

## MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS

The opening session was held on Monday, 10th June, at 9.30 a.m. in the Library of the National Institute of Art and Archaeology (I. N. A. A.) in Tunis.

Mr. Ahmed M'Barek, representing the Governor and Mayor the Tunisian National Committee of ICOMOS, and Mr. Tlatli, Deputy-Director of the I. N. A. A., welcomed all those attending the symposium and expressed their warmest wishes for its success.

Mr. Gazzola, on behalf of the International Council of Monuments and Sites, then took the floor to explain the aims of the symposium.  
See text page. 5.

Mr. Selim Abdul Hak said he wished to say a word of greeting on behalf of the Director-General of UNESCO to the experts and observers who were going to take part in the meeting.

I. Introductory Report  
by Mr. Mohammed Fendri.  
See text page 23.

II. The "Medina" of Tunis  
by Mr. Jellal El Kafi.  
See text page. 39.

1. Mr. Jellal El Kafi, representing the Town-Planning Centre of the Association for the Protection of the Medina of Tunis, here said a few introductory words on the exhibition of projects for the rehabilitation of the medina and photographs of work achieved. In Tunis, he said, the ancient and modern cities were to be found side by side. The medina, though it had lost part of its ramparts, was not in any sort of touch with the contemporary city, from which it was cut off, rather than the opposite, by the boulevards surrounding it. Within the medina certain serious problems existed; there was overcrowding in

some areas, and protective measures were required to safeguard the big monuments - mosques, mausoleums and numerous private mansions - that lay inside it. Studies with a view to preserving and re-vivifying the medina were being undertaken unit by unit.

In the ancient city, two forms of property could be seen to co-exist : there were the big mansions built by the great families, which occupied extensive areas, and these were surrounded by a multitude of houses standing on small plots of land which had originally been inhabited by the servants and dependants of these families.

Up to the present time, "cottage industries" had continued to account for a large proportion of the country's activity; they formed the second biggest sector in the Tunisian economy after agriculture and employed more labour than industry proper. Thus the suks might be permitted to continue to serve their original purpose, which was to house craftsmen and tradesmen. However, while a large proportion of them had kept on their traditional activity, others had degenerated, for the trades which had occupied them (tailoring, embroidery, etc.) had disappeared.

The file of data assembled on each local unit comprised surveys, a set of photographs, and the findings obtained following enquiries into sociological conditions. A certain length of time was required to collect such data and complete enquiries of the sort, and in the meantime the ancient buildings continued to decay and there was a risk that their interior wall-decorations and fittings (tiling, stucco, marble, forged iron work, etc.) might be removed. Further, present budgets were limited and such official regulations for the protection of buildings as existed were frequently not obeyed. Hence it was urgent for a certain number of sectors to be selected for renovation and for the credits that could be obtained from several different ministries to be centralized and devoted to these. "Areas of resistance" could thus be created within which life would have become normal once again, and these would serve as an example which might encourage others to carry the work further.

2. Following this introduction to the exhibition, Mr. M'Barem, representing the City Council, stressed the enormous size of the work undertaken by the latter. The problem of renovation was linked, he said, with that of building new accommodation to relieve the overcrowding in the medinas. But certain technical problems, such, for example, as the installation of an unobtrusive electricity supply and distribution system, could not be solved owing to the smallness of the municipality's budgets and the amount that needed to be spent on welfare programmes.

Mr. Witmer here cited the example of the Swiss towns, where the ancient historical nucleus had remained the heart of the city and was still the centre of business activity, and asked what justification there was for expanding the modern city towards the north. Mr. El Kafi explained that the decision in this connection embodied in the overall scheme for the re-planning of Tunis had been dictated by the fact that the town, which needed to expand, could not do so to any extent in other directions, owing to the presence of the lagoon and of hilly country. He pointed out that the medina had already ceased to be the administrative and business centre and that its religious rôle was a small one. The resident population which possessed means had left the medina for the modern city, and its place had been taken by a rural or semi-rural population which had moved in. It was possible, however, to envisage a revival of the original character of the medina as a residential district and as a centre for craftsmen, and this would be compatible with the conservation of the ancient structures.

