Special: Sixth General Assembly

Before devoting a great part of our News to the report of the important moments of our VIth General Assembly to which only a few of our members—about 600—were able to participate, we have the duty and the pleasure of expressing our most warmfelt thanks to our Italian friends for their huge effort in organizing this GA. They managed to cope with numerous difficulties, to mobilize everybody’s goodwill and persuade everyone of the worth of their cause with all the obstinacy necessary for the success of such a venture. We are especially grateful to the Italian National Committee and its President, Roberto di Stefano. All our thanks to them again.

Election of new executives

At our VIth General Assembly in Rome, on 29 May—an important day!—the new Icomos Executive Members were elected in three rounds:

first round for the election of the President, Michel Parent (France); the Secretary-General, Abdelaziz Daoulatli (Tunisia); the Treasurer General, Jacques Daibard (Canada);

second round for the election of the Vice-Presidents, Jorge Gazanneo (Argentina); Ionas Gliamja (USSR); Shri B.K. Thapar (India); Ann Webster-Smith (U.S.A.) and Roberto Di Stefano (Italy);

third round for the election of the Executive Committee: András Roman (Hungary), Ludwig Deiters (DRG), Blanche Weisheiding (Luxembourg), Stephan Tschudi-Madsen (Norway), Bunji Kobayashi (Japan), Krzysztof Pawlowski (Poland), Mladen Mintchev (Bulgaria), Henry Cleere (U.K.),

Peter Breitling (Austria), Jorge L. Medellin (Mexico), Maja Kairamo (Finland).

As five more members must be co-opted during the next meeting of the Executive Committee, we shall send you this fall the complete list of executives with their curriculum vitae and photographs.

Professor Raymond Lemaire reviews Icomos achievements and efforts during his presidency

Professor Raymond Lemaire, President of Icomos, inaugurated its VIth General Assembly. He greeted the members of Icomos assembled in the country where, seventeen years ago, our organization was born and where, in 1964, the Venice Charter, basis of our philosophy, was adopted. The first words of his address, on 25 May, was to thank warmly the organizers of this Assembly: the Italian Government, the high civil servants, the Mayor of Rome and the Italian National Committee.

Then, "throwing a glance backwards", he tried “to evaluate the worth of what had been undertaken and the results achieved”. “My aim is not to review exhaustively the various activities of Icomos”—two publications, one by the Polish National Committee, the other by the Norwegian National Committee, have recently well served the memory of Icomos—but to limit myself to a few main points which seem important to evaluate the realizations that were initiated on their basis as well as the thinking that they bring us to bear on our future plans”.

“I would like to recall that Icomos was created mainly to be the world-wide focus of all those who dedicate their work and efforts, whatever their field of activity, to the conservation of the world architectural heritage. The necessity of a permanent framework for meetings and of structures that would become the basis of an international co-operation, appeared in 1957... it is then that the idea of a world-wide organization dedicated to the international co-operation in the field of conservation took shape; in 1964, at the Venice meeting, the validity of this idea was confirmed and the necessary steps for the creation of this organization were taken... soon afterwards, our organization which involved at first only the experts directly concerned with the protection of buildings, had to, in order to become more efficient, establish working links with all those who serve the cause of conservation of the architectural heritage: thus several of our National Committees have now become the forum for studying the problems relating to the establishment of a relevant national policy in this field and for obtaining the necessary means for its application.

The fundamental need of an interdisciplinary approach is now generally accepted and this fact is certainly one of
the major new factors in our field... Icomos devotes its activity mainly to the elaboration of a theory of the motivations, the methods and means of conservation of the architectural heritage and to the progress and co-ordination of research in this area... This is where the contribution of the Council has been truly essential... whether within its own framework or in close and positive co-operation with other international organizations.

The Venice Charter is the basic expression of our philosophy, a philosophy which will continuously evolve both because of a better understanding of the cultural property to be preserved and of its environment, and of the better means, methods and techniques used; the Charter is fundamental to the action of most of the world responsible authorities in this area... but the improvement of the thinking on the subject and a better awareness of the true dimensions of the cultural heritage, lead us to the firm belief that the Charter must be adapted without misinterpreting it; it must be brought up to date but also, in order to extend its scope, transcribed into a relevant text taking into account the wide cultural trends of the world.

The indispensable corollary to the elaboration of a doctrine, for theory to be turned into practice, is research; this is why we have developed a whole range of different fields of research, the management of which has been entrusted to international committees of unquestionable scientific value whose members have contributed major improvements to the various techniques of conservation and restoration.

The key point of our scientific activity is the international Unesco/Icomos Documentation Centre which will enable anyone to have easy access to the knowledge and past experience in conservation; the Centre is already operational thanks to the energy of its executive ladies and will become more so in the near future with computerization.

Direct aid for the protection of the cultural heritage is not included in the statutory objectives of Icomos international; Unesco is competent there; as for Icomos, its responsibility is mainly to help Unesco with the choice of specialists or to provide scientific and technical information useful for the smooth development of the various projects undertaken.

Our action is more direct with regard to the International Convention of the World Cultural Natural Heritage: there our contribution is essentially in the scientifically based opinion given to the Executive Committee on the valence and representativeness of monuments and sites chosen.

