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

REPORT TO THE COUNCIL
(Activities carried out in 1965 & 1966)

(Translated from the French)
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I. ORGANISATION

1. Meetings of the Council and 'Conseil Restreint'

The Council met in Rome from March 28th to April 1st, 1966. Document C9/Res. of April 12, 1966 contains the decisions taken by the Council and has been placed at the disposal of the Assembly.

Two meetings of the 'Conseil Restreint' were held, one in Paris on June 11, 1965 at which were present Messrs. Stanislaw Lorentz, President, Arthur Van Schendel, Vice-President, Hugues de Varine-Bohan, Director of ICOM, S. Abdul Hak and Hiroshi Daifuku, representatives of the Director General of UNESCO and Harold J. Plenderleith, Director of the Rome Centre. The other in New York on September 30, 1965 at which were present Messrs. Stanislaw Lorentz, Arthur Van Schendel, Hugues de Varine-Bohan, Harold J. Plenderleith and Paul Philippot. The decisions taken during these meetings have been summarised in the Director's Report to the Council (Doc. C9/3 of January 31, 1966) also at the disposal of the Assembly.

2. Personnel

During 1965 the Centre's staff has been increased by 3 new members:

- Mr. Giorgio Torraca as Scientific Assistant on November 1, 1965;
- Mrs. L. Amendola Liuzzi was appointed to the Centre as librarian in replacement of Mrs. Varese-Gamba and joined the Centre on July 1, 1965;
- Miss Carolyn Eales-Barkay joined the Centre on June 15 as Personal Assistant to the Director.

The bill granting diplomatic status to the Director and Assistant-Director was passed by the Italian Parliament on May 19, 1965 and was published on June 14, 1965 in the Gazzetta Ufficiale.

3. Members

Malta joined the Centre on August 16, 1965 and Malaysia on October 26, 1966, thus bringing the total of member countries to 40 on December 31, 1966.

4. Publicity

The Report of the Council to the 3rd session of the General Assembly and the Centre's programme of activities approved by the Assembly for the financial period 1965-66 were published in the form of a brochure in English and French and widely distributed, particularly at the ICOM General Conference in New York.
Two further bilingual brochures containing the programme of the courses of lectures on the restoration of monuments, organised by the Centre in collaboration with the University of Rome for 1966 and 1967, were also widely distributed and information regarding these lectures was published in various UNESCO periodicals, in the French magazine 'Archéologia', in the 'Japan Times', in the Bulletin of the Italian National Commission for UNESCO and in the Bulletin of the Italian Cultural Institute in Dublin. The Director was also interviewed by the B.B.C. and the Indian radio.

5. Installation of the laboratory and lecture room

A contract was signed on August 1, 1965, to rent the premises situated 221 via Cavour. These premises are being used as a provisional laboratory and lecture room with sitting room for 300 persons. Transformation work has been carried out and furniture purchased and the equipment provided by UNESCO has been installed.

II. ACTIVITIES

1. Publications

a. Published in 1965 and 1966 in the joint Rome Centre/ICOM series:
   - La Conservation des Antiquités et des Oeuvres d’Art, the French translation of Dr. Plenderleith's book, published by Editions Eyrolles, Paris, with the collaboration of ICCM.
   - N. Stolow, Controlled Environment for Works of Art in Transit, published by Butterworths, London, with the aid of a grant from UNESCO.

b. In preparation
   - Proceedings of the joint meeting of the ICOM Laboratories Committee and of the Committee for the care of paintings, to be published by Editions Eyrolles in the joint Rome Centre/ICOM series.
   - Report on the meeting held in Brussels in 1966 on the Conservation of Stone in collaboration with ICOM and ICOMOS.
   - Giovanni Massari, La lutte contre l’humidité dans le bâtiment, translated into French from the original Italian.
   - Paolo Mora and Paul Philippot, Technique and Conservation of Mural Paintings.

Under contract with UNESCO the Centre collected the necessary material for the publication of a Basic Manual of Conservation in Tropical Climates.
Under contract with UNESCO the Centre collected the necessary material for the publication of a Basic Manual of Conservation in Tropical Climates due to appear shortly.

2. Library and Documentation

The Gulbenkian Foundation grant has enabled the continued purchase of books for the library. 1,000 books have been acquired in 1965 and 1966 and the library now contains altogether 2,000 books and receives by subscription 42 different specialised reviews. The Library is well attended by scholarship holders and more particularly by students from the Istituto Centrale del Restauro and from the course of lectures on the conservation of monuments, for whom more and more photocopies are being made.

The Centre has agreed to act as regional editor in Italy for Technical Abstracts of Art and Archaeology (previously IIC Abstracts).

The mission carried out by Miss Y. Oddon of the UNESCO/ICOM Documentation Centre together with Mr. Didier, Librarian of the Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique, took place in April, 1966. The report of their mission lays out a plan for the long-term development of the Centre's documentation.

3. Consultation missions

The following report only mentions the missions carried out by the Centre's personnel. More detailed information will be given by the Director in the form of an oral report.

a. Missions carried out by the Director


The Director attended the General Assembly of IIC and at the invitation of the National Trust, examined a bronze fountain.


UNESCO mission on the conservation of monuments, together with Messrs. N. Davey and H. Daifuku.

United States, September 2 - October 14, 1965.

During his trip to the U.S.A. where he attended a Seminar in Boston on the application of science with regard to works of art, the Director carried out various technical consultations, including one at Colonial Williamsburg. He also attended the ICOM General Conference and the Joint ICOM Meeting for Museum Laboratories and Sub-Committee for the Care of Paintings, held in Washington and New York.
Turkey, November 18-30, 1965.

At the invitation of the Turkish Government, the Director was asked to examine the neolithic mural paintings recently discovered at Catal Huyuk and now in the National Museum, Ankara.

Greece, August 1965 and January 10-17, 1966.

In August the Director went to Kanchreaki by invitation of the Chicago University excavation team and in January 1966 at the invitation of the British Council in Athens, he carried out a mission to lecture and, incidentally, had the opportunity of examining and discussing with the authorities the condition of bronze statues from the Piraeus and marble sculptures of the Parthenon.

India, New Delhi, January 17 - February 28, 1966.

Participation at the UNESCO Seminar for the formation of museum technicians and directed a special 3 day Seminar for 40 technicians in conservation.

Bulgaria, May 2 - 10, 1966.

The Director presided over a commission of experts organised by the Centre at UNESCO's request to give advice on the conservation of the Thracian tomb at Kazanluk and its paintings. The Commission was composed of the following experts:- Messrs. H. Kühn of the Bayerische Staatsgemäldesammlungen Laboratory in Munich, B. Marconi, Director of the Conservation School of the Warsaw Academy, G. Massari, Director of the Istituto per lo Studio dell' Umidità delle Murature del Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, F. Mora, Chief Restorer at the Istituto Centrale del Restauro and G. Thomson, Scientific Advisor, National Gallery, London.

Egypt, September 4-8, 1966.

Consultation on the state of conservation of objects from Tutankhamen's tomb and the Khêops funeral boat.

b. Missions carried out by the Assistant-Director

Prague, June 1-10, 1965

Participation at the symposium on the paintings owned by the Prague Palace Gallery, and presided over a meeting on the conservation of these works of art.

Cyprus, March 6-23, 1966

Mission carried out together with the architect, Mr. Franco Minissi, under contract with UNESCO, and consultation on the conservation of monuments and works of art.
c. Missions carried out by the Scientific Assistant
Ferrara, October 11-12, 1966.