Mr. M'Barem here confirmed that the modern city could expand in only two directions, towards the north, where it was intended to create an administrative and university sector, and towards the south, which was an ideal area for industry, as there already existed a harbour, a main road, and a railway line.

Mr. Driss Guiga stressed that a medina could perfectly well suit the requirements of contemporary living. Suks, after all, were nothing other than those very arcades of shops which attempts were now being made to re-create in modern towns, while fonduks were centres for the accommodation of visitors, and so on. The medinas could thus readily be brought back to life without having an artificial existence. Traffic problems could be solved by the use of small-size vehicles which would be able to travel up and down the narrow alleys.

Mr. Witmer here reminded the meeting that one excellent way of obtaining funds to subsidize work on the ancient quarters was to raise a tax on the increase in the value of land in the newly built-up areas.

Mr. Donati remarked that, while the problems connected with the actual expansion of Tunis could be compared with the expansion problems of any contemporary European town, the problems of the medina were of a completely different nature from those relating to the mediaeval towns of Europe. Mr. Masmoudi, to illustrate this, reminded the meeting of the problems peculiar to the medinas; to solve them, he said, it would always be useless to appeal to the richer section of the population, which was already suitably housed and only an

infinitesimal fraction of which could be attracted back to the medina. The enquiry conducted by the Tunis City Council had revealed that the medina still housed nuclei belonging to its original population - artisans, persons employed in industry and civil servants - side by side with the population from the countryside which had now come crowding in. The congestion in the quarter should be relieved by re-housing this latter population, (which was ill-suited to the kind of living quarters it had to offer and was inclined to spoil the ancient buildings), and moving in a normal town population. Commercial and craft activity had remained concentrated in the suks, but the latter had somewhat lost their former importance, particularly in Tunis. The freedom of the independent craftsman in his own small shop must be actively protected; but coordination of all the various sectors on a national scale was necessary if life in the suks was to continue and if re-conversion was to take place in the sectors found to require it.

Mr. Feiss pointed out that the opening of a luxury hotel in an ancient quarter could act as a stimulant for the re-vivification and restoration of all the surrounding district. This had been the case in San Juan de Puerto Rico. Mr. Alomar remarked that generally as a result further business concerns and secondary activities grew up in the quarter affected.

Mr. de Angelis d'Ossat was optimistic about the future of the Tunis medina, whose position, sandwiched between the future industrial and administrative areas, appeared certain to involve its automatic revival as a residential quarter. The first task to undertake, in his opinion, was that of material renovation, with the introduction of hygiene and sanitation to provide a minimum degree of comfort and keep the area alive.

Mr. Abdul Hak here gave a short account of the history of the towns of the Islamic world founded from the 7th Century onwards, such as Karfa, El Bassa, and Bagdhad in Iraq. The mosque and the residence of the Emir or Caliph occupied the centre of the town, and the ruler distributed plots of building land to the members of his court and to his people so that they could make their homes in the area round his own. The ancient Arab historians had described in detail how things worked in Bagdhad. After the building of Samara, the lay-out of the Moslem town had been fixed once and for all. These ancient towns had continued to develop, and round the initial nucleus there had grown up other nuclei or cells intended as self-sufficient units and containing their own mosque, suks, baths and living houses. Each quarter looked inwards towards its own centre and had gates which were shut at night. The town as a whole was surrounded by ramparts. These historical explanations were of fundamental importance and must always, in the case of any town, be obtained before any work was started on re-vivification projects.

Mr. Abdul Hak stressed that the most urgent step was to stop the process of degeneration which was overtaking these towns, to set about preserving them, and to adopt the necessary legislation to this end. Such towns had taken centuries to build and would take years to restore; the work of bringing them back to life must be a continuous process.

Tuesday, 11th June. Hammamet Cultural Centre.

### III. The Problem of the Restoration and Rehabilitation of Historical Centres.

by Mr. John Witmer.

1. (See full text)

2. Mr. Sorlin reminded the meeting that the tourist trade afforded only one way of helping to solve the fundamental problem of how to re-vivify the old quarters of towns, and must not be considered as the basic solution. While it could offer a minor contribution, the essential means of bringing any historical site back to life were to be sought inside the country containing it, and it was the responsibility of each country to find the appropriate resources and discover the purpose which each site could be usefully made to serve.

