum, the nongovernmental meeting held concurrently with Habitat, the United Nations 1976 International Conference on Human Settlements.

It should be mentioned that there are many organizations with seemingly unrelated interests that are involved in historic preservation. The American Bar Association (ABA) is such a group. Its Committee on Environmental Law has a Subcommittee on Historic Preservation. Although the subcommittee does not operate on an international level, it reviews problems and programs regarding historic preservation law and carries out special studies in support of improvement of the law.

Through the sponsorship of academic institutions in the United States, there are a growing number of undergraduate and graduate course offerings and degree programs in historic preservation. These programs are having an increasing, though often unacknowledged, impact on the field. There are now almost 40 degree programs in preservation-related subjects, including architecture, landscape architecture, history, American studies, planning, conservation and museum studies available at colleges and universities in the United States. In addition, there are more than 60 educational institutions that offer individual courses in this subject area. American educational institutions have also been influential in the field of international archaeology through the numerous projects undertaken under their sponsorship abroad. Because of the interest and concern evidenced by these university programs in the United States, many archaeological sites have been investigated and researched, and artifacts saved when funds and labor might have been unavailable from other sources.

It is obvious then that nongovernmental organizations play a vital part in United States participation and involvement in international and foreign preservation programs. It is the interaction and combination of governmental with private sector technical expertise that makes our system of historic preservation, at home and abroad, the unique program that it is today.—R.R.G.