INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE STUDY OF THE PRESERVATION
AND THE RESTORATION OF CULTURAL PROPERTY

AG4/5

Rome, December 31, 1966

GENERAL ASSEMBLY
4th Session
Rome, April 11-14, 1967

Project for the long term development of the Centre's activities
should its income be increased

(Translated from the French)
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Signification of the present document

It has seemed useful to the Council to make a sharp distinction 
between the biennial programme of activities based on the assured income 
of January 1st, 1967 (doc. AG4/4) and longer term projects of development 
to be undertaken as financial resources, budgetary or extra-budgetary, 
are increased. It is essential indeed to have a precise plan of development 
to lay before the Assembly which determines the direction of progress.

An examination of the present worldwide situation on the basis of 
information collected by the Centre's secretariat since its foundation in 
1959 has shown that the most urgent need in every country is without doubt 
the need for the training of specialists in all types of restoration work. 
It would, moreover, be of great value if specialists could be quickly sent 
to places where their help is needed. Furthermore, the Centre's document-
ation which forms the basis of its information, should be systematically 
developed. Thus, it seems clearly indicated that development should be 
considered along three main lines:- training of specialists, documentation 
and missions of experts. Other activities such as publications and meetin-
gs of specialists would normally be financed from the Centre's pro rata 
income.

I. Training of Specialists in Conservation

1. Analysis of the present situation

A general survey of cultural property throughout the world shows 
that the need for specialists in conservation is urgent in all domains and 
in nearly every country. Nevertheless certain distinctions must be taken 
to into account when establishing a plan for the training of specialists on an 
in international level.

a) - Architecture and Excavations

Regarding the conservation and restoration of monuments it has 
been noted that generally speaking wherever architecture is taught, 
training is mostly based on modern architecture and theories, - techniques 
of ancient architecture have been almost left out of syllabuses - with the 
result that architects have only a very superficial notion of the problems 
encountered in the restoration of ancient monuments. It is nevertheless 
true that certain universities include within their Faculty of Architecture 
programme, a restoration course. Such a course cannot however, cover all the aspects of conservation necessary for the training of a restorer of 
monuments. To the best of our knowledge the only places where
comprehensive post-university courses are held are Naples, Rome, Prague and Ankara. Lectures are sometimes organised in York and courses for technicians in charge of the maintenance of monuments are regularly organised in Mexico.

As a result of this situation the Centre decided to organise, at the request of the representative from Austria, a specialisation course in the conservation of historical monuments in collaboration with the Faculty of Architecture of the Rome University.

As regards archaeological excavations, prospects of training in conservation are even rarer and incomplete. To the best of our knowledge the only complete and systematic training of the kind exists at the Archaeological Institute of the University of London.

b. Painting and polychrome sculpture

In the field of painting, conservation studies are most developed, but institutions organising such training are nevertheless limited to Europe and the University of New York. A survey as complete as possible of the situation was included in a report presented in September 1965 in New York during the ICOM Committee Meeting for the Care of Paintings.

Training facilities even in European countries, however, still remain insufficient for the following reasons:

- even in Europe several countries are unable to offer training,
- traditional training in private workshops is financially difficult and technically insufficient,
- institutions providing regular training find it difficult to provide their workshops with the necessary facilities. Or, if such institutions have been entrusted with the care of a specific work of conservation, they find it difficult to pursue both tasks of doing the job and training at the same time, the main reason for this being the lack of highly qualified restorers.

c. Objects

The training for the restoration of objects of all kinds is probably the least organised of all. Nearly everywhere such work is done by craftsmen who are more or less competent and whose work is controlled by a laboratory only very exceptionally. Systematic training is only available as far as we know in Nancy (metals), Faenza (ceramics), New York, N.Y.U. Conservation Centre, at the University of London and at the Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique, Brussels.

It is obvious that workshops which undertake specific conservation work can only take in a very limited number of trainees.
2) - Principles to be followed by the Centre

Mr. Paul Coremans in his report to the ICOM General Conference in 1965 formulated the basis of an international policy for the training of specialists in conservation. The Centre accepted the main theme of this report. From the experience gained in the organisation of the course of specialisation in the conservation of monuments, as well as from the courses organised by the Istituto Centrale del Restauro and the Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique, the Rome Centre believes that it could make a useful contribution if the following points are taken into consideration:

1) - Basic training should be given on both a National and Regional level

If an international training scheme is to be a success, students must be previously selected in their home countries. This would save students from having unnecessarily to adapt themselves to living in a foreign country and would also save funds from being placed at the disposal of those who are not of the required standard to undergo such a training. UNESCO, therefore, is creating Regional Centres to provide basic training in conservation which will select students suitable for specialisation.