Mr. Abdul Hak said that Mr. Witmer was to be most sincerely congratulated on the admirable work he had done on re-vivification schemes for the monuments of Syria, in collaboration with that country's official authorities. It had become clear from his experience there that it was essential for the bodies in charge of local affairs, whether municipal or rural, to have as regular technical advisers people who were specialists in the problems of historical monuments and sites, and he trusted that this point would be covered in the recommendations drawn up at the end of the symposium. He stressed the importance of what Mr. Witmer had said about the decisive rôle played by the retention of the original purpose of each ancient city down the ages. Where the political, economic, strategic or religious factors which had led to the founding of a city still existed, the city remained alive; once they disappeared, the town began to decay.

The cities of the Islamic world possessed certain very special characteristics distinguishing them from European towns. There was, for example, the contrast between the outside and the inside appearance of the home, the refinement and luxury of the interior being set off by the invariably austere and unpretentious façade looking on to the street. There was also juxtaposition of complete and independent residential units, each separated off by narrow winding alleys and looking resolutely inwards, with shopping centres of suks, organized on a

rational basis with different trade occupying each arcade.

The principal task of the local authorities was to preserve first the centre of each nucleus (i. e. the palatial building or mansion) and secondly the buildings round it. It must not be forgotten that the financial means at the disposal of the municipalities were extremely limited, which meant that priorities must be established in connection with the buildings to be protected. The work of re-vivification and restoration must be planned as a long-term programme in liaison with the local authorities. Certain sacrifices would be necessary owing to the smallness of the budgets of the countries concerned. The town must in the first place be restored so as to make life pleasanter for its inhabitants. The resources provided by "cultural tourism" should be considered as an extra. Lastly, Mr. Abdul Hak stressed the need for strictly scientific accuracy in the work of planning and executing such programmes.

Mr. El Kafi told the meeting that, in the particular case of the Tunis medina, certain ancient nuclei had perfectly well withstood the challenge of modern life, but that in his opinion such "centres of resistance" would far more greatly facilitate the true re-vivification of the whole town if they adapted themselves to present-day economic structures. He expressed the fear, however, that in cases where the ancient sectors had been economically ruined owing to their propinquity to the modern city, their revival might be artificial and theatrical in character. The tourist trade, which brought the more comfortably-off populations of the highly developed countries into contact with the presentday populations of the medinas, might have regrettable consequences. Hence the essential need was to find other modern activities capable of putting new life into the medinas, the tourist trade being considered as an accessory factor only.

The Mayor of Hammamet, Dr. Mrad, here spoke on the problems facing his own town. Hammamet had for several centuries had a continuously growing population, which had particularly developed during the Turkish period. With its position on a narrow tongue of land and the peculiar and essentially seaboard character of its landscape, it formed a remarkably interesting whole; its hotels, which were numerous, had been built fairly far from the centre, which had thus preserved its homogeneous character and kept its approaches unaltered. The City Council was working in collaboration with the Department of Tourism and had appointed a permanent technical adviser to the latter body. The work completed so far had enabled the aspect of the medina to be safeguarded and the tourist trade to be very considerably developed.

### III. The Modernization, Restoration and Rehabilitation of Old Cities in Egypt

by Mr. Gamal Mehrez.

1. See text page 61.

2. Mr. Mehrez explained that with the exception of the few measures mentioned in his report there were no regulations governing the construction of new buildings in the ancient centres. The plans for reviving these centres by giving them new forms of activity actually included the demolition of a certain number of ancient buildings.

Mr. Abdul Hak here remarked that there was an essential difference between the operation of restoring monuments and that of putting new life into an old centre. An examination of the facts should be made to see whether there were not a number of differences between the measures to be adopted in connection with the restoration of monuments and those designed to permit the revivification of whole units. Could one and the same body be made responsible for the two operations?

Mr. Sorlin stressed in this connection that one of the actual aims of the symposium was to establish those links which would ensure coordination between the various bodies liable to be concerned with the whole problem in one capacity or another.

