



Editorial

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CONