

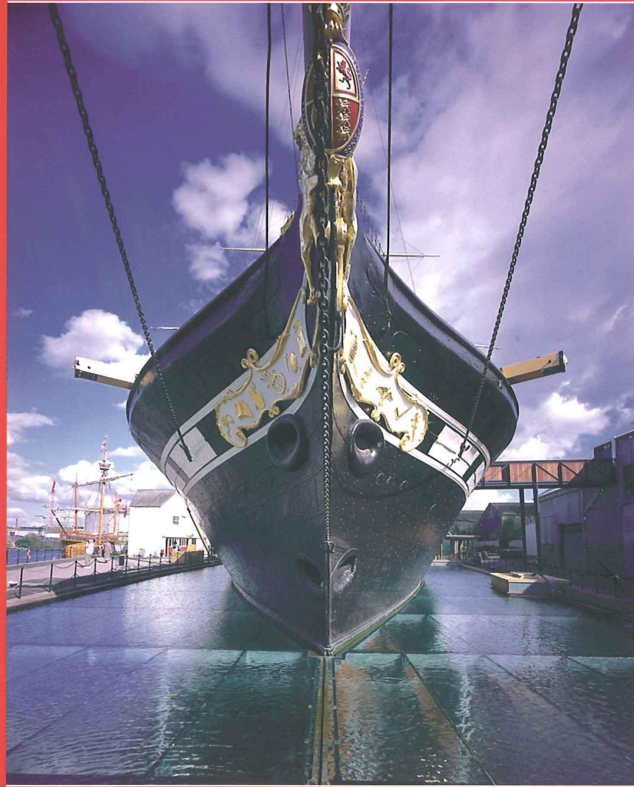
**Report for UK/NZ Link Foundation on the 22nd IIC  
International Congress on "Conservation and Access"  
London, UK. 15-19 September 2008.**

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# Conservation and Access

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE LONDON CONGRESS  
15-19 SEPTEMBER 2008

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The International Institute for Conservation  
of Historic and Artistic Works

**By Lynn Campbell Conservator**

## **Introduction**

The 22nd biennial Congress of IIC was the first in London for over 40 years. It was held in the prestigious Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in the heart of Westminster. The lecture programme took place from Monday to Thursday, with a complete day of visits within and beyond London on the Friday.

The congress encouraged participants to consider issues relating to physical and intellectual access to collections and sites as a primary concern for cultural institutions throughout the world. Conservators and conservation scientists play a vital part in enabling our shared cultural heritage to be enjoyed while at the same time ensuring the sustainability of access by means of appropriate protective measures.

This Congress examined the central role of conservation in the presentation and protection of the world's cultural heritage. It explored the many ways that conservation professionals engage in the worldwide sharing of art and heritage, whether through people going to see that heritage or the heritage itself travelling the globe.

Contributions to the Congress reported on contemporary thinking, current research and examples of best practice in advancing access to cultural heritage while managing the risks.

Topics included:

- involvement in permanent displays,
- temporary exhibitions, packing
- transport, storage and handling,
- risk evaluation and decision support,
- interpretation of collections and sites.

## Report back

The 2008 IIC Congress scored a notable success on its return to London after 41 years. Blessed by the first good London weather for weeks, delegates enjoyed over 40 presentations, all in the comfort of this award-winning conference centre, with a dynamic trade fair and several evening receptions. These included the Museum of London, the British Museum – where delegates also enjoyed a private view of the Hadrian Exhibition and saw the BM's own conservation exhibition- and the Victoria & Albert Museum, where Mark Jones, the Director, stressed the central role of conservation in making access possible. For many, the social highlight was a riverboat trip down the Thames, to the accompaniment of good food and music. On the last day delegates set off for tours of National Trust properties, including Uppark, Petworth, Knole and Scotney, as well as London museum conservation facilities and Westminster Abbey

The theme "Conservation and Access" attracted over 460 delegates to the event, held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, opposite Westminster Abbey. IIC Secretary-General, David Leigh, said "This has undoubtedly been a pivotal event. Conservators addressed the topic from every angle: it is clear that they are the heritage professionals who are taking the lead in defining access: conservators are exploring the boundaries of collecting, what it means to present heritage to the public and how they can make heritage available and meaningful to current and future generations using the science and skills at their disposal.

On the Wednesday evening a well attended event took place at the National Gallery: a roundtable discussion on "Climate Change and Museum Collections". This was the first in a series of " IIC dialogues for the new century: roundtable discussions on the conservation of cultural heritage in a changing world". Speakers included James M. Reilly, Director, Image Permanence Institute, New York, Professor Christina Sabbioni, of the Institute of Atmospheric Sciences and Climate, Italy, and Sir Nicholas Serota, Director of the Tate. They spoke of the threat posed by climate change to heritage collections, and of the need to mitigate museums' energy consumption. A full transcript of the evening's presentations and discussions will be on the IIC website in the near future.