Mr. Fendri gave the example of Tunisia. Here the isolated monuments and their immediate surroundings were the affair of the archaeologists and specialist architects, while the municipalities were encouraged to create associations for the protection of the medinas, having as members representatives of government and local authorities and working under the supervision of the National Institute of Art and Archaeology. However the work involved a large number of problems which came under other departments than that of historical monuments - i. e. education, health, commerce, etc. - and these latter ought to contribute to the attempt to find solutions. A whole new attitude was required, both on the part of the specialized archaeologists and restorers and on that of the economists, who should cease to work each in his separate sphere; all should come to realize that there were two absolute essentials which must be reconciled, one being strictly scientific conservation work and the other the finding of a rôle for the monuments and ancient centres in the economic life of the country. When the medinas were re-populated it was extremely important, said Mr. Fendri, for an equilibrium to be maintained on the sociological level; if they were made into places for rich people to live in they would immediately become dead things, as had happened, for example, in the case of certain luxurious holiday-makers' villas in Sardinia. The possibility should be left to different social groups and different trades to live together in harmony.

Mr. de Angelis d'Ossat expressed the wish to see one single body represent all the disciplines concerned. The ancient town, which was a unique unit, must retain its original form and appearance, and so far as possible its historical structure should be left alone. This could be achieved only by means of a long-term policy and not by any piecemeal solutions.

Mr. Abdul Hak added here that this very point was reflected in the whole story of the protection of monuments: in every country classification and restoration had been tackled first, the preservation of surroundings or of whole groups of buildings coming only later. The departments or other bodies set up in the past had been mainly designed to deal with the former of the two tasks; but now the time had come to face up to the new requirements, and either they must broaden their field of activity or else new departments must be created to work side by side with them. This latter solution was somewhat risky, as there might be conflict between two parallel organizations, which might take divergent directions, and it might also be difficult to provide the necessary credits and staff.

Mr. de Angelis d'Ossat felt that the conceptions expressed regarding the whole problems of conservation had now progressed to a third stage, since it was now held that the entire ancient city, with the streets and houses which formed the fabric connecting the different parts and served as a setting for its monuments, must be conserved as a single whole. The responsibility for this should be given to the government departments in charge of town planning, and these should delegate representatives to the municipal councils; in addition, specialized committees would need to be set up. But it must always be kept in mind that no form of protection would be effective if the operation were not considered as an integral whole.

Mr. Witmer said he shared Mr. Feiss's opinion that it was desirable for hotels to be opened in the centre of ancient towns. However this would raise even more acutely the problem of traffic facilities inside the medinas, which must at least be adequate for the requirements of the local shopkeepers. Mr. Feiss explained that such hotels should obviously not be new buildings; they could be housed in ancient buildings of interest (such as the former residence of a local dignitary, a monastery, etc.) which would thus be preserved.

Mr. El Kafi here remarked that the organizational scheme suggested by Mr. de Angelis d'Ossat corresponded fairly closely to what had been achieved in Tunis. Here the Association for the Protection of the Medina had set up a town-planning centre and design office staffed by a team composed of representatives of the various disciplines concerned, and the studies made by the latter, though they concerned only the ancient

quarter, invariably involved overall problems affecting the town of Tunis as a whole, whose solution would depend on the fundamental decisions adopted for the future "Greater Tunis". The members of the team hoped that the City Council would create a similar town-planning centre to draw up a plan for the expansion of the modern town, thus enabling there to be coordination between the plans for the various sectors, as was essential if each was to be a success.

Mr. Lemaire reminded the meeting that the overall problem of the town as a whole must, in effect, always be kept in mind, the restoration of the ancient quarters being only one aspect, and the different parts of a town being interdependent. The aim of ICOMOS was to create towns where men could find all the prerequisites of harmonious living. A few clear and not too rigid principles must be laid down with this end in view; detailed procedure could not be made applicable to each and every town.

