

**AIC MEMBER BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES**  
**Milwaukee, Wisconsin**  
**13 May 2010**

*Minutes of the meeting submitted by the AIC Secretary Lisa Bruno  
and approved by the AIC Board of Directors*

AIC President Meg Craft called the meeting to order at 12:15 p.m. and welcomed attendees to the Member Business Meeting. In lieu of a report, she made several announcements.

- The title of the 2011 General Session is *ETHOS, LOGOS, PATHOS: ethical principles and critical thinking in conservation*. Ethics, logic, and perception guide conservation decisions. The assumptions long held in the practice of conservation are challenged by the modern world: environmental sustainability; economic drivers; art as entertainment; the use of cultural heritage; public access. How is the practice of conservation changing? Do the core values of conservation still hold? This general session will examine existing assumptions about the way conservation decisions are made and the changing environment in which these decisions are taken today. How do the core values of conservation guide conservators presented with the challenges of preserving new media? Does the increasing trend in collecting institutions towards outsourcing conservation services affect the long term preservation of cultural heritage? Subjects for presentations might include: increased accessibility and use of built heritage; the effects of changing environmental standards on lending practices; the treatment of contemporary and ephemeral works; artists' and owners' rights; the evolution of ethical codes of conduct.
- The National Endowment for the Humanities has a new grant program of interest to AIC members. *Sustaining Cultural Heritage Collections* has been designed to help institutions “meet the complex challenge of preserving large and diverse holdings of humanities materials by supporting preventive conservation measures that mitigate risks and prolong the useful life of collections.” The grant program can be used for both planning and implementation phases.
- The American Academy in Rome has announced the Rome Prize for 2010-2011. Prize winners in Historic Preservation and Conservation are Mark Rabinowitz, Fellow of AIC and Vice President of Conservation Solutions, Inc. for *The study of Italian marble quarrying and carving techniques from the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century used in the creation of American monuments*; John Matteo for *Written in Stone: Reading Strength in Architecture for Ancient to Modern*; and, Laurie Rush for *Cultural Property Protection: International Military Education and Building Partnership*. Laurie was instrumental in developing playing cards to educate the military about cultural property in Iraq. The Rome Prize is a wonderful opportunity for conservators to study and do research. AIC members are encouraged to apply.

- A new Center for Textile Conservation, History and Technical Art History is being established at the University of Glasgow in an agreement with the Textile Conservation Centre Foundation (TCCF). It will focus on multidisciplinary object-based teaching and research that encompasses conservation and the physical sciences as well as art history, dress, and textile history.
- AIC-CERT members are beginning to deploy to Haiti through a partnership with the Smithsonian Institution and U.S. Committee of the Blue Shield, as part of the Smithsonian's Haitian Cultural Recovery Project, which has been created in cooperation with the government of Haiti. Go to the AIC website for updates.

### **Secretary's Report**

Secretary Lisa Bruno asked for any comments on the 2009 Member Business Meeting Minutes, which had been posted on the AIC website prior to the meeting and were available at each table at the meeting. With no comments forthcoming, Bruno made a motion to approve the minutes. Pam Hatchfield seconded the motion and the minutes of the 2009 Member Business Meeting were approved unanimously.

### **Nominating Committee Report**

Committee Vice Chair Mary Striegel announced the newly elected AIC Board members. In a contested election, Lisa Bruno was elected to serve a second term as Secretary. Brian Howard will serve a second term as Treasurer. Nancie Ravenel will serve as the new Director of Communications, securing the vote in a three-way contested election. Paul Messier was thanked for his excellent work as Director of Communications over the past six years. All nominees were thanked for their willingness to serve on the AIC Board of Directors.

The Nominating Committee Vice Chair then called for nominations of Fellows and Professional Associates for the open position on the Nominating Committee. Paul Messier was nominated by Caitlin O'Grady and seconded by Jill Whitten. Molly Lambert was nominated by Mary Jablonski and seconded by Jane Klinger. Both nominees agree to serve. Meg Craft moved to close nominations and it was seconded by Emily Kaplan. A paper vote was taken during the Business Meeting with all AIC members eligible to vote, and Paul Messier was elected to serve on the Nominating Committee for a three-year term.

### **Bylaws Amendment Discussion and Vote**

Bylaws Committee Member Tom Braun presented the proposed amendment to Section VII of the AIC Bylaws, which had been disseminated to all members prior to the meeting, as specified in the Bylaws. Following email comments by members, the language was amended and posted for any additional comments before being brought to attendees for discussion and vote.