Examination of the damaged stonework on the front of the Cathedral with a commission composed of Messrs. C. Gnudi, Superintendant of the Ferrara and Bologna Galleries, Mazzotti, Inspector of Monuments, Ferrara and Nonfarmale, restorer at the Bologna Superintendence, with a view to a contribution from the Centre on the study and treatment of this monument.

4. Restoration of the Massada Roman Frescoes (Israel)

At the request of the Government of Israel for a restorer experienced in Roman mural paintings to treat Herod's Palace at Massada, the Centre recommended Mr. Luciano Maranzi who carried out in 1964 a one month mission to Massada at the Israeli Government's expense. Further restoration work being later required and Mr. Maranzi being unable to return to Israel, the Centre appointed Mr. Mehra, an Indian restorer who became specialized in mural paintings through a training course at the Istituto Centrale del Restauro, with the help of a scholarship from the Italian Government granted by the Centre. Mr. Mehra proceeded with the lifting (stacco) of a number of the Massada paintings which on the Centre's recommendation were sent to the Istituto Centrale del Restauro where they were placed on new supports and retouched under the supervision of Mr. P. Mora.

5. Courses, etc.


This course organised in collaboration with the Faculty of Architecture of the University of Rome, has been carried out on a truly international scale thanks to the budget voted by the General Assembly.

The course's programme given in above-mentioned brochure, was established by a committee composed of the following:- the Director of the Centre, the Director of the "Scuola di Perfezionamento per la Studio dei Monumenti", Professor De Angelis d'Ossat, a representative of the Director General of Fine Arts, a representative from ICOMOS, and a representative from the Istituto Centrale del Restauro.

The programme totals approximately 150 hours of lectures, guided visits of monuments, restoration in the field under the guidance of professors or assistants, taking part for at least 10 days in "sondages" and excavations under the supervision of specialists appointed by the Scientific Council of the course and one month spent doing restoration work on a site approved by the same Council.
Taking part together with professors from the Faculty of Architecture, are professors from France, Belgium, Austria and Poland. The lectures are given in Italian and French.

The Centre received 30 entries for the course from students coming from the following countries:- Austria, Bulgaria, United States, Greece, Hungary, Indonesia, Israel, Iran, Italy, Malta, Mexico, Philippines, Portugal, United Arab Republic, Sweden, Czechoslovakia, Turkey, Venezuela and Yugoslavia.

A new course on the same lines has been organised for 1966-67. The programme has been widely distributed and ten or so scholarships have been granted through UNESCO. The course will be held from January to June for which 27 entries have already been made from students from the following countries:- Afghanistan, Austria, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Spain, India, Italy, Lebanon, Mexico, Peru, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Syria and Yugoslavia.


The Istituto Sperimentale per i Metalli Leggeri of Novara organised under the Centre's patronage and in collaboration with the Istituto Centrale del Restauro, a short course on problems in archaeological metallurgy from April 27 to April 30, 1965.

The programme of this course consisted in a series of lectures on the history of metallurgy, the metallography and non-destructive examination of metallic objects, and included practical demonstrations and a visit to the Institute's laboratory.

The Director of the Centre, the Executive Secretary and the Centre's scholarship holders attended this course, together with a UNESCO scholarship holder, Swiss specialists, Madame J. Delbourgo of the Louvre Laboratory, Mrs. Carran of the Faculty of History at the Melbourne University of Art, Mr. L. Carrasco (Chili), and also Italian superintendents, Fine Arts officials and restorers.

c. Course at the Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique in Brussels

The project for a technicians course in restoration for which the General Assembly approved a sum of $8,000 ($2,000 for the initiation course and $6,000 for basic training), proved to have been somewhat premature and can only be realised by the Centre in 1967. However, a similar course is organised every year by the Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique, the funds for which were provided by the University of Gand until Mr. Paul Coremans' death put a sudden end to this source of supply. The 'Conseil Restreint' approved therefore the grant of a $3,000 subvention from the Centre when it met in New York on September 30, 1965, to enable the Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique to carry
out the programme of lectures as foreseen by Mr. Coremans for the 1966-67 academic year.