Given the help that an inventory of the cultural heritage can bring to its protection in general, we have suggested to the Council to promote first and foremost the listing of cultural property in the historic towns of the member countries. The proposition was inspired by what would come from these inventories which, at the national level, would become the specific tool for a cohesive policy of conservation. We have also undertaken with the help of Unesco the drafting of a handbook on methods for setting up inventories.

As to practical action, Icomos has also been able to approach several countries or international organizations in order to save threatened monuments or sites.

Nevertheless, it would be wrong to conclude from the preceding remarks that Icomos was totally successful in fulfilling its mission.

Our weaknesses do not come from our aims but the means at our disposal to reach them do not always seem clear enough; perhaps we ought to imagine more efficient structures and persuade all our members to concentrate their energy and obstination to serve our cause; of course, we would not even exist without the intelligent contribution and devotion of several of our members but it is essential that we should be able to draw on a much wider co-operation.

The basic action must take place at the National Committees level: it is from their activities that the future of Icomos depends; we are grateful for the great effort of centre of the National Committees in recent years, but, nevertheless, the Consultative Committee should look into this matter and make appropriate suggestions.

The National Committees lack of commitment is reflected in the budget of Icomos which depends mainly on their contribution and which currently shows a yearly increase. However it has often been the poorer countries who made the greater financial effort. For our activities to expand as they should, we need new sources of funds which, no doubt, you will help us to find.

If we look beyond the financial difficulties, can we define the themes for our activities in the next three years?

First, we should bring forth with realism and generosity a new awareness of the problems of conservation in cultural regions that are outside the scope of the European tradition: it is quite impossible to transplant in Asia or Africa the cultural concepts of protection of the heritage as they took shape in the West... a wide confrontation stressing the important cultural points of reference seems to me urgent and it should precede the revision of the Venice Charter... which will retain its worth only in so far as it represents the demands born from the specific role played by monuments in the practical and spiritual life of men of all cultures... Each culture ought to be able to protect its heritage according to its own needs and justifications; any other policy would be deemed to failure. A clear and frank confrontation can only help our deeper understanding of a value of the property we wish to preserve for the next generations... and with it, a deeper understanding of men of all races and creeds. The Assembly which will meet in Basel in October 1982 will be devoted to this question.

Another theme should provoke our thoughts: the protection of the heritage has to take into account the respect of all cultural identity in all creations, in particular in the field of the built environment. The changes in urbanization and architecture during the last half century have endangered the tradition. The internationalism, celebrated by a whole school of thought, turns out to be a huge secularization campaign as the western modernism appears too often as an avoidable aspect of development... thus, an old urban and architectural tradition is sacrificed just at the moment when, in the West, people are becoming more actively aware of the value of monuments and the building art freed from any reference to a cultural identity, i.e. to the permanent features of tradition.

The continuing dialogue between past and future in architecture must be one of Icomos concerns... creators should be made sensitive to the rich diversity of the trends in the art of building such as they remain through evolution in the various parts of the world, this without, in any way, withdrawing from the realities of our time."

The sixth General Assembly as seen by one of our members, Franz Neuwirth.
Jean-Marie Trouvelot is the laureate of the Gazolla Prize

The Vth GA... the first time the attribution of the Gazolla Prize, in the presence of Mrs Piero Gazolla to whom one of the two medals symbolizing the Prize was presented for the part she played alongside her husband. Professor R. Lemaire, our former President, expressed a vibrant homage to the memory of the extraordinary man who was Piero Gazolla for his dedication, affection and admiration and he described his role in the foundation of Iconos.

A man of faith—Christian and spiritual faith reflected in his respect for humanistic culture—friendship, truth, high standards and an integrity, a great man, Piero Gazolla knew how to fight for the causes he thought right. Thus he became the real creator of Iconos. Already in the early fifties, he thought that the only efficient way to save the cultural heritage was to mobilize international co-operation. He was persuaded by his work in collaboration with the Icon President, George-Henri Riviere, of the worth of an organization devoted to the architectural heritage as Iconos was to the museums. At the first international congress of architects and museums in Paris in 1957, Professor G. De Angelis d'Ossat wished for the creation of an international organization which saw the day in 1964.

With time, the importance of Piero Gazolla’s action was recognized and what it was: he was a pioneer in his faith in the international co-operation to which he moreover attributed the privilege of promoting understanding between men; he was also a pioneer in the use of the most advanced techniques for the protection of the heritage; he developed a scientific and precise methodology for restoration; he was one of the great promoters of scientific training for conservation experts; but his main contribution was certainly in the field of theory.

For him, the protection of the heritage is not justified primarily by its usefulness or beauty, but by its spiritual and cultural significance.

The monumental heritage carries within itself a message of eternity, a meaning and a value transcending generations which must be handed down to our successors.

Conservation, previously concerned mainly with techniques, archaeology and architecture has acquired the status of an essential cultural duty. Faithful to this duty, Piero Gazolla used to say that “the relationship man—monument implies the adaptation of the social environment to the monument and not the contrary”. The past, basis of our culture, is by essence the foundation on which men’s creation can find inspiration and support; hence any aggression against the cultural heritage is an aggression against man: “The relationship between ancient architecture and man is made of pleasure and love and it can bring comfort to man, that is if one admits that he has the right not to let himself become alienated. The violations or the mystification that have soiled the name of ancient man fall necessarily on the man of today”.