Jerry Podany, President of IIC, said "The conservation profession is facing increasingly complex challenges today, including the demands placed on us by climate change and the increasing demands for access to cultural property. This conference has provided a conduit for openly exploring those challenges and the potential solutions to them. Clearly, given the overwhelmingly positive response to IIC's efforts, the need for such a dialogue was significant and we intend to continue to support and encourage such communication through our programming".

## **Programme of Speakers**

Approaches to access: factors and variables  
RENATA PETERS and DEVORAH ROMANEK

Representation and intervention: the symbiotic relationship of  
conservation and value  
JOEL TAYLOR and MAY CASSAR

Giving contemporary murals a longer life: the challenges for  
muralists and conservators  
WILL SHANK and DEBBIE HESS NORRIS

The conservation and relocation of a monumental petrachrome  
mural: Helen Lundeberg's The History of Transportation  
ROSA LOWINGER and ANDREA MORSE

Conservation for presentation: a key for protecting monuments  
ROBERTO NARDI

How do fragmentary images affect us?  
STEPHANIE FUNDEL, RAINER DREWELLO, SVEN  
HOYER and BARBARA KÜGEL

Values and opinions of the general public on wall paintings  
and their restoration: a preliminary study  
ISABELLE BRAJER

Creating pre-bracketed exhibits  
CATHERINE MAGEE and GRETA HANSEN

'Botanical wonders': the conservation and exhibition of the  
Harvard glass flowers  
STEPHEN P. KOOB, SCOTT E. FULTON and SUSAN M.  
ROSSI-WILCOX

The transport and display of icons from Saint Catherine's  
monastery  
TIARNA DOHERTY, BRUCE METRO and RITA GOMEZ

Access for native people and the public: exhibits at the  
Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian  
JESSICA S. JOHNSON

Measurement and analysis of the global transport environment  
for packing cases for artifacts  
NOBUYUKI KAMBA, HIROSHI WADA, MASAHIKO  
TSUKADA, YOSHIHIRO TAKAGI and KEN IMAKITA

Vibration as a hazard during the transportation of canvas paintings

ŁUKASZ LASYK, MICHAŁ ŁUKOMSKI, ŁUKASZ BRATASZ and ROMAN KOZŁOWSKI

Risk assessment during art loan and transportation at the Byzantine and Christian Museum of Athens

MARIA PAPADIMITRIOU and ELPIDA VAMVAKARI

The benefits and risks of anoxic display for colorants

JOYCE H. TOWNSEND, JACOB THOMAS, STEPHEN HACKNEY and ANDREW LERWILL

Optimum access at minimum risk: the dilemma of displaying Japanese woodblock prints

AGNES W. BROKERHOF, MARGRIT REUSS, FIONA MACKINNON, FRANK LIGTERINK, HAN NEEVEL, FARIDEH FEKRSANATI and GRAEME SCOTT

Between conservation and access: implementation of integrated pest management at the National Museum of Ethnology, Osaka, Japan

NAOKO SONODA and SHINGO HIDAKA

Dangerous liaisons

VALERIE BLYTH and CLAIR BATTISSON

Presentation in original contexts via microclimates

DAVID THICKETT

Optimizing drying strategies to reduce down times for actively-used flood damaged historic buildings

NIGEL BLADES, MAY CASSAR and PHILLIP BIDDULPH

SS Great Britain: conservation and access — synergy and cost

DAVID WATKINSON and MATTHEW TANNER

Improving access to collections for sampling

JANE HENDERSON and PANAGIOTA MANTI

The influence of access to the artist on the conservation of

Allen Jones' works from the 1960s

PAUL GARDENER, AVIVA BURNSTOCK and ANA VASCONCELOS

Stories from a building site

SPIKE BUCKLOW

Public engagement with conservation at the British Library  
HELEN SHENTON

The fireboat Alexander Grantham: an accessible artifact  
JONATHAN C.Y. TSE, EVITA S. YEUNG and SHING-WAI  
CHAN

Conserving the Lesvos Petrified Forest  
EVANGELIA KYRIAZI and NICKOLAS ZOUROS

Science revealed: the hidden story of objects  
SIOBHAN WATTS, DAVE ABBOTT, DAVID CROMBIE,  
ANGUS GUNN and ANNEMARIE LA PENSÉE

Access to technical analysis: visualizing the invisible  
LIBBY SHELDON

Unlimited access: safeguarding historic textiles on open  
display in public buildings in the UK  
ALISON LISTER and JO BANKS