The proposed amendment reads: These Bylaws may be amended, repealed or altered, in whole or part, by a vote (including electronic vote) of not less than two thirds (2/3) of the Fellows and Professional Associates casting a vote at which a quorum is present (members who vote by electronic vote are deemed present). Notice of any proposed

Bylaw change or changes must be furnished in writing (which may include an electronic transmission) to the members entitled to vote not less than thirty (30) days prior to the vote.

The lively discussion by meeting attendees focused on how member discussions prior to a vote would take place if the vote were passed and how far in advance of a vote would discussion take place. The AIC Board was encouraged to ensure that dedicated means for discussion (such as a listserv or blog) be instituted. The AIC Board can also include time for discussions about proposed revisions within an Issues Session or a Business Meeting, when considered necessary. It was requested that a period greater than the 30 days required in the Bylaws for discussion be made policy by the AIC Board. Board President Meg Craft stated that the AIC Board would consider policies related to proposed Bylaws revisions.

A paper vote was taken during the meeting, with only Professional Associates and Fellows eligible to vote. Ballots were checked against a list of eligible voters during the vote count. The proposed bylaw revision was approved by a vote of 85 to 6.

#### **Awards Announcements**

AIC President Meg Craft announced that the Award for Outstanding Commitment of the Preservation and Care of Collections, a joint award with Heritage Preservation, has been awarded to the office of the Architect of the Capitol and the Friends of Iolani Palace. The presentations will take place at the awardees' sites in cooperation with them.

The AIC President announced that Mary Wood Lee has been awarded Honorary Membership. Ms. Lee played a fundamental role introducing modern conservation practice to Hawaii. In 1978, she established the Pacific Regional Conservation Center in Honolulu. In addition, Ms. Lee served as Director of the Campbell Center from 1989-1999. Ms. Lee was unable to attend the meeting to accept the award.

Special Recognition for Allied Professionals was awarded to Drs. Robert Blanchette, Joel Jurgens, and Benjamin Held, of the University of Minnesota, Forest Pathology Department, all of whom have contributed to the preservation of historic structures, objects, and shipwreck sites through their study of wood and organisms that have an effect on degradation. They have continually assisted conservators and preservation specialists in understanding the factors of deterioration at historic sites. Their work has taken them to many archaeological sites and had them work with materials all over the world including the historic explorer huts in Antarctica and the Arctic, ancient Egyptian statues, and shipwreck sites such as the USS Monitor, among others.

Dr. Blanchette and his team have worked to make their research known to others through publications, including the *JAIC* and *Conservation and Management of Archaeological Sites*. All three awardees were present at the meeting. When accepting the award, Dr. Blanchette stressed how much they have learned from and the fun they had working with the conservation community.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Eryl Wentworth began her remarks by reminding attendees that in May of the prior year AIC had just launched the new website and in the following month FAIC assumed responsibility for CoOL and the Conservation DistList. Over the past year, AIC and FAIC greatly expanded the use of technology, increasing our ability to communicate internally and externally and broadening our outreach efforts. At the same time, AIC and FAIC have expanded international initiatives.

Wentworth focused her remarks on the FAIC strategic planning initiative, generously supported by the Getty Foundation and the Institute of Museum and Library Services. Over the past year, data was gathered through a series of surveys, four summit discussions were hosted, and a strategic plan for the Foundation created. Wentworth encouraged members to go the website for additional information.

There is a critical synergy between AIC and FAIC. While AIC is a 501(c)6 national membership organization supporting conservation professionals, the Foundation is a 501(c)3 corporation, organized for educational, scientific, and charitable purposes. The two organizations have always supported each other. Yet in recent years, FAIC's sole role was to seek grant funds for AIC activities, and, for many years, it has been governed by the same board members as AIC, even the same officers. In many ways, FAIC ceased to have an identity of its own.

The strategic planning effort was begun to answer a fundamental question, namely "How should FAIC direct and apply its energies and resources to provide the greatest benefit to the field of conservation, to conservators, and to the institutions and individuals with whom they work?" The new strategic plan reflects three goals developed to answer this question, and while these statements are seemingly simple, they each include several major strategies and initiatives. The three goals are:

### *Expand and Strengthen the Core Educational Purposes of the Foundation*

This includes maintaining and expanding the Professional Education Program and Allied Professional Education Program, along with developing a Public Education Program—all in concert with AIC. This goal also includes increasing conservation literature available to the profession—both print and online.

### *Build Awareness and Advance Support of the Conservation Profession*

Included in this goal are several initiatives: continuing the FAIC Oral History File program in collaboration with the Winterthur Museum & Country Estate, enhancing and promoting the AIC-CERT initiative, managing and improving CoOL and the DistList, and developing a model for a "Best Practices" initiative and initiating a model program. In addition, this goal includes expanding outreach activities and developing a marketing plan for each of the initiatives outlined.