Piero Gazolla had thus given the deepest meaning, according to the human scale of values, to the architectural heritage and the theme of our Congress this year summarizes clearly the fundamental idea of the man who remains a master for many of us.

Iconos owes him a great debt: the prize bearing his name is to honour his memory and his creation springs from the feeling of brotherhood that he contributed so much to create amongst us. Every three years, it will reward one of us, whose life work will have notably contributed to the protection of the architectural heritage of the world.

After this address, Guglielmo De Angelis d’Ossat presented the medal to the first laurate, Jean-Marie Trouvelot, represented in Rome by M. Yves Boiret, President of the French section, and described his work.

J.M. Trouvelot, architect of great talent, has remarkably served the cause of conservation; he is also a prodigious draughtsman for no, since his early youth, has been so much attached to the heritage that he contributed to the rehabilitation of the ancient monuments, in particular Romanesque and Gothic.

Aged twenty-three, he was admitted in the top place at the competition of monumental examination, was appointed architect of the department of Aix, devastated by the first world war. From the start, he brought a new conception to the problems of restoration: he refused to reconstruct totally the damaged parts of the monuments, as was then the custom, but pleased for a very careful remounting of all the recoverable fragments; he also tried to bring back the old feeling, the proper character of a building, in a word to give it life again.

The monument being for him an act of work made for the enjoyment and use of the people, he went beyond the mere protection tasks to show the monument at its best and to give access to the largest possible public; he therefore took care of the environment as well, respecting the general conditions of its being. The monument was to be integrated; in this respect also, he was a pioneer.

His action concerned small monuments as well as prestigious ones: in the department of Aisne—the Château de Courcy and the Chapel of Prémostre; in Eure and Loir—Anet, Dreux and particularly the Château of Châteauneuf; in 1940, in the department of Yonne—the city of Auxerre, the Abbey of Pontigny, the hospital of Tonnerre. In Paris, two major monuments bear the mark of his great talent—the Royal Castle at Vincennes and the great colonnade of the Louvre which he finished.

Abroad, his talents were used as well: in Jerusalem for the Holy Sepulchre and in Egypt for the transportation of the temple of Amada.

Member of Iconos from the start, he contributed to the development of the French Section of which he became President. His work is of exceptional breadth and quality and he belongs to the group of experts who, by their work and their ideas, have most effectively helped to shape the modern discipline of the protection of ancient monuments to have a place in the cultural section. This is why it was obvious to the Iconos members that he should be the first laureate of the Gazolla Prize.

Scientific symposium “No future without past”

From 26 to 28 May the members of our Vth General Assembly divided themselves into four groups meeting in four different towns to exchange thoughts on the four subjects chosen for the scientific symposium which had for general theme “No future without past”.

The five sessions and several recommendations were made. We present them briefly to you here but, if you are interested, please contact the Italian National Committee who will publish the complete text in two volumes (in Italian, French and English).

Our members meeting in Rome studied the problems connected with the profession (organization of services for the protection of monuments, inventories, training of specialists). They came to the conclusion that the protection of the architectural heritage—a responsibility which indeed calls for the training of specialists, the establishment of inventories and professional services—is an essential factor in creating a sense of identity which imposes on every country certain obligations:

(a) to set up training at national and regional levels for the development, dissemination and exchange of experiences under the general co-ordination of Icomos;

(b) to organize postgraduate training courses with subject matter and objectives which should be defined in terms of a professional profile reflecting the social realities of each country;

(c) in such courses, the theory of conservation, upon which the foundational principles of the profession are built, must serve as a catalyst for the various disciplines involved;

(d) in drawing up inventories, the adoption of basic criteria worked out by Unesco will give an opportunity for reconciling established techniques and giving international currency to the data obtained. The Unesco/Iconos Documentation Centre should provide the relevant bibliography and other information on the subject;

(e) regular meetings should be organized in different regions of the world to stimulate discussion and the exchange of experience and to set the wider awareness of the problems and objectives of the setting up of inventories.

In Florence the experts studied the questions relating to materials (composition of materials and practical applications of scientific research in restoration work); the conclusions drawn were the following:

(a) bearing in mind the need to combine theory and practice in conservation projects it is noted that:
scientific research and full inspections are necessary before making conservation projects; schemes must be fully worked out before they are handed in for realization;
- the original materials must be respected and traditional materials should be used in repairs; substitutes should only be used when traditional materials have failed;

(b) being conscious of the increasing damage to the fabric of historic buildings due to atmospheric pollution and to the larger volume of traffic including bigger and heavier lorries, Icomos urges the National Committees to collect information on the costs of repairing the deterioration due to pollution and vibrations in order to exert, with the help of UNESCO, pressure on national governments, to obtain the adoption of preventive and reparative measures;

(c) remembering that many chemical preparations have been used in attempts to preserve and consolidate different types of stone, it is recommended that National Committees should collect information on their effectiveness and inform the Icomos Committee on Stone who will co-ordinate the results.