2) - It is clear, however, that priority should be given to more advanced training as there is an urgent need for teaching staff on a regional level. It is at this point that the Centre could most usefully participate. It could provide newly developed countries with teachers, and European or similar countries with highly trained personnel often difficult to obtain on the spot. As a result of pre-selection, groups of students would be on a more or less equal level, this being indispensable to ensure the success of the training.

The only exception should be made where a particularly important void is noted at an elementary level, as could be the case when treating certain objects.

3) - The Centre should organise the various kinds of training in collaboration with specialised institutions, such as the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Rome, the Istituto Centrale del Restauro, the Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique, the Istituto di Patologia del Libro, etc. The teaching staff would be provided by these institutions and by the invitation of foreign specialists at the Centre’s expense, the Centre’s scientific personnel participating only on a limited scale.

4) - As the success of the training depends on the possibility of organising practical work, the Centre should provide the possibility of working on sites and on objects to be examined and treated, by coming to agreement with the authorities in charge.
5) - The Centre's laboratory should be progressively adapted for teaching work, in particular for examining objects and undertaking their conservation.

6) - A systematic policy for scholarships to students to attend the courses should be defined in collaboration with UNESCO.

3) - Courses Envisaged, to be developed or created

(1) - Conservation of monuments (in collaboration with Rome University)

Conditions of admission: - architects, archaeologists and art historians holding diplomas

Approximate length of course: - 30 weeks, or around 200 hours of lectures

Maximum number of students accepted: - 30

Brief estimation of expenses: -

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Professors</th>
<th>$10,000</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 assistant</td>
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<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching material</td>
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$31,600

(2) - Leading field technicians for monuments or excavations -
(in collaboration with the office of the Director General of the Department of Antiquities)

Conditions of admission: - employees of a Department of Antiquities

Approximate length of course: - 20 weeks

Number of students accepted: - 15

Brief estimation of expenses: -

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<tr>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 assistant</td>
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<tr>
<td>Site</td>
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<td>Teaching material</td>
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$23,600

(3) - Restoration of paintings and sculptures - (with the Istituto Centrale del Restauro and the Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique)

Conditions of admission: - Diploma from a Restoration School or from a Regional Centre, or, in lieu sufficient professional practice and experience.
Length of course: 20 to 30 weeks
Number of students accepted: maximum of 10 in Rome and 10 in Brussels

Brief estimation of expenses for both courses:

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$47,200

(4) - Conservation of objects (Laboratory Technicians)

It would be wise to consider having 2 courses here, one at an Advanced level and the other at a Medium level.

a. Advanced level

Conditions of admission: Medium level diploma from a National Institution or a Regional Centre, or, in lieu, sufficient professional practice and experience.

Length of course: 10 to 20 weeks
Number of students accepted: maximum of 20

Brief estimation of expenses:

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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Professors</th>
<th>1 assistant</th>
<th>Teaching material</th>
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<td>$4,000</td>
<td>$3,600</td>
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$9,100

b. Intermediate Level

Conditions of admission: Elementary training at a Regional Centre or equivalent

Length of course: 30 weeks
Number of students accepted: maximum 10

Brief estimation of expenses:

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<th>Teaching material</th>
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<td>$10,020</td>
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$25,820
As there is no institution in Rome upon which the Centre could rely to organise the 2 last courses - except the Istituto di Patologia del Libro - their realisation causes a problem. The possibility of organising the courses with one of the institutions specialised in such training should be considered, or else the Centre's laboratory might be specially developed for the purpose. This would, however, involve a large investment of money.

4) **Larger floor space would be required together with equipment and permanent personnel to organise lectures**

1) **Premises**

The Centre's existing lecture room can only be used for one course at a time and seats a maximum of 30 students.

The following complete programme had been made when it was believed that the Centre would follow the Istituto Centrale del Restauro when it moved to its new site at Santa Croce in Gerusalemme (floor space 300 m²). As this project turned out to be unworkable and so far no counterpart has been offered, it would be necessary to rent rooms near the Centre which could be used for lectures so that the provisional development of the training programme could be continued. The rent could be reckoned at around $4,000 for 300 m².

2) **Teaching equipment and technical service**

In order to realise the whole of the above-mentioned programme the following teaching equipment would be needed:

- equipment for simultaneous translations, for projections and recordings for manifolding and publication of lectures,
- development of the laboratory and of photographic facilities,
- equipment for work on sites.