The Assistant Director gave lectures throughout 1965-66 on the Theory of Restoration and on the History of Painting Techniques.

d. Course on the conservation and restoration of books

In accordance with the wishes of the General Assembly, the programme for a course on the conservation and restoration of books has been studied in collaboration with the Istituto di Patologia del Libro. This course could take place in 1967 and would be given in Italian and English. It would last for one month and total approximately 43 hours of lectures on theory and as much again on practical demonstrations.

e. Visit to Rome of the Special American Commission interested in laws and activities concerned with the protection of historic monuments and sites

At the request of Mr. R. Garvey, Director of the National Trust for the Conservation of Historic Monuments, on November 15, 1965, the Centre received members of the above-mentioned American Group. The "Commissione d'indagine per la tutela e la valorizzazione del patrimonio storico, artistico, archeologico e del paesaggio" and the Director General of Fine Arts, enabled the Centre's guests to be received at the Villa Falconieri in Frascati, placed at the Centre's disposal by the European Education Centre. Here Prof. Bruno Molajoli, Director General of Fine Arts, Dr. Triches, Prof. Gazzola and Prof. Ceschi gave talks on the theories and methods employed in the conservation of historical areas in Italy, together with the legal and administrative aspects involved. After having visited several old quarters of Rome, a reception was given for the Group on the premises of the Rome Centre.

6. Scholarships

a. During the 1964-65 academic year the Centre granted scholarships made available by the Italian Government, to the following :-

- Mr. George O. Shogbola (Nigeria) 8 months
- Mr. Mohammed Darwish El Goj (Jordan) 4 months
- Mrs. Laura Arelano, (Mexico) 4 months
- Miss Rosi Maria Haussmann (Austria) 8 months
- Mr. Jovan Georgijevic (Yugoslavia) 4 months
- Mr. Hans Christoff von Imhoff (Germany) 4 months
- Mrs. J. M. Berteaux (France) 4 months
- Mrs. Suzanne Delbourgo (France) 1 month

- Mr. G.O. Shogbola studied the conservation and restoration of bronze objects, ceramics and wood and the conservation of paper at the Istituto Centrale del Restauro and at the Istituto di Patologia del Libro.
He also attended lectures on archaeological surveys organised by the Lerici Foundation in Rome. A special subvention from the Centre enabled Mr. Shogbola to follow an intensive course in French at the University of Besançon, before leaving for Brussels where he attended a course of lectures at the Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique, to enable him to take up his post as technical assistant at the Jos regional centre.

- Mr. J. Nkrumah, a former Centre Scholarship holder, also attended the Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique course for the same purpose.

- Miss R. M. Haussmann finished her studies at the Istituto Centrale del Restauro where she came out first of the 1965 group. Since May 1966 Miss Haussmann has been working at the Bundesdenkmalamt in Vienna.

- Mrs. J. M. Berteaux perfected herself in the conservation of mural paintings whilst taking part in the restoration of mural paintings being treated by the Istituto Centrale del Restauro at the Palatine.

- Mr. von Imhoff studied Italian restoration methods at the Istituto Centrale del Restauro and carried out bibliographic research work in the libraries of Rome. After his stay in Italy, the Swiss National Museum in Zurich engaged him as restorer.

- Mr. Mohamed Darwish took particular interest in the conservation and restoration of ceramics; he took part in restoration work at the Museo delle Terme, Ostia and Palestrina.

- Mrs. L. Arellano studied at the Istituto Centrale del Restauro the conservation of paintings on wood and canvas and mural paintings. She also attended a course at the restoration workshop of the Galleria degli Uffizi in Florence and with Prof. Leonetto Tintori.