### *Strengthen the Organization and Structure of FAIC*

This third goal is a critical component of the plan. While it includes developing communications and development plans, it also addresses how the organization is structured and how AIC and FAIC work together.

The Foundation board is now being expanded to include those who are not conservators, but who can bring to expertise and experience we currently lack. FAIC is seeking those who can open doors and help attract unrestricted funds.

For this board to be effective, AIC members, and particularly AIC board members and those serving on the FAIC board, will need to share their understanding of and passion for the conservation and preservation community with new FAIC board members. At the same time, these new board members will be able to help us look at our strategies more globally. This will mean a change in how we work and in how we grow—to effectively broaden our support.

AIC and FAIC could not accomplish all that is done without the generous support of a number agencies and foundations. Wentworth thanked the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, Getty Foundation, NEH, NEA, IMLS, Samuel H. Kress Foundation, and the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training, a division of the National Park Service. Many others organizations have provided sponsorships in support of AIC and FAIC events. These include a number of our exhibitors, all listed in the Final Program, and the Getty Conservation Institute.

Wentworth ended by thanking the AIC and FAIC Boards of Directors for their leadership and guidance, along with the many other volunteer members who serve as SG officers and committee and task force members whose hard work advances our goals. And, beyond any formal structures, many other members have helped AIC achieve its goals by contributing to our publications, serving as course instructors, presenting at our meetings, facilitating collaborations with other organizations, and much more.

### **Treasurer's Report**

AIC and FAIC Treasurer Brian Howard began with a brief review of AIC and FAIC as separate organizations and reported that the 2009 consolidated audit was approved by the board. The auditor stated that AIC and FAIC have conformed with generally accepted accounting principles and the audit was unqualified.

AIC FY2010 budgeted income is \$1,232,403, with the largest portions coming from Membership Dues (\$460,350) and the Annual Meeting (\$291,000). AIC will also benefit from \$120,000 in overhead from FAIC in 2010. Specialty Group income is estimated at \$138,303. AIC 2010 budgeted expenses total \$1,215,727. Expense levels for Membership & Administration, Meetings, and Publications are similar and each exceeds \$325,000. Specialty Group expenses are estimated at \$204,695, while Committees and Task Force expenses are estimated at \$17,590. AIC's net assets have grown steadily from 2003 through 2007 and, while investment income was down in 2008 and 2009, AIC's net assets in 2009 were strong at \$832,561.

FAIC FY2010 budgeted income is \$709,899, with the largest income from grants and investment allocation. 2010 expenses are estimated at \$877,273. Major initiatives include estimated expenses of \$66,691 for CoOL, \$44,233 for AIC-CERT, and \$432,700 for Professional Development. Each category includes allocations of salary. FAIC net assets also grew steadily from 2003 to 2007, taking a dip in 2008, and reaching a total high of \$4,561,199 in 2009.

More information about the audit and AIC and FAIC finances will be posted on the website when the audit has been finalized.

## **Professional Development Report**

Education & Training Board Director Karen Pavelka provided an update on professional development activities. The Professional Development Program includes workshops at annual meetings, regional workshops across the country, and co-sponsorships with a wide variety of organizations. Since the program started in 2002, FAIC has offered 174 workshops for 5,502 individuals. In 2009 alone, 28 events were attended by 1,964 professionals. In addition, 14 different grant and scholarship programs are offered.

The Professional Development Program is supported by earnings from the FAIC Endowment for Professional Development, established in 2001 with a grant from the Mellon Foundation. Additional grants expand significantly on these offerings, such as the 2008 Mellon Foundation grant for Collaborative Workshops in Photograph Conservation. FAIC has received four, two-year grants from NEH to support workshops and scholarships. The current grant supports four workshops in 2010 and five in 2011, including two at the annual meeting in Pittsburgh. New grants include a recent NEA grant to support a fall workshop on video art conservation.

The Foundation's newest initiative involves establishing a photograph conservation department at the Hermitage Museum in St. Petersburg, Russia. The initiative is focused on the care and conservation of over 45,000 photographs in the Russian History and Culture Department. This historic collection is just one of the 44 photograph collections within the Hermitage Museum identified in a recent survey conducted under the direction of Paul Messier. Despite holding over 472,000 photographs, the Hermitage does not currently have a photograph conservation staff or facility.

The six components of the initiative include training in photograph conservation, advising on conservation lab design, assisting in cataloging the collection, establishing a digital conservation documentation facility and expertise, providing materials and equipment for the lab, and providing educational and reference materials (including translations).