(d) noting that there have been many failures of "first generation" plastic based paints applied to historic buildings, Icomos recommends a joint Icomos/Iccrom conference to report on the problems of painting historic buildings;

(e) regretting the damage that has been done to many historic buildings by the wrong and irreversible use of Portland cement, Icomos recommends that suitable alternatives based on limes with pozzuallarian additives should generally be used on historic buildings and the use of Portland cement restricted to where it is structurally essential;

(f) supporting the policy of regular inspections of historic buildings by qualified experts, the example of the Dutch Monument inspection is warmly recommended because it allows owners of buildings to get an annual report on the condition of their building at remarkably low cost; the Icomos Secretariat is requested to translate the statutes of this Centre of Information and send them to the National Committees;

(g) noting that the practice of traditional crafts is declining in most countries, Icomos urges the national authorities to take steps to maintain a living knowledge of ancient skills and record their technology;

(h) recognizing that the history of technology is essential for the understanding of and for conservative action in the preservation of our cultural heritage, and congratulating the authors of books on the European, Middle Eastern and Chinese technology, the Icomos requests its Committee on Natural Resources, in its medium and long term plans, the production of books on the history of African, East Asian and Precolombian American technology.

In Verona, during the general discussion which followed the work of the session on the theme of structures (practical applications of scientific research and technology in the analysis of architectural works and their consolidation) the necessity appeared for a new working group with the objective of promoting the exchange of ideas and experiences, of directing and suggesting scientific research and co-ordinating initiatives in this area; understanding that historic research, indispensable as it is, cannot alone assure that the architectural heritage will be passed on to future generations and that technical and technological progress sometimes leads to results that are in contradiction with the theories of restoration, the participants suggested the constitution of a Scientific International Committee which would absorb the existing Icomos Committee for Seismology and would expand the themes in this field of research to include the following:

(a) history of the technique and technology of building;

(b) mechanical behaviour of materials; dynamics and statics is masonry structures;

(c) seismology, conservation of territory; special problems associated with structural conservation of sets of buildings important for their historic and environmental character;

(d) diagnosis of the problems of statics, theoretical and experimental methods, critical analysis and control of new materials and technologies; use of traditional technology and the reasons for its utilization; techniques for consolidation;

(e) legal and technical standards and their international recognition.

The Bari symposium was devoted to the doctrine of conservation and restoration; six recommendations were made:

(a) the continuing validity of the Venice Charter is recognized in spite of dilemmas posed by its application; these are not the result of inadequacies in the text but are due to the very complex nature of the criteria that must be taken into account for any coherent policy in the field of conservation of the architectural heritage; in this sense, the Venice Charter has, with time, remained true to its fundamental objectives;

(b) the Symposium notes that, even with the ambiguity in the interpretation of the Venice Charter, it is far from being applied in all cases and at all times; it is therefore recommended that the resolution of the Executive Committee calling for a thorough analysis of errors committed in the application of the Venice Charter to restoration projects should be put into effect;

(c) the Symposium recognized that, beyond questions of drafting, the applicability of the Venice Charter is conditioned by the differing concepts existing in various cultures of the world; the way in which conservation, restoration, repair and management of the architectural heritage are treated is largely a function of the cultural context which produced it and of the cultural behaviour which gives it life (even within a given culture (from various changes); to ensure that the Venice Charter is more faithfully and more broadly applied, the Symposium recommends that Icomos set up an International Committee on Doctrine;

(d) the Symposium recommends that the resolutions by the governing bodies of Icomos and by its International Committees should not separate monuments and groups of buildings (or ensembles) into two independent entities; nevertheless, it is clear that within a single field of study one cannot ignore the practice and complexity of "integrated" social life in any policy concerning ensembles;

(e) the Symposium notes that since the nineteenth century the criteria for including a work of architecture in the heritage have been extended; it expresses its approval of this extension, especially to vernacular architecture, to the industrial heritage and to nineteenth and twentieth century buildings; nevertheless the Symposium notes that while the broadest anthropological criteria may provide an appropriate yardstick for the definition and inventory of the heritage, when it comes to the sacrifices which are asked from the social body and to the adoption of appropriate conservation techniques, then the criteria of intrinsic value and typological representativeness should prevail;

(f) being aware that the attention paid by Icomos to the world heritage is part of an environmental policy of better husbandry of our natural resources as a natural endowment, the participants express their conviction that their search for the meaning of man's history throughout the ages, and their research into the quality of contemporary life bring a notable contribution to the possibility of a better quality of life of men among men.

Resolutions adopted at the VIth General Assembly

Several of our members have suggested resolutions during this assembly and the following ones were adopted.

We mention first the proposition submitted by the United States National Committee because it refers directly to Icomos: that the VIIth General Assembly of Icomos in 1987 take place in the fall of that year in Washington D.C. in conjunction with the Annual Conference of the National Trust for Historic Preservation; meetings would be separate but the similarity of topics discussed would allow the organization of certain events in common.

The G.A. adopted as a resolution submitted by the Icomos International Committee on Historic Gardens, the wish expressed at the Bruges Symposium in 1979, i.e. that the historic gardens should be considered as historic monuments with the same rights and privileges.

The Italian National Committee, noting the vast and important damages to the archaeological, architectural, artistic and environmental heritage due to the recent
earthquakes in southern Italy submitted the following resolution: that the planning and execution of the necessary reconstruction works, at all levels, be rigorously undertaken to the priority—the largest possible protection of traditional cultural values of such historical centres in accordance with the conservation and restoration principles defined by Icomos.