- Mr. J. Georgijevic improved his knowledge of paper conservation and the conservation of books and miniatures whilst attending a course at the Istituto di Patologia del Libro.

b. For the 1965-66 academic year scholarships were granted to the following:-

- Mr. Daniel Tworek (Poland) 1 month
- Mr. M. S. Talwar (India) 8 months
- Miss Carmen del Valle (Spain) 8 months
- Miss Annette von Krämer (Germany) 8 months
- Mr. Schmuel Tamari (Israel) 7 months
- Mr. Claude Huot (France) 1 month
- Mr. Michel Sawko (Belgium) 3 months
- Mr. D. Tworek, head of the Research Laboratory at the Warsaw National Archaeological Museum visited the Italian specialised institutions and studied their methods of work and documentation.

- Mr. M. S. Talwar, Assistant Chemist, National Museum, New Delhi, studied mural paintings, archaeological objects and library documents and archives. Thanks to an additional scholarship from the John D. Rockefeller IIIrd Foundation, he was able to visit various European institutions in Florence, Zurich, Paris, London, Brussels, Stuttgart, Munich and Copenhagen.

- Miss Carmen del Valle, studied the restoration of canvas and wood paintings at the Istituto Centrale del Restauro.

- Miss Annette von Krämer studied the restoration of mural paintings (Casa di Livia) and also the restoration of objects found during excavations.

- Mr. Schmuel Tamari attended the Course on the Conservation and Restoration of Historical Monuments. A further scholarship granted directly by the Italian Government enabled him to take part in excavation work in Italy.

- Mr. Claude Huot studied the restoration methods used on wood panels at the Istituto Centrale del Restauro.

- Mr. Michel Sawko studied the treatment of mural paintings. He was part in restoration work being carried out on Roman frescoes at the Palatine (Casa di Livia) and the ancient frescoes from Massada (Israel).

For the present academic year, scholarships have been granted to the following:

- Mr. W. Haakma Wegenaar (Netherlands) 8 months
- Miss Carmen del Valle (Spain) 8 months
- Mr. Raymundo Velasquez (Mexico) 6 months
- Mr. Julian Dimitrov Dimitrov (Bulgaria) 6 months

As usual the Centre has also given assistance to several UNESCO scholarship holders.

c. Total number of scholarships granted by the Centre from 1961 to 1966.

Since 1961, the Centre has granted a total of 38 scholarships from the Italian Government to specialists in restoration, and this has enabled them to spend a total of 197 months in Italy. These scholarships have been shared out by the following countries:

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<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Scholarships</th>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>16 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulgaria</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>France</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Germany</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20 months</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ghana 1 scholarship 8 months
Great Britain 1 " 4 months
Iraq 1 " 8 months
India 3 " 20 months
Israel 3 " 12 months
Jordan 1 " 4 months
Libya 1 " 4 months
Malaysia 1 " 1 month
Mexico 2 " 10 months
Netherlands 1 " 8 months
New Zealand 1 " 6 months
Nigeria 1 " 8 months
Poland 6 " 21 months
Spain 2 " 16 months
Switzerland 1 " 8 months
Yugoslavia 2 " 8 months

7. Organisation of meetings of specialists

A meeting of specialists on the Conservation of Stone was organised by the Centre in Brussels at the Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique on February 25th and 26th 1966, within the programme of the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories and in collaboration with ICOMOS. The following attended this meeting:

Messrs. René Sneyers Director, Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique, Brussels
J. Pochon Institut Pasteur, Paris
J. Lehmann University of Poznan
J. Van Asperen de Boer Museums Laboratory, Amsterdam
S. Lewin New York University
A. Diaz Martos Instituto Central de Restauracion, Madrid
Cabrera
A. Kieslinger Technische Hochschule, Vienna
P. Gazzola ICOMOS
R. Lemaire ICOMOS
J.P. Paquet Archit. en chef des Monuments Historiques, Paris
P. Sanpaolesi University of Florence
K. Schmid Wesfälisches Denkmalamt
J. Taubert Bayerisches Landesamt für Denkmalpflege
G. Torraca Rome Centre
P. Philippot Rome Centre
Ir. F. G. Riessauw Laboratorium Magnel, Gand
L. Forget & Hisette of C.S.T.C., Brussels
The object of this meeting was to ascertain what stage had been reached in research work and experimentation and to consider together with several specialists a working programme of future developments.