Mr. Donati here stressed the need to diagnose and clearly define the evils by which the medinas were threatened before going on to talk of the remedies which might help to save them. He also spoke of the attempts to link the restoration of old towns with the development of the tourist trade, and of the results achieved to date, some of which were positive and others negative. The archaeologists had tried to use the tourist trade as an extra source of funds for the monuments, and in their discussions with the economists they argued that certain monuments were "touristically important" in order to obtain the credits for restoring them; but they had not always realized that a new phenomenon had now occurred, which was tourism for the masses, involving a whole series of obligations and dangers for the nation's archaeological treasures.

Mr. Gazzola drew attention to the fact that the monuments, which provided the material basis for the tourist trade, could actually be deteriorated by the tourists. Mr. Driss observed that tourism was not a recent phenomenon (since cures, pilgrimages, journeys to fairs, etc. had long existed); he went on to suggest that one of the causes of mistaken policies for the protection of monuments might lie in the fact that the historical monuments were in fact looked on as isolated and separate things, whereas what counted was the site as a whole. Mr. Sorlin, too, was of the opinion that at the present day the problem was at last being seen in its true dimension; the old idea of a "monument" as an isolated thing and a "site" as something which could be split up had now been superseded by the consciousness that there was complete interpenetration between the sites and monuments of the whole country. Acceptance must thus be given to such notions as that of the "French

ational site", as applied to a huge complex in which everything, from an individual work of art to a whole enormous landscape, belonged to an integral whole comprising the whole of the country.

Of the international organizations, the Council of Europe had been one of the first to stress the need for knowledge of each nation's heritage of ancient monuments, to be provided in the form of an inventory of buildings to be protected which would subsequently be the means of ensuring that such buildings were preserved in the face of the hazards of the present-day world. Monuments and sites must not be considered merely in themselves - whether for purposes of study or as property to be exploited in the life of the community - but must be accepted as something which was a part of the life and development of the city. Problems in connection with this part of the nation's heritage must not be examined on the local level only, or viewed as merely a question of relations between a number of specialists; they must be studied at the national level in connection with the development schemes for the country as a whole. For this to be possible a nation-wide policy must be envisaged, coordinating the activities of all the departments concerned. The only way of genuinely bringing the medinas back to life was to have basic decisions regarding them made at the highest level and on a nation-wide scale; they were a valuable part of the nation's capital, a cultural heritage handed down from the past, which could be a factor making for future prosperity in the same way as the big schemes for agriculture or industry.

#### The Problem of the Historical Centres in Iran by Mr. B. A. Shirazi

1. See text page 67.
2. Mr. Shirazi explained that experiments in re-vivification were still out of the question in Iran owing to the lack of planning in general. He felt that the bazaars (or arcades of shops) might provide an economic factor of importance for the maintenance of life in the ancient cities. The problem was particularly serious in the case of towns still lying far off any means of communication.

Mr. Abdul Hak gave some information on the agreement which had just been signed between UNESCO and the Government of Iran; the latter had requested assistance in developing and exploiting the potentialities of its ancient monuments, under the programme of "cultural tourism", and groups of experts had been sent out. The Iranian Government had adopted a scheme for the development of the tourist trade under which large sums were to be invested in the construction of such necessary facilities as roads, airports, hotels, etc. UNESCO was

to send technical missions to restoration sites when specifically requested.

A similar programme could be drawn up for any UNESCO member country which so desired. Further, UNESCO assisted in the training of technicians by awarding grants, and specialized workers were trained in restoration work on the actual sites.

Mr. de Angelis d'Ossat here gave an account of the International Course of Specialization in the Conservation and the Restoration of Historical Monuments organized by the Faculty of Architecture of Rome University, under his own supervision. This was a post-graduate course lasting two years, the purpose of which was to provide architects with knowledge of various branches of restoration work. It had the official patronage of ICOMOS and was subsidized by the International Centre for the Study of the Preservation of Cultural Property. During the 1967-1968 academic year, forty architects from eighteen different countries had taken the course. The staff of lecturers was also an international one, which meant that the students were able to hear about achievements in a number of different European countries.

Mr. Gazzola suggested that further specialization courses in the restoration of monuments should be instituted in other parts of the world - as had already been done in Mexico City - though the Rome course should continue to provide the highest qualification on the international level. The practical restoration work required for the obtention of the diploma could be done in the student's own country, under the supervision of an approved university professor.

