

INTRODUCTIONS

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

June 16, 1976

We now mark the beginning of our Third Century as an Independent Nation as well as the 200th Anniversary of the American Revolution. For two centuries our Nation has grown, changed and flourished. A diverse people, drawn from all corners of the earth, have joined together to fulfill the promise of democracy.

America's Bicentennial is rich in history and in the promise and potential of the years that lie ahead. It is about the events of our past, our achievements, our traditions, our diversity, our freedoms, our form of government and our continuing commitment to a better life for all Americans. The Bicentennial offers each of us the opportunity to join with our fellow citizens in honoring the past and preparing for the future in communities across the Nation. Thus, in joining together as races, nationalities, and individuals, we also retain and strengthen our traditions, background and personal freedom.

As we lay the cornerstone of America's Third Century, I commend the chairman and members of the United States National Committee for the International Council for Monuments and Sites on their special Bicentennial issue of *MONUMENTUM*. Efforts such as this are helping to make our great national celebration a memorable and meaningful one for all.



The memory of a nation is graven not only on the heart of its people but, far more lastingly, on its countryside, its way of life, its architecture. One should not be surprised then if the great anniversaries of a nation provide the occasion for appraising and reevaluating the significance and value of its ancestral heritage.

This special issue of *Monumentum* focuses on the monuments and sites of the United States of America and on the diligent efforts dedicated to their conservation. Appearing on the bicentenary of American independence, this issue honors those who have sought to preserve and to enhance this vital component of the nation's wealth.

The conservation of our architectural heritage can no longer be seen as a marginal exercise to be undertaken by rich countries only. It is a matter of concern to every nation of the world, however limited its means may be. This heritage includes not only great monuments but also those often humble buildings that provided the back-

ground to the daily lives of our forebears and to our own lives as well. Crushing scale, inability to respond to varying needs, monotony of style are all-too-frequent failures of modern planning and architecture. These failures have helped bring about an awareness of the irreplaceable worth of the works of the past. These failures are, however, neither universal nor permanent, and there would be little hope for the future of our heritage if such feelings of disillusionment were the only motive for our wishing to save it.

We have more fundamental reasons for believing in a future for our past. They are rooted in human nature, which has an almost biological need at given moments in society for physical evidence of the historical past from which a person has sprung. Without this, individuals run the risk of being unable to place or to understand themselves. Past generations were, perhaps, less conscious of this need because their lives and their surroundings evolved at a scarcely perceptible pace; they

were never faced with the upheavals brought about by such destructive wars, such ingrained and widespread property speculation and such huge and sudden concentrations of population, as have marked the modern era. Neither had man's inventive genius yet made available the knowledge and the means to create an environment so far removed both in character and in scale, from traditional habits and perceptions. One would be wrong to think that the need that is now consciously felt for the physical presence of the past implies any discontinuity or antagonism between yesterday and tomorrow. Undeniably, we are sometimes impelled by the anxieties of the present to take refuge in the image of a past that seems more comforting and human, but this can only be a superficial and passing phenomenon.

Awareness of the significance of the past does not mean rejection of the present nor of the irreversible changes that are being wrought. In our efforts to grasp the meaning of past civilizations and of their legacy to us, in wishing to preserve this legacy as a living part of our own culture, we are not running away from the problems of today. On the contrary, it is a fundamental feature of our civilization which, as never before, sets store by other cultures, assimilates them and recreates them and gives them, besides their original significance, a new meaning in response to the aspirations of today.

This is particularly true of our monuments and of the more modest works of architecture and town-planning of the past. They continue to provide the setting for our everyday lives. Beyond any special meaning they have acquired through their history, they shelter us as well as modern structures while bringing us that subtle but basic element in architecture—the dimension of time. Time and memory, memory and continuity: vital concepts to help man from being lost in the present.

The presence of a past, that of the United States with its rich and varied heritage, is celebrated in this volume. Let those who have devoted their skill and their effort to its preservation know that they do so for the benefit of all mankind, since culture knows no boundaries.

Raymond M. LEMAIRE

President

International Council of Monuments and Sites

In honor of the bicentenary of the independence of the United States, the International Council of Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), with headquarters in Paris, asked its United States National Committee (US/ICOMOS), based in Washington, to prepare this issue of *Monumentum*. This the committee most generously agreed to do, and the results presented here illuminate the dimensions of historic preservation in principle and practice to which ICOMOS is dedicated. A debt of gratitude is owed to the United States committee for this issue, the first of its kind, and for the lasting value it is expected to have.

In the past ICOMOS too has celebrated an anniversary—its tenth. The organization came into formal being on June 22, 1965, in Warsaw as the result of a need that had come into clear focus between the world wars for international collaboration among those occupied with

the study, preservation, restoration and use of historic monuments and sites. The first manifestation of this need was the Athens Conference in 1932, but its promise withered under the clouds of approaching war. The creation in 1945 of the United States Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) revived interest and hope, particularly through its International Committee for Monuments. However, the initiatives of UNESCO, although individually significant, were necessarily limited to specific objectives. Thus, a meeting on basic problems was not convened until 1957, when the first International Congress of Architects and Technicians of Historic Monuments met in Paris.

Organized by the *Compagnie des Architectes en chef des Monuments historiques de la France*, the Congress of Paris established contact among specialists in different countries and made evident the need for further study of common problems and the necessity of an international institution for that purpose. With the support of UNESCO, the second International Congress of Architects and Technicians of Historic Monuments met at Venice in May 1964. Attended by delegates from 61 countries, the Congress adopted the statement of principles since known as the Venice Charter. A direct result of the Congress of Venice was the Constituent Assembly of 1965 that brought ICOMOS into being.