8. Research and laboratory work

Regarding research and laboratory work, the Centre has carried out the following:-

- The Assistant Director in collaboration with Mr. Paolo Mora and Mr. Giorgio Torraca, Scientific Assistant, drew up a report on the basic study of technique and the conservation of mural paintings which was presented to the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories and Sub-Committee for the Care of Paintings in Washington and New York in September 1965.

- The Assistant Director also drew up and presented to this same meeting a general report on the Problem of the formation of restorers in Western Europe and also prepared lectures on the History of Painting Techniques and a lecture on the Theory of Restoration, both lectures to be used within his teaching programme at the Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique.

- The Centre's laboratory has also contributed to the study of the damaged stonework on the front of the Ferrara Cathedral and of the Tabularium at the Capitol in Rome. The laboratory has also carried out experiments on the consolidation of buildings made of sun-baked brickwork.

- The Centre has taken part since 1965 in the programme for testing products and materials used in the conservation of mural paintings. This work has been carried out by Miss Margaret Hey within the programme of the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories.

- Besides this the laboratory has taken part in experiments on the control of humidity in the Etruscan Tombs at Tarquinia carried out by Prof. Paribeni of the Polytechnique School in Rome.

- Finally, the laboratory has been making a comparative study of methods used for the artificial patination of bronze coins.

9. Contribution to the conservation of cultural property in Florence

Immediately after the flood had subsided in Florence, the Centre placed at the disposal of the Istituto Centrale del Restauro the sum of $1,000 to cover the first expenses of a group of restorers sent to Florence from the Istituto. The Centre's Scientific Assistant took part in the first operations to save Florentine works of art and in the environmental control of the rooms where these were temporarily being housed.
UNESCO and the Director General of Fine Arts in Italy then appointed the Centre to be the official channel for the correlation of requests and international offers for help in saving the numerous works of art in peril.

III. - Collaboration with other International Organisations

The Centre and ICOM took the initiative in organising annual meetings of representatives from UNESCO, ICOM, ICOMOS, IIC and the Centre, to ensure closer collaboration between the various international organisations concerned with conservation and to find ways of coordinating their various programmes particularly as regards the training of specialists and publications. With this in mind, the Centre has assumed the task of preparing an international calendar of meetings in the conservation world and tries as often as possible to send a representative from the Centre to the most important meetings and conferences held by other organisations. Thus, the Director and Executive Secretary attended the ICOMOS General Assembly held in Warsaw and Cracow (June 19-27, 1965), the Director and Assistant Director attended the ICOM General Conference held in Washington and New York (September/October, 1965), the Director attended the Bath Conference (September 1966) organised by the Council of Europe on the revival of historical centres; he also attended the ICOMOS Council Meeting and the UNESCO General Conference held in Paris in November and December 1966. The Assistant Director attended on the 14th and 15th December 1966, the ICOMOS Meeting held to form a project for its documentation service.

Relations with ICOM have become particularly close due to the fact that the Centre's Director and Assistant Director are President and Secretary General of the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories. As a result of this, the Centre took part in the organisation of the Joint Meeting held in Washington and New York of the Laboratories Committee and Sub-Committee for the Care of Paintings. Together with ICOM's Secretariat, the Centre is preparing the next Joint Meeting to be held in Brussels at the Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique in September 1967. Relations between ICOM and the Centre will be further reinforced when both Committees become reorganised. The Centre is therefore in a position to maintain permanent contact with specialists in all fields of conservation, to encourage relations between them, promote and coordinate research work and be constantly informed of their progress.