Mr. Feiss and Lord Euston here spoke of the importance of an inventory as an essential preliminary to any programme of restoration and re-vivification. An inventory of the type had been in the process of compilation in the United Kingdom since 1946, and one was scheduled to be made in the United States under the legislation adopted in 1966.

Wednesday 13th June, 1968, Council Hall of the Municipality of Monastir.

#### VI. Rehabilitation and Re-vivification of the Town of Split and its Roman Remains by Mr. Marijan Kolaric.

1. See text page 77.
2. Mr. Abdul Hak pointed out that Roman palaces of

the type had exerted an enormous influence on the typical design of the Arab palaces built in the Ommiad Period in the Syrian Desert. At Palmyra, Professor Michaelowski's excavations had brought to light "Diocletian's Camp", which, in its general arrangement, was a forerunner of the palace at Split.

Mr. Kolaric explained that the renovation work on the whole site was going to be facilitated by the fact that 50% of the houses built inside the palace belonged to the local Council, which meant that the latter had been able to make its own choice as to the most urgent work to be done. The compromise solution adopted for the conservation of the palace and the wonderful ancient buildings erected within its walls provided the only possible means of enabling the whole site to continue to fulfil a useful purpose and integrating it into present-day life without spoiling its appearance. The scheme meant that the palace was certain to enjoy true economic independence and that recourse to such artificial aids as subsidies could be kept down to a minimum.

All the buildings of interest dating back to the various historical periods could be conserved, and houses which had become dilapidated would be repaired and made into comfortable places to live in. To increase the economic soundness of the operation, it was hoped to turn 30% of the available premises into offices, shops, and workshops for craftsmen, which would ensure that they could be kept in a state of repair in the future.

Mr. de Angelis d'Ossat expressed very strong admiration for the exemplary spirit in which the operation had been conducted. The City Council had felt that it was impossible to restore the palace to its original condition as revealed by the archaeologists, and had chosen a compromise solution which was now being put into effect in truly remarkable manner, scientifically and with great sensitiveness. Under this scheme the magnificent buildings - such as the cathedral built inside the mausoleum - which had grown up inside the palace with the passage of time, could be left standing, and the whole site was a very lively little city instead of a lifeless ruin.

Mr Bornheim felt that the ideal solution would have been to rebuild the palace, and though this was not possible it was important for the main forms and outlines of the Roman building to be fully brought out and shown to advantage.

Mr. Gazzola remarked here that in fact the purpose of the operation in progress at Split was to enable what was left of Diocletian's palace to be conserved and enhanced, while

at the same time giving new life to the ancient town subsequently built within its precincts.

Mr. Fendri felt that here was an illustration of a problem which arose in connection both with the restoration of monuments which had undergone successive alterations in the course of the centuries and with the renovation of whole towns. Might one, he asked, in the interest of the more remote past, destroy works which bore valid testimony to the life of more recent times? This latter choice was not a happy one, for monuments were live things and must not arbitrarily be deprived of all vestiges not belonging to a single given period.

Mr. Lemaire reminded the meeting that this problem was echoed in the Venice Charter, which asserted the principle that the life of a monument was continuous and stressed the need to preserve all valid vestiges of the past, of whatever period.

Mr. B. Vitry went further and said that once a monument had been reintegrated into modern life its history must not come to a sudden end; this would reduce it to the condition of a mere ruin or object of historical interest with no part to play in contemporary life. "Re-vivifying" did not mean restoring a monument to its original purpose, but providing it with a new one compatible with its setting and form.

#### VII. Problems of the Preservation of Historical Towns in Turkey.

by Mr. Mithat Yenen.

1. See text page.97.

2. In reply to questions from his hearers, on whom the dangers threatening Istanbul had made a very powerful impression, Mr. Yenen explained that under the development scheme for "Greater Istanbul" now being prepared what still remained of the ancient town walls would be preserved. The Office for the Town had collected very complete data in the form of drawings and photographs on each of the quarters of Istanbul and all its ancient monuments and its wooden houses, and was to publish two works, one on the ancient city and one on the modern one.

Thursday, 13th June, 1968. Council Hall of the Governorate of Kairouan.