The United Kingdom National Committee submitted two resolutions concerning archaeology. The first, in accordance with the Unesco recommendation (1956) on archaeological digs, asks for the condemnation of "uncontrolled 'treasure hunting' using metal detectors as being detrimental to the world archaeological heritage and calls upon all Member States to implement legislation banning the unauthorized use of metal detectors".

The second resolution recommends that appropriate measures be taken to increase the participation of archaeologists and archaeological institutions both in Icomos National Committees and in the Council's international activities; that selected activities concerning the protection, exploitation of archaeological sites be included in the Icomos programme for the next three years; that Icomos take an active part in promoting the implementation of agreed international standards for excavation, recording, conservation and restoration of archaeological sites; that the Unesco/Icomos/Icom/Iccom documentation centre should, in co-operation with archaeological institutions, take steps to provide improved access to archaeological documentation in order to further international co-operation between archaeologists of different countries and between archaeologists and specialists of other disciplines.

The United States recommendation concerns the site of Lumbar in Nepal, birthplace of Buddha and archaeological site of exceptional importance. The Nepalese Government is requested to take the appropriate means to protect the site from the dangers which threaten it as a result of the development plan of Lumbar.

The Bulgarian National Committee submitted for approval a resolution asking the National Committees to join the Bulgarian National Commission of Unesco for the celebration of the 1,300th anniversary of the creation of the Bulgarian State and to make this anniversary known in their own countries.

Mrs. May A. Kairamo, of the Finnish National Committee, submitted a resolution that, in view of the increasing possibilities of a new world war with the corollary race for armaments and impending destructions, all experts on conservation should face the realities of today's world and make efforts to promote detente and peace in order to be able to save the cultural heritage for future generations.

The newly elected President, Mr. Michel Parent, addresses the Icomos members and explains what these new responsibilities mean for him:

According to custom, our new President concluded the General Assembly. Here are some excerpts of Mr. Michel Parent's address:

"It is usual for the newly elected President to do three things—to thank the Assembly which chose him, to recall the role of his predecessor and, last—-to present the projects and objectives of the new team which he now directs. With regard to my thanks first, I will express these with pleasure and enthusiasm, all the more because my words will be reflecting the fervour of friendship.

They will follow the degree of my accession to the Presidency. For it is a national candidate that you have elected, nevertheless from now on I shall not represent one nation only, but all the member nations, all the individual and collective members who will be heard and supported with great respect for equality and mutual objectivity.

I must say here that my candidacy is not of my doing but of my colleagues Jean Sonnier and Yves Boitet who suggested that I should apply when they themselves were the obvious candidates. Then, to my French friends sollicitious of my election, I can only say that I had the support of the National Committees of France who warmly recommended my name, the agreement of the Council and, finally, your votes. May they all, may you always be thanked by someone who deeply appreciates the honour that is done to him, who intends to be worthy of it and who also measures the breadth of the task ahead of him.

I would like to convey these thanks especially to the President, my fellow-traveller, my friend Raymond Lemaire and it is my duty and pleasure both to take act of the trust he and you have put in me and to recall with gratitude the importance of the responsibilities and of the moment for us. Raymond Lemaire is one of our 'historic heads', a pioneer, a prestigious stimulating spirit; but he is also the man who has taken—will take—in any work he will do on our behalf the measure of the magnitude of the task, the regard for the aim, or to the undogmatic but firm way to reach them; he is also the man to tackle the most difficult problems that Unesco may wish to assign to an international expert. He is also a restorer, the life and soul of the Beguinage de Louvain, the urban planner of the city in which the I.U.A. rewarded him with the Albert Comby prize.

At the Bari Symposium, he was asked to become the President of the Commission on Doctrine. For my part, I suggest that we should reward so many years in the service of our organization by making him Honorary President.

I would like to associate to this homage the Executive Officers who also leave the Council this year: Ernest Connolly, who assumed feitiously the difficult part of Secretary-General with the competence and the humour we all know him for; Jean Sonnier, Treasurer General, whose action cannot be dissociated from the Palais des Papes in Avignon where he magnificently brought together conservation and revitilisation of one of the most important buildings in the world. For both of them I would like to suggest Honorary Membership.

Lastly, I will not forget to salute the outgoing Vice-Presidents: Alexander Haltorraine, Gamal Mokhtar and Kazuo Takai.

Now, it is not towards the past of men that we must turn but to the past of the architectural heritage so as to ensure its future.

When I wrote that a monument was first and foremost confronted to its future, I just wanted to say that, in our time, we are still alas able either to remain inactive or to take the wrong action. The architectural heritage does not live by itself, it is dependent on our faith, our work and on the very fact that we all value it.

A huge task awaits me, I know it... We will have to put into practice our programme, taking into account the possibility of a necessary adaptation to circumstances. For this we will have to call on everyone's imagination, on the ancient experience, and above all the devotion of the Secretariat and its Director... We are all, in our different ways, pedagogues wishing for a future for the cultural heritage; we are all futurists; 'No future without past', this is a meaningful formula to which I would like to add: 'No past without future' by which I mean that we cannot hope to save the rich products of human culture without experts and general practitioners, technicians and managers, public services and associations and without the help of young people competent and motivated.