The Mellon Foundation grant was awarded at the end of March 2010, and a first meeting of the Advisory Group was held at the end of April in St. Petersburg to frame the initial activities. The Advisory Committee is led by Project Director Paul Messier and includes Robert Burton (Harvard), Vyacheslav Fedorov (Hermitage), Franziska Frey (RIT), Bertrand Lavédrine (CRCC, Paris), Debra Hess Norris (UDel), and Eric Pourchot (FAIC). At the April meetings, an initial schedule of training, for curators and scientists as well as conservation staff, was outlined.

FAIC is an integral part of the initiative and is being compensated for providing financial and management services. We also plan to use the library resources portion of the grant to provide a model for how multimedia and multiple language materials might be organized and indexed on CoOL. The initiative will serve as a model within the Hermitage Museum that we hope will be adopted by other departments within the museum, as well as by other museums in Russia and elsewhere throughout the world.

This initiative builds on FAIC's existing international programs:

- Latin American and Caribbean Conservators scholarship program
- International speakers
- *Printed on Paper* symposium in the United Kingdom
- *Furniture in France* conservation study tours
- AIC Collections Emergency Response Team deployment to Haiti
- CoOL and the ConsDistList with 57% of users outside the United States

Following the report, attendees commented on the new FAIC initiative with the Hermitage Museum. While some members expressed concern over the scope and specificity of the project, several members viewed this as an opportunity for FAIC to demonstrate what role it can play in the realm of larger scale conservation projects. An attendee questioned its value when so much needs to be done in the United States. Others expressed support for the initiative and feeling honored that FAIC was a part of such a significant initiative.

### **Update on Erbil**

Terry Drayman-Weisser presented a report on the Iraq Cultural Heritage Project from Jessica Johnson, who sent her regrets that she could not attend the AIC Annual Meeting this year. The text of Johnson's report is presented here.

“The Iraqi Institute for the Conservation and Preservation of Antiquities and Heritage is an educational program developed to help bring the knowledge and skills of Iraqi heritage professionals up to current international standards. There are two educational programs, the Conservation and Collections Management Program (focused on the preservation of moveable heritage) and the Historic Preservation and Archaeology Program (focused on the preservation of immovable heritage).

The development of the Iraqi Institute is sponsored by the US State Department's Embassy in Baghdad. It is managed by Stephen Goldrup and Diane Siebrandt in the Embassy's Cultural Affairs Office. The Institute is part of a larger program called the Iraq Cultural Heritage Program or ICHP. International Relief and Development (a US-based non-governmental organization) is responsible for the execution of the program. Under ICHP, major improvements have been made to the Iraqi Museum in Baghdad through infrastructure upgrades to the roof and HVAC system and by refurbishing eleven exhibit halls and three floors of a storage facility. ICHP-sponsored Iraqi heritage professionals have traveled to Chicago to receive training from our colleagues at the Field Museum and Oriental Institute. Archaeology and conservation books and site reports are being translated, digitized and placed on-line and many books have been purchased and sent to Iraq already.

The Iraqi Institute is located in Erbil, Iraq. The Iraqi Institute building, recently renovated through support from the Kurdish Regional Government, is located a block away from the historic citadel at the center of town. This location is a perfect spot for an educational institution working to develop the knowledge and skills of heritage professionals from

throughout Iraq. Iraqi Institute students are all professionals working for the Iraqi State Board of Antiquities and Heritage.

There are currently nine students in the Preservation Program, directed by Dr. Rima Al Ajlouni. Dr. Al Ajlouni is on leave from the College of Architecture, Texas Tech University where she is an Assistant Professor. The program for the preservation students is a mixture of theory and practical work designed to give them a strong grounding in the historical and international context of preservation. They are educated in the legal and ethical frameworks for preservation, cultural resource management and documentation, and given condition assessment and planning practice. Practical work is taking place on the Erbil Citadel. Students are working with a number of different experts involved in the documentation and planning process taking place to prepare the Citadel for nomination as a World Heritage site.

There are currently eight students in the Conservation Program directed by me. The training for conservation students is giving them a broad background in preventive conservation, including understanding the agents of deterioration, and how conservation fits into exhibit planning and development. They are developing improved skills for documentation including digital photography and condition assessment. They are given excavation practice for fragile artifacts and information on the technology, deterioration and care of the kinds of collections they have in their museums including archaeological stone, glass, ivory, metals, and Islamic manuscripts and ethnographic textiles.

I want to thank my conservation colleagues from the University of Delaware, Winterthur Museum and Gardens, and the Walters Art Gallery (in particular Debbie Hess Norris, Lois Price, Vicki Cassman and Terry Weisser) for their unending support and ideas. The National Park Service also provided early ideas and planning for the building renovation and the preservation program. These colleagues and many others have been directly responsible for the success of the Institute as it has developed from an idea to a reality.