A detailed study and precise assessment of the investment required in this case still remains to be done.

3) **Personnel**

The general idea would be to employ, under contract, outside help instead of increasing the Centre's personnel which would involve a large heading in the budget.

However, the realisation of the above-mentioned programme and the corresponding development of the Centre's documentation (see further) would require a progressive increase in personnel.
Expenses per annum for salaries and insurance, etc.

- one usher $2,050
- one full-time accountant instead of half-time $1,750
- one full-time librarian instead of half-time $1,300
- one documentalist $2,800
- one French/English bilingual secretary/shorthand-typist $3,200

Total ........... $11,100

5) - Realisation of the programme

The realisation of the programme of courses should be progressive and adapted to the Centre's means and immediate requirements. The various courses need not necessarily be given every year and different schedules could be worked out. Moreover some courses could be later replaced by seminars of a shorter length or, on the contrary, drawn out over a period of 2 or 3 years to ensure a complete training. Various solutions are therefore open which could be easily adapted to the progressive increase of the Centre's financial means.

II. - Development of the Centre's documentation

The Centre's documentation which forms an essential part of the library, is its basic source of information and is called upon more and more frequently to give bibliographic information and photocopies for study. These two aspects should not only be developed together in harmony with teaching, but also independently so that, as this part of the Centre becomes better known, it can provide information for Regional Centres, national schools and also for individuals carrying out both research and practical work.

The report prepared at our invitation in 1966 by Miss Y. Oddon of the UNESCO/ICOM Documentation Centre and Mr. R. Didier, Librarian of the Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique, gives all the technical details for the realisation of a twofold development project.

To be more specific, the most urgent needs to be realised as soon as financial means are available, can be summarised in six points :-

1) - Systematic development of the collection of reprints and photocopies and an analysis of their contents on cards.

2) - Subdivisions should be made in the analytical card-index following the system used by the Laboratory in Amsterdam.
3) - Technical notes for restorers should be collected and later distributed. Such action would be in collaboration with various specialised institutions such as the Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique in Brussels, the Istituto Centrale del Restauro in Rome, the Doerner Institute in Munich, the National Gallery Laboratory in London and the Amsterdam Museum Laboratory.

The scope to be covered would be as follows: - products in use for restoration: their composition, commercial trade-marks and suppliers; workshop receipts; apparatus used for restoration; pigments.

4) - Constitution of a complete card-index of specialists in conservation containing all the details likely to be of interest to the Centre.

5) - Constitution of a card-index of institutions specialised in conservation containing all the details previously included in the Museum Repertory, which can be easily kept up-to-date.

6) - Systematic abstraction of periodicals received by the Library.

To realise such a programme a full-time librarian and a documentalist would be required, although it would be much easier if help was given by temporary collaborators who would deal with particular sections or, even if scholarships were granted for this purpose.

Brief estimation of expenses (see paragraph 3 - "Personnel")

- additional salary for librarian
- documentalist
- apparatus (cf. Oddon/Didier report)

Moreover, the Gulbenkian Foundation grant for the purchase of books and periodicals will have been completely used up by 1968 and in order to maintain the regular purchase of books, etc., a sum of $2,500 per annum will have to be included in the budget after this date.

III. - Organisation of Specialist Missions

The efficiency of help offered often depends upon the rapidity with which it is given and if often happens that the Centre receives requests for help which it is unable to give due to lack of funds allocated for emergency purposes. The Centre is therefore placed in a situation where it can only suggest various lengthy procedures for obtaining scholarships, which are submitted under conditions which have no relation with the problems involved.
If, as soon as the budget permits, funds could be allocated for the organisation of urgent missions by specialists in answer to member country requests for help, then the Centre would be able to act with considerable efficiency and rapidity thanks to the simplicity of its structure and freedom from administrative obstacles.

Prompted by experience of the recent floods in Florence and Venice, ICOM has already expressed the wish to see the Centre organise an emergency team which could be selected according to each situation. In case of accidents this team would be available to collaborate with local authorities on the spot in first-aid operations and report directly on the situation so that further aid as required could be efficiently given.

But here we have also in mind missions of a practical nature where technicians would undertake actual conservation work. This could be conveniently linked with the Centre's training programme, as it is often found that to provide a specialist on the spot is the best way to ensure that individuals carry out the work required and are trained in an appropriate manner.

To put these plans into operation would simply require lists to be prepared of specialists ready to accept missions for the Centre under the agreed conditions whatever these might be. The number and importance of such missions would then depend solely on the funds the Centre is able to allocate for such a purpose.