Find, create, develop the necessary vocational training in all the countries of the world, this is the appeal I would like to make to the National Committees and to all the members of our organization and this is the main task that the team you have elected will try to fulfill.

I also want to underline that teamwork will be our rule, decentralization of the work our method. As for myself, I intend to take up the responsibilities assigned to me as President, conscious both of their limitations and of their scope.

I would like to conclude with thanks to our hosts, our Italian friends and, in particular, to the President of the General Assembly, Roberto di Stefano, his country, and Rome, 'the City' which welcomed us so warmly.

Advisory and Executive Committees Meeting

The various Icomos Committees met in Rome on 23 and 24 May, before the G.A. meeting to discuss several important questions.

First the subscription rates: it was decided that individual subscriptions should from now on be raised from €10 to €20; the National Committees remain at their present subscription rates. This measure was taken into account in the budget for the next three years.

Then Monumentum: the Committees approved the action of Icomos President Professor R. Lemaire (following contacts made by the Publications Committee under the
Chairmanship of Sherban Cantacuzino): an important British publishing firm, Butterworth, is on the verge of signing a contract with Icomos according to which they will publish four numbers per annum; Icomos will retain total control of the contents of the publication and Unesco has agreed to provide a financial contribution; the Belgian Government may also continue its financial contribution.

More about publications; the Swedish National Committee has just published a very interesting special issue of the Icomos Bulletin on conservation and restoration of historic monuments in Sweden; the Committees decided that distribution should be the responsibility of the Presidents of National Committees because of the restricted number of copies available; members interested should contact their national President; copies are free of charge.

Lastly, the next G.A.s: they will take place in 1984 at Rostock in the Democratic Republic of Germany and in the fall of 1987 in Washington D.C., United States of America.

Programme and Budget Committee Meeting

The programme of activities considered for the period 1981-1984, giving a general direction for the activities to be pursued and for the new tasks to be undertaken, has been approved as a whole by the Programme and Budget Committee.

Generally speaking, these activities are divided in four groups:
- the administrative and co-ordinating tasks of the Secretariat, at present under-equipped;
- the computation and development of the Documentation Centre which will require important funds;
- the activities undertaken by the National Committee which are not taken into account in the budget;
- contracts to be fulfilled by the Secretariat which have the benefit of specific financial resources.

To realize this programme, large funds will be necessary. The working budget, as it was presented, shows that expenses will be much higher than expected income; the deficit will be 1,940,000 in 1982 and of 1,940,000 in 1983.

The ambition of the programme envisaged explains this deficit; but without such an ambition, our organization could not justify its existence; balance of accounts could only be maintained at the price of the stagnation, even the diminution of our direct activities, and this we cannot accept. For information, new funds will be necessary in particular for the salaries of an extra assistant for the Secretariat and two for the Documentation Centre, expenses for the Vice-Presidents travels and for the National Committees with no other resources.

Increase in income can only come at present from increase in subscriptions.

The budget was voted as tentative and with two reservations: (a) the Icomos management should not commit himself to and expenses proposed in the budget without adequate funds; (b) the Executive Committee, during its fall session, will study the establishment of a permanent fund raising structure.

National Committees

Most of the annual reports for 1980 had not reached us by 31 May 1981; we beg you to send them as quickly as possible, this in your own interest: at the next meeting of the Advisory Committee we will only be able to distribute to the Presidents of National Committees the reports we have in hand.

New Presidents

Venezuela: the architect Anders K. Norgaard has been named President in replacement of the architect Graziano Gasparini who has been head of this Committee for seventeen years.

Greece: Kyrzysztof Pawlicki replaces Stanislas Lorentz.

Poland: The National Committee has just been re-established after its dissolution when its President, Nikolas Moutssopoulos resigned. A new President will be named in the very near future.

Congratulations to Professor Dr. Werner Bornheim!

The President of the National Committee of the Federal Republic of Germany, Werner Bornheim gen. Schilling, has recently been elected for three years President of the Rheinischer Verein für Denkmalpflege und Landschaftsschutz. This association to which belong all the people concerned with the protection and revitalization of the historic monuments of the Rhine region—6,000 members—is very active and celebrates this year its 75th anniversary.

Award for the Professor Roberto Di Stefano

Roberto Di Stefano has recently been presented by the Italian Government with one of the highest awards for the arts and civilization, the Medalla de Oro per Meriti delle Scuola delle Culture e dell'Arte e del Governo Nazzionale. All our congratulations to the President of the Italian National Committee.

Icomos meetings


It seems essential to build up a set of precise definitions for the main terms used in different languages to enable the theory of conservation of cultural property, and in particular of architectural heritage and its environment, progress.

At a first international meeting in Ravello in 1976 the terms most often used in the field of conservation of the architectural heritage were defined and standardized; then, in 1978, Icomos agreed to produce a list, in French and English, of key words to be used by the Unesco-Icomos documentation network (this list is now in use) and a multilingual glossary of the terms in use in the same field. This was also the subject of one of the first courses given at the Somma Vesuviana Icomos Centre.