#### VIII. The Preservation of Islamic Sites and Monuments in Spain.

by Mr. Gabriel Alomar.

See text page.111.

IX. Kairouan : Contribution to the Morphological Study of an Old Town.

by Mr. and Mrs Donati.

1. See text page 117.

2. Mr. Gazzola said how very happy he was to see that a complete and exhaustive study of Kairouan was to be made prior to the drawing-up of a scheme for re-planning and re-vivifying the town.

Mr. Fendri explained that it was proposed, in the immediate future, to pursue all the relevant preliminary studies with absolute thoroughness, and only once these were complete to proceed to make the fundamental decisions determining the future of Kairouan. Under the existent legislation the town could be protected during the interim period until these studies were completed.

Mr. Lemaire expressed his admiration for the strict accuracy with which the analysis had been carried out. The method adopted was excellent and was comparable to the one developed by Mr. Libal for the inventory covering Prague. Collaboration between such specialists as architects, townplanners, art-historians, sociologists and economists was essential if a complete picture was to be obtained of the problems to be solved in a given town. Kairouan must be preserved as it now appeared to the visitor wandering through it, with those extraordinary settings which accidentally came into view as one turned up or down its narrow alleys. Measures must be introduced without delay to see that the town remained untouched while the studies with a view to its renovation and re-vivification were in progress.

Mr. Donati pointed out that the ancient town of Kairouan was still the business centre of the present-day city. The medina had retained its rôle as a centre of hand-made goods, and its commercial activity had developed to the detriment of its peculiarly personal aspect. The cooperative stores set up by small tradesmen who had formerly existed independently had already meant some upsetting of the traditional appearance of the façades, and unfortunately the main shopping street had been broadened. Further, the big families were moving out of the houses they owned in the medina, turning these into warehouses and stores, and having new houses for themselves built further out. Other houses were being occupied by people arriving from the country and were becoming rapidly deteriorated as a result.

Certain features in the lay-out of Kairouan could be explained by comparing the ancient capital of the Aglabids with

the present-day town. The medina and the modern town were very small in comparison with the 9th Century city, the centre of which was occupied by the Great Mosque. From the various surveys made in the medina it could be supposed that the original town was less disorderly in structure and indeed possessed some sort of basic plan; its political and economic centre had lain near the Great Mosque and the palace. Once it had lost its rank of capital, the town had come to be no more than a trading centre set in an agricultural area. It developed round a street of shops, at the point where town met country, while the Great Mosque remained outside, near the city walls built in the 18th Century.

3. At the suggestion of the President, a drafting committee was appointed to draw up the recommendations of the symposium. It was composed of Messrs. Bornheim, de Angelis d'Ossat, Fendri, Lemaire and Sorlin, with Mr. Abdul Hak also attending its working sessions.

Friday 14th June, 1969. Council Hall of the Municipality of Sfax.

The proceedings opened with a speech of welcome from the Governor of Sfax.

X. The Quartier du Marais in Paris  
by Mr. Bernard Vitry.

1. See text page 131.

2. Mr. Fendri was strongly of the opinion that all those attending the symposium were directly concerned by the experiments made in Paris and the working methods adopted. He had been interested to hear, he said, that it was planned to erect modern buildings on the sites left available in the "Marais"; this, he felt, was absolutely in line with the spirit of the Venice Charter. A similar experiment had been tried in the medina of Sfax, where a modern house had been built; but the local population, unused to the new conception embodied in the attempt, had not understood what it was intended to achieve. The success of such operations depended basically on the talent and sensitivity of the architect.

Here Mr. Feiss mentioned that in a recent article which had appeared in the National Trust Magazine he had himself dealt with the problem of the introduction of contemporary architecture into ancient groups of buildings. He pointed out that it was essential for the authorities to introduce a certain number of regulations regarding the proportions to be adhered to, the limitation of height and volume, and the choice of materials and colours.



At this point Mr. Sorlin and Mr. Vitry gave some further particulars of the "Marais" experiments. The officially inventoried buildings inside the sector covered by the operation continued to come under the general regulations regarding historical monuments, but they enjoyed special privileges resulting from their position within the sector. The plans for their protection and enhancement proposed by the architects were submitted to special committees on which the Ministry for Cultural Affairs and the Ministry of Equipment were represented, and these committees were responsible for making the final decisions.

