

It was during the Congress of architects and technicians of historic monuments, held in Venice in June 1964, that the project of publishing an international review devoted to the problems of preserving and restoring constructions of historic interest really took shape. The absence was regretted of an organ able to constitute a living link between the specialists of all branches concerned with these problems, able to spread knowledge of the evolution of ideas and the progression of methods and able, also, to promote the diffusion of valid experience gained in this field.

The Belgian delegation therefore proposed to undertake the creation of a publication to fill this gap. Its task was particularly facilitated by the setting up of the International Council for Monuments and Sites. In this world-wide body the proposed review at once found the framework and support necessary for its unfettered development.

The first general meeting of this organization, held in Cracow in June 1965, unanimously adopted the project put forward during the 1964 Congress and made it one of the basic objectives of the 3-year programme laid down by the meeting.

The efficient aid of national committees soon favoured the development of a wide network of correspondents and helpers, indispensable if an international review is to operate effectively. The Belgian government generously assisted with a subsidy which enabled an early start.

The intent of « Monumentum » is to become the international review concerned with doctrine, legislation and technique in respect of the preservation and restoration of historic monuments and constructions. It comes out every six months. In accordance with its statutes, it is written in the two working languages of the Council : French and English. A summary in the other language is given after each article. Later on, if finances permit and if the required collaboration is acquired, the summaries will also be translated into Spanish and Russian.

Each number will include articles, current bibliography and, at a later date, news items. In a more or less near future it will also include accounts and reviews of works of capital importance.

The contributions deal with questions of international interest bearing on doctrine and legislation, and on techniques for the preservation, restoration and valorization of historic constructions. Analyses of particular cases are inserted depending on their exemplary value and their being of general interest. The bibliography consists of a general bibliography, with sections devoted to doctrine, legislation and techniques, and a special bibliography for each country separately.

It attempts to cover not only those sectors which are the domain of specialists in the field, but also those of the sciences closely connected with the preservation and restoration of monuments.

An international editorial committee is responsible for the general running of the review, defining its overall policy and choosing the material for its issues. A smaller managing committee ensures the day-to-day management and the secretarial work.

In addition, the national committees each appoint a correspondent who takes responsibility for contacts with the review, sends in articles, bibliographical references and news items, and distributes the periodical in his country.

The quality of the relationship between these different parties, the awareness of the distinguished character of their task and the severity of the judgment they will pass on the contents of « Monumentum » will guarantee that the wish expressed by the Venice Congress and the resolution passed by the Cracow general meeting have not been in vain.

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