The benefits of access through handling outweigh the risks  
ELIZABETH PYE IRIT NARKISS and HELENA TOMLIN  
A preservation decision tree for enabling current and long-term  
access at Library and Archives Canada  
BONNIE CLARK

New conservation opportunities in a world of digitization and  
access  
JUERGEN VERVOORST

Prioritizing access in the conservation of National Trust  
collections  
KATY LITHGOW, SARAH STANIFORTH and PAUL  
ETHERIDGE

Power to prioritize: applying risk and condition information to  
the management of dispersed collections  
AMBER XAVIER-ROWE, CLAIRE FRY and BETHAN  
STANLEY

The collection care and access project: balancing demands on  
collections  
DIANE GWILT

Conservation and access: exploring developments in the loan  
of paintings from Tate's collection  
SUSAN BREEN, HELEN BRETT and REBECCA HELLEN

An evaluation and preservation project at the National Museum of Denmark: management and presentation  
EVA SALOMONSEN

Access at any cost? Strategies to maintain conservation standards and expertise in the V&A  
SANDRA SMITH

Access denied: restricted access to indigenous cultural sites  
ANDREW THORN

Preservation *in situ*: the future for archaeological conservators?  
CHRIS CAPLE

Conserving and interpreting the historic huts of Antarctica  
JULIAN BICKERSTETH, SARAH CLAYTON and FIONA TENNANT

Tyntesfield: conservation and the volunteer  
MARY GREENACRE  
POSTERS

Archiving and preserving the work of John Latham  
SARAH BASHIR, SAYA HONDA, NEIL MACLEOD and FUMI MATSUSHIMA

Providing access to the ideas that shaped the world: conservation of the John Murray archive  
KATE KIDD

Digital preservation for long-term access in developing countries  
KAMANI PERERA and DINESH CHANDRA

Talking Heads: revealing meanings in the Saffron Walden museum archive, UK  
REBECCA CHISHOLM, ELEANOR BRADSHAW, EMILY BRENNAN, SOPHIE HARMAN, CHRISTINE KELLY, PETER MCELHINNEY and YI WU

Art and religion: a challenging relationship for the conservator  
ANA CALVO and MARIA AGUIAR  
Ethical access to human remains held at the Science Museum  
FRAN COLES

The city as an artwork: requalification of the historic centre of Cachoeira, Brazil  
HONÓRIO NICHOLLS PEREIRA

Conservation projects: establishing accessibility and use  
CARLA BARTOLOMUCCI and CATERINA  
GIANNATTASIO

Protecting heritage for the future: conservation and reburial at  
Çatalhöyük, Turkey  
ALAINA SCHMISSEUR

The conservation of wallpaper in the chinese room in Wilanow  
Palace, Poland  
MARZENNA CIECHAŃSKA

Deterioration of building stone treated with Portland cement at  
Persepolis, Iran  
MOHAMMAD REZA NILFOROUSHAN and ABBAS ABED

Conservation of Gaddi's frescos in the basilica of Santa Croce,  
Florence  
MARIAROSA LANFRANCHI, MASSINO CHIMENTI,  
ALBERTO FELICI, LAURA GIOVANNINI, PAOLO LAURI  
and RAIMONDO VACCA

Finding the missing: wall tiles transfer for Kom Tong Hall  
EDDY S.T. LEUNG, EVITA S. YEUNG and SHING-WAI  
CHAN

Access to an archeological textile through conservation: from  
discovery to display  
CARMEN MARIAN, MADALIN VALEANU and ZIZI  
BALTĂ

Conservation of hand-coloured photographs: working between  
painting and photography conservation  
ENARA ARTETXE, MARTA BARANDIARAN, M. ITXASO  
MAGUREGUI, BEATRIZ SAN SALVADOR, MARIA PILAR  
LEGORBURU, FERNANDO BAZETA, CARLOS VENEGAS,  
FRANCISCO COBO, VICTOR CLAVER and JOSE CORTÉS

The new conservation studio in the Auschwitz-Birkenau State  
Museum, Poland  
BEATE KOZUB and NEL JASTRZEBIOWSKA

Conservation of a folded and distorted work on paper  
MARÍA VERÓNICA SILVA, JOSÉ BALMES and  
FRANCISCO GONZÁLEZ

The treatment of an unlined eighteenth-century British  
painting in Australia  
CATHERINE NUNN

## **Conclusion**

The conference proved to be extremely successful with speakers and participants from all parts of the world. It was an excellent opportunity not only to attend and learn about new methods and processes for accessing collections but also meeting and networking with other conservators from around the globe. I would like to thank the NZ / UK Link Foundation for funding the travel enabling me to attend this excellent congress.

## **Images from the conference**