To give you some sense of the building that has been renovated and furnished here are some numbers: It is 13,571 sq feet on the ground floor, and 9,174 sq feet on the upper floor. We have:

- 1 loading dock
- 1 library
- 1 x-ray room
- 1 multi-purpose space (cafeteria / exhibit hall / meeting hall)
- 1 security / IT room
- 1 outdoor teaching "pit" (a 3x3x1 meter concrete box for doing mock excavations and lifting exercises)
- 2 reception areas
- 2 classrooms
- 2 kitchens
- 2 living rooms
- 4 WCs
- 6 laboratory spaces



6 office spaces  
13 student rooms to house up to 26 students

We are currently teaching 17 students and to date have had 11 visiting lecturers.

A number of conservators have worked with us in Erbil and I know some of them are there with you in Milwaukee. Cathy Hawks, JP Brown, Rob Waller, Kent Severson, and Paul Hepworth have already worked with us – others like Terry Weisser, Nancy Odegaard and Scott Carrlee are coming later this year. These colleagues, with their combined decades of experience are helping to bring the understanding and knowledge of our Iraqi students up to current international standards after years of isolation.

I also want to thank AIC for posting information about the need for books for the Iraqi Institute library on their website and in the Newsletter. Many of you have donated books to us and we have inventoried them on-line in LibraryThing (which I learned about through the OSG-L). The slide shows a sample of what we've received. Each donated book has a bookplate in English, Arabic and Kurdish giving the name of the person who donated it. We are more than happy to take further donations. You can check if we already have a particular book by going to the LibraryThing website, searching for Iraqi Institute and then searching for the book.

Finally, on behalf of myself and my colleagues Brian Lione, our Project Coordinator and Dr. Rima Al Ajlouni I want to say several more times thank you, thank you, thank you. The best part of this project has been the amazing professional support the international heritage community has given to us in many ways. Living and working in Iraq, getting to know Iraqi people and hearing the stories of what they have survived over the last decades, and seeing the beautiful landscape with its fantastic ancient heritage has been an amazing experience. But the best part of it has been our student colleagues who come from across the country. Every one of them works hard every day, shares their ideas and experiences, laughter and kindness with us. Their passion for their country and their heritage (which is important to the whole world) makes our work easy.”

### **Old Business**

A diversity initiative was proposed to address the lack of diversity in the field of conservation. Attendees were reminded of a similar initiative that was undertaken in the 1990s that did not serve to increase diversity in the field. There was also some confusion about whether funding was provided by the Getty, what took place, and when. Follow up research was suggested.\*

Potential reasons for this lack of success were discussed. Initiatives that are structured to create excitement about the field through the arts and sciences in high schools was thought to be a good approach to attract high school students from a range of backgrounds. A number of members, particularly CIPP members, have already developed and are implementing such programs in high schools around the country. AIC can assist in expanding this type of program by gathering and disseminating information

and resources online. The AIC Board will consider if a task force needs to be created to address this issue.

### **New Business**

An attendee noted a gap between fellowships and available jobs that can force those new in the field to take multiple fellowships while waiting for job openings. There is little that AIC can do directly to increase the number of jobs available. It was suggested that graduate programs work with funding agencies to create funded assistant positions.

President Meg Craft adjourned the meeting at 2:20 p.m.

\*In reviewing the files following the Annual Meeting, it was found that the 1996 Cultural Diversity Summer Internship Program was funded by the Getty Grant Program (\$60,000). The program was created to introduce the conservation profession to minority college students with a particular interest in fine art, art history, architecture, and chemistry. Phase I consisted of determining how and what to communicate to minority students through research on current cultural diversity programs and existing materials. Host sites were also identified. In Phase II, fact sheets were prepared and conservators identified to present programs about conservation and to recruit ethnic and racial minority undergraduates. Phase III included 12 interns working at 11 host sites over a 10-week period and evaluations of these internships. The experiences recorded from both the interns and the host sites were mixed, but generally positive. In Phase IV, a career brochure was prepared and additional funding sought to continue the internship program.

The 1997 Cultural Diversity Summer Internship Program was funded by the Nathan Cummings Foundation (\$50,000) and American Express Foundation (\$10,000). The program was structured similarly to the 1996 program and supported 12 internships at 10 host sites. Again, the experiences were rated generally positive, with a majority of the interns stating a desire to pursue a career in conservation.

There is no mention of additional funding being sought and the program ended in its second year. No follow-up notes have been found at this time.