As Piero Gazzola, first president of ICOMOS, emphasized at Warsaw, respect for historic monuments is not merely sentimental deference to the past, but a historically determined achievement of the modern world extending beyond the value of the individual monument to the quality of town-planning and community life. In that spirit, ICOMOS was conceived as the international organization to link public authorities, institutions and individuals interested in the study and preservation of monuments and sites. It therefore aims to promote such study and preservation and to arouse and cultivate the interest of public authorities and the people of every country in their cultural heritage. In carrying out those aims, ICOMOS conducts a broad, cooperative, international program based on the exchange of knowledge, experience and ideas through a documentation center, symposia and publications. The central organ is *Monumentum*, now recognized as the world's leading periodical devoted to the broad subject of historic monuments and sites.

Ernest Allen CONNALLY

Member, Executive Committee

US/ICOMOS

Secretary General

International Council of Monuments and Sites

"*Si Monumentum requiris circumspice.*" (My inspiration for this statement comes from the inscription in St. Paul's Cathedral, London, attributed to the son of Sir Christopher Wren: "If you would see his monument look around.") Such a horrendous pun can only be justified because it typifies the ebullient spirit with which the United States National Committee for the International Council of Monuments and Sites has taken up the challenge of preparing a 1976 special issue of *Monumentum* to honor our nation's Bicentennial. US/ICOMOS has sought from the outset to produce a special issue worthy

of the occasion, and we have been able to pursue our vision because of the continuing support and encouragement of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the National Park Service and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

Rather than have this issue contain a history of the development of historic preservation in the United States or a guide to our current preservation programs, we decided to capitalize upon the international perspective that *Monumentum* provides in order to step aside, to evaluate the role of historic preservation in the United States and also to analyze the impact of historic preservation on the cultural resources and on the people of this nation. To achieve this, we have called upon a talented cross section of Americans involved in the preservation of our cultural heritage, to contribute their views as authors and collaborators. The articles in this issue represent a hard look at ourselves and we hope that this self-evaluation will prove both useful and stimulating, not only to us but also to the entire ICOMOS community around the world.

US/ICOMOS takes seriously its function as a national committee for an international nongovernmental organization, and also as a tax-exempt nonprofit corporation in the District of Columbia. We look upon our role as being that of an "enabler." The membership of US/ICOMOS is made up of individuals and institutions in this country who have an interest in the preservation of the world's cultural resources and we are working to enable them to participate to the fullest possible extent in international preservation endeavors and, conversely, to enable the ICOMOS community abroad to share fully in the American preservation experience. In the past year, for example, US/ICOMOS has cosponsored with the National Trust for Historic Preservation, a study tour of active European preservation projects as part of European Architectural Heritage Year and currently is cosponsoring the 1976 Bicentennial Summer Work Projects in France, a special program for 60 American students to work with a counterpart group of French students to conserve cultural resources in France associated with the American Revolution. Our principal project for 1976 to share America with others is this bicentennial issue of *Monumentum*.

Circumspice! We invite your comments on this issue of *Monumentum* and your participation in US/ICOMOS.

W. Brown MORTON, III
Chairman, US/ICOMOS

This issue of *Monumentum* is an evaluative review of Preservation USA 1976, the only publication dealing with this subject to be issued in the United States during this significant landmark year. It is especially appropriate that this material should be featured in an international magazine because the diverse cultural heritage that Americans treasure and seek to preserve has been created and influenced by so many persons from so many countries. Preservationists in the United States wish to express gratitude to preservationists in other countries from whom they have learned so much; also Americans are eager to share their knowledge wherever it may have relevance in order to help make a similar

contribution to the rest of the world.

One of this country's great contributions to historic preservation is its citizen participation, which helps to create the vital partnership between the private and government sectors. There are few countries where citizens are so deeply concerned and so broadly involved in the decisions of government concerning the quality of their lives. Another significant partnership is the one between those who pursue preservation as a vocation and those who have selected it as an avocation.

One goal for this issue was that the ideas and information expressed here would represent all geographic areas of the United States and the great variety of preservation projects, programs and special interests found within its borders. Ideally, these papers should have been the result of an assembly of the preservation community at a conference or retreat. Regrettably, planning time and project funds did not permit such a meaningful event. Eight writers were then chosen for their contributions to historic preservation and their ability to convey ideas in an imaginative way. Since the scope of the subject for each essay was broad—one eighth of American preservation concepts and programs over a 200-year period—it was determined that this responsibility would be shared.

Thus collaborators were selected who were similarly qualified. The writer-collaborator teams met in Washington, resulting in eight philosophical, soul-searching days. Team members returned to various areas of the country, and the writers developed outlines, wrote first and final drafts and suggested illustrations. The collaborators commented and advised on all phases.

This Bicentennial project was an exciting one—not only because a difficult assignment brings special rewards through its accomplishment—but especially because of the enthusiasm and interest of everyone involved. Polly Ann Matherly, project coordinator *Monumentum* 1976, brought to the attainment of this goal a special concern for quality publishing and a keen knowledge of historic preservation. Natalia Krawec on the staff of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation was a tireless photographic editor. Others involved in this work through the Office of the Preservation Press of the National Trust for Historic Preservation were editors Joyce Latham, Barbara Hurlbutt, Lee Ann Kinzer and Jennie Bull. The magazine is greatly enhanced by the interpretive cover design by Tom Engeman. The U.S. Department of State through the National Commission for UNESCO and Margaret McBride of the Romance Languages Department of George Washington University did the French translations. Significant assistance was given by Robert R. Garvey, Jr., W. Brown Morton, III, James C. Massey, Russell V. Keune and Jack E. Boucher.

We believe that this magazine is a significant reference work not only for international preservationists but especially for preservationists in the United States—those working with us in 1976 and those who will follow in the coming years.

Terry B. MORTON
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Editor/*Monumentum* 1976