Mr. Masmoudi then gave an account of the problems peculiar to the medina of Sfax, which had remained a very lively commercial and residential area. Part of the upper middle class was still resident there, but, in their very legitimate desire to modernize their homes, the owners of houses had very often made alterations which were to be regretted by anyone anxious to see the traditional buildings preserved. The Historical Monuments Department was as yet alone in being conscious of the problem, which had not so far made any impression on public opinion. Hence it was clearly necessary for the authorities to introduce a series of restrictions and enforce them, as the only means of ensuring that the traditional aspect of the medina was preserved.

The citizens of Sfax had other customs peculiarly their own which they had retained, one of which was to spend the winter in the medina and the summer in a "bjord", or old house situated in the garden suburb just outside the town. Measures could be introduced to encourage the residents to stay in the medina; some of them were having their "bjord" pulled down and a modern villa built on the site to be lived in all the year round. Mr. Fendri here suggested that loans might be granted for the restoration of the big old houses, and that the city rate-payers living in the medina might be entitled to a reduction in their rates.

Mr. Abdul Hak remarked on certain problems which had constantly emerged throughout the discussion on the rehabilitation of the North African and Asian towns of the Mediterranean Basin. These towns had been planned for use by pedestrians and pack animals, and there were serious difficulties when it was attempted to adapt them to the needs of present-day traffic. Even if there need not be any regular motor traffic, it was essential for food-delivery vehicles, dust-carts, doctors' cars, ambulances and fire-engines to be able to pass. Also, these towns possessed no public parks, and in the interests of local welfare these were now necessary, and the beginnings of health and social services must also be introduced.

Yet the fragility of the structures to be preserved rendered such adaptation to modern life extremely tricky.

Mr. Lemaire said he felt that it was too early to go into the more particular or detailed aspects of this problem, since the symposium was only a prelude to a series of international meetings which were to study a number of special subjects previously thought about and discussed by each of the National Committees separately.

Returning to the problem of Tunis, Messrs. Donati and Fendri stressed the urgent need to complete the existent legislation to ensure that the ancient sites were protected.

In concluding the discussion, Mr. Masmoudi said that due attention must be paid to the fact that the medinas traditionally served a double purpose. As residential areas they could easily be revived, and with a few alterations and the provision of the necessary modern equipment they could suitably house a middle- and upper middle - class population. But, unlike the original centres of many European towns, they were no longer the administrative and economic hub of the city; there was a sharp break between the ancient town and the modern city developing side by side with it. It was unlikely that the medina would ever again become the hub of the town; it must remain a live and prosperous residential, shopping and craftwork area.

Saturday 15th June, 1968. Library of the National Institute of Arts and Archaeology, Tunis.

#### XI. Closing Session.

The President expressed his thanks to all those who had been kind enough to attend the meeting and expressed particular thanks to the drafting committee.

Mr. Lemaire read out the draft of the recommendations, which was then discussed and a few amendments made. The latter were designed to make the wording as concrete and detailed as possible, so as to provide a basic text for reference for the benefit of the authorities and administrations to whom these recommendations were to be sent.

At this point a telegram from the Moroccan Ministry of Cultural Affairs and Fine Arts was read out, expressing regret that it had been found impossible to send delegates to the symposium.

The final text of the recommendations was then unanimously adopted.

The President expressed his warmest thanks to all the Tunisians hosts who had given so generous a welcome to everyone, whether in Tunis, in Hammamet, in Soussa or in Sfax. On behalf of everyone present he also expressed sincere gratitude to Mr. and Mrs Fendri, who had, with all their colleagues and assistants, unsparingly devoted themselves to the task of organizing the symposium and the various excursions so efficiently. The symposium, said Mr. Gazzola, had taken place in an atmosphere which was an encouragement to thought, and its sessions had been housed in premises of quite unusual magnificence. He added that everyone, at the splendid receptions which had been so kindly held, had been fully sensible of the friendliness of the welcome and the hospitable spirit of Tunisia.