It was agreed there that a comparative list of scientific terms related to the conservation of historic monuments and sites could be a basic tool for the co-operation of national and international organizations; therefore the participants decided to produce:
- an annotated list of the main Icomos official terms;
- a large set of definitions either as a simple description of the current use of given terms or as a standardized version for the meaning of certain terms of particular importance, following a common tradition widely accepted in international documents;
- a restricted set of definitions for the future integration into the thesaurus of key words necessary for indexation and research.

This working group has also produced, in time for the Vth General Assembly, a preliminary list of about sixty words and has redefined those considered for inclusion in a glossary of conservation.

Lastly, the group has recommended:
- the establishment of an Icomos permanent commission who would supervise a task force for the collection, definition and translation of the main terms of the various disciplines concerned;
- that five Presidents of National Committees, chosen for three years, should make up the Commission;
- that the Commission should be able to rely on the knowledge of a multilingual group of scholars specialized in conservation and working at the Icomos Centre;
- that the National Committees and the specialists should be regularly consulted;
- that the results should be presented every other years to the Presidents of National Committees;
- that a meeting take place in 1983 to sum up the work accomplished so as to enable the Commission to present to the 1984 General Assembly a first list of the words translated into the four official languages of Icomos.

The difficulties concerning the terminology will be studied at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.
Saving the heritage

Unesco activity in Africa

Amongst the international campaigns launched by Unesco, several concern Africa, the most recent in favour of the Island of Gorée and the old towns of Mauritania. We would like to tell you something about these two campaigns.

If the Island of Gorée warrants international help for its protection it is because of the beauty of its site and architecture and of its historic role. Thanks to its geographic position it became a prosperous port of call, crossroads of various cultures and arts—Mediterranean, Islamic and Christian—which were reflected in a harmonious architecture punctuated by forts, public buildings in the classical style and pink houses... but there was a hidden side to Gorée: the island was also the warehouse for the African "ebony wood": the negro slaves were parked there waiting for shipment to the Americas. This rich trade stopped by the beginning of the nineteenth century (1815) and was replaced by the educational institutions which are still there today.

Thus, after symbolizing the most miserable link between Africa and the Americas, Gorée became little by little a symbol of hope: she presents today "a happy mixture of past and present, history and everyday life, harmony of visible shapes and traces of dramatic memories; she is one of these unique places where American and African younger generations can cultivate their memories as well as renew their source of inspiration; she belongs to the living imaginary of Africa and the Americas and she is part of the conscience of the whole world".

But the delicate balance of this site is threatened by important damages, some due to the sea which undermines the foundations; some to the social and economic order: buildings are abandoned and therefore deteriorating fast; or saved by an improvised restoration which, in its turn, threatens to disfigure the site for good. In 1974 Unesco got interested in the site which was included in 1975 in the inventory of monuments of Senegal and in 1976 in the World Heritage list.

A schedule for action has been established but the country cannot face the cost alone. This is why Mr. Amadou-Mahtar M' Bow has asked all states, governments, organizations national or international, foundations and generally all people of goodwill to participate in the saving of the Island of Gorée.

The other appeal made by the Director-General of Unesco in February 1981, concerns the old towns of Mauritania: Ouadane, Chinguetti, Tichitt and Ouallata. These towns, founded seven centuries ago, are the last witnesses of the prosperity of a region, crossroads of caravans which, for a long period, linked the Maghreb to the Sahel; they contributed to the development of trade and to the exchange of knowledge in north west Africa. Their cultural influence has been essential thanks to scholarly researches in the most varied fields of Muslim-arabic thought and a high level of teaching famous in the whole region; several monuments with a specific architecture remain as a testimony of this prestigious past.

The oldest of these towns, Ouadane (twelfth century) was built as an impregnable citadel on a plateau above a valley burrowed by oueds. A great part of the intellectual elite of the Niger Valley lived there and developed a rich culture of life and teaching.

Chinguetti flourished in the thirteenth century as an important trade centre and quickly became also a centre for studies, religious thinking and teaching. It is there that the characteristic traits of the architecture of the region became definite, as illustrated by the mosque with its slender minaret built of dry stones; there too can be found one of the most important libraries of the region which contains many rare manuscripts.

Tichitt, twelfth century, has rightly the reputation of being one of the most beautiful cities of this part of the world because of its site, its perfect and original architecture and its cultural remains.

Ouallata, thirteenth century, was a flourishing trade centre and produced also many famous scholars.

But the cities are in great danger today: not only have the trans-Saharan trade routes by-passed them, not only have the drought, the intercane wars, the razzias, famines, epidemics been, of old, factors of decadence, but the results of the colonization and of the economical post-colonial institutions have weakened their traditional social structures and the administration of political and economic decisions moved somewhere else.

So these towns are now slowly being buried in the sand and in danger of disappearing before the inexorable advance of the desert.

The problem is not only to restore or rebuild but also to bring life back in a regenerating effort involving the whole region. To this effect, the national authorities, together with Unesco, have set up a programme of integrated redevelopment, systematically co-ordinating various economic and cultural activities as well as promoting restoration in all cultural fields.

Of course, this project is beyond a solely national effort and world resources should be forthcoming: money, but also experts, equipment and training scholarships are needed by Mauritania.

As for each of the other big protection projects, may this appeal be heard.

Icomos participation in the action of Unesco in Africa

In January and February last year, an Icomos expert, Mr. Jerzykow Pawlicki, was sent by Unesco on a mission to Mozambique (cf. News No. 20). Apart from the general problem of protection and revitalization of the cultural heritage of Mozambique, he had to deal with the specific problem of the protection of the island of Mozambique. This island, facing the town of Mozambique, has long been used as a strategic supporting base; she was an international shipping port of call and an administrative capital; but, little by little, she declined. The urban set of buildings of the "European district" on the island was threatened by its inhabitants and, in the district of "Ponta de l'Ilha", they were reduced to a precarious life.

Active protection of the island is therefore complex and demands socio-economic as well as cultural and architectural action. The task of the Icomos expert was to define such a plan of action after field and map studies. But the difficulty for the restoration of the European district lies in the great number of abandoned buildings. These could be used by the administration or as habitat for the population of the other part of the island which strongly resists the idea: accustomed to live in primitive conditions, the people refuse to change their way of life; moreover the European district symbolizes the colonial heritage and the rents are high. The abandoned buildings, some of great architectural value, will quickly become derelict. Action is urgent but, as we have said, complex. Solutions must be found at all levels, local, regional, national and international. What can be done to reverse the depopulation trend? What are the economic activities that could be developed? tourism and fisheries?

Perhaps some of you had to face the same kind of problems; your suggestions will be welcome; please contact us. You would in this way help to save an ensemble of unquestionable importance and quality, the largest of its kind in this part of Africa which has been important as a privileged meeting point of the cultures of three continents, Africa, Europe and Asia.

The protection of the island will soon have to become an international responsibility. Unesco and the Gulbenken Foundation are already active.

Request for experts

Any of our experts interested in conservation and who would care to bring their expertise to projects such as the ones we describe here should send us a complete file about themselves with details about the work they have done.
1981, International Year of the Handicapped

At its twenty-first session of the General Conference in Belgrade, Unesco has chosen 1981 as the international year of the handicapped in order to give public authorities, governmental and non-governmental organizations the opportunity of promoting practical measures and to incite the general public to become aware and to think about the theme "full participation and equality". Icomos is therefore involved. In our field, the major question is access to the historic monuments for the handicapped. The Executive Committee members discussed this question at the Vth General Assembly in Rome and requested the Secretariat to prepare a file to be studied at this Committee November meeting.

This demands more than passing thoughts because each monument presents specific difficulties. Moreover, monuments are often public buildings which ought to be accessible to all physical persons. But, in several countries, the law ignores totally or almost totally this problem in regard with the historic monuments.

Should there be in your country precise legislation or technical solutions to facilitate access of the handicapped to the historic monuments, please send us the information in detail. You will in this way take part in a study all of us have a duty to undertake. We thank you in advance for what you may do in this matter.

Calendar

* Meetings and events of interest to Icomos members. Organized by Icomos or with Icomos participation.

October


14-16, Switzerland, Friburg, IVth European symposium on historic towns "Architectural Heritage—Protection and Use". Conference of local and regional authorities in Europe, Council of Europe.

Particulatns from: Council of Europe, 57006 Strasbourg, Cedex, France.


Particulatns from: Arq. Carlos Flores Marini, Avenue Hidalgo No 1 Mezquital, Mexico 1, DF.

* 19-23, Mexico, Mexico. 2nd International Forum on the Pedestrian in the City: Streets, Squares, Gardens. Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes and Mexican National Committee of Icomos.

Particulatns from: Arq. Carlos Flores Marini, A. Hidalgo No 1 Mezquital, Mexico 1, DF.


Particulatns from: Centro per la Conservazione delle Sculture all' Aperto, Via de Pignattari, 1, 40125 Bologna (Italy).

France, Centre Pompidou, Paris. International exhibition: Mudbrick architecture—a traditional and an up-to-date technique".

November


* Italy, Rome. Cements, Mortars and Grouts used in Construction.

Particulatns from: Icomos, 13, Via di San Michele, 00153 Rome.

France, International symposium on the introduction of contemporary arts in ancient monuments. French section of Icomos.

Particulatns from: Section française de l'Icomos, 62 rue St. Antoine, 75004 Paris.

Autumn

Romania. Roving symposium on the conservation of vernacular architectural groups in open-air ethnographical museums. S-day meeting arranged with the financial support of the International Association for South-East European Studies.

Particulatns from: Vasile Dragut, Bucharest Institute of Fine Arts, Str. Gral. Badisteau no, Bucharest VII.

1981


Particulatns from: Comité National Belge, Groot Begijnhof 95, 3000 Leuven, Belgium.

* USSR, Leningrad. International symposium on the protection and restoration of historic gardens. USSR National Committee.

Particulatns from: National Commission of the USSR, Moscow, G 34, 2 Zatchaihevsky. 2. Korp 3.


Particulatns from: Dr. H. Stelzer, Institut für Denkmalpflege Bräuerstrasse 10, 102 Berlin, Democratic Republic of Germany.

1982

* Czechoslovakia, Prague. Symposium on the Contemporary Role of Castles.

Czechoslovak National Committee of Icomos.

Particulatns from: Ladislav Antony, Valdstejnislam nam cl 11000 Prague 1, Mala Strana.

International symposium on the preservation of archaeologic sites affected by major hydro-electric works and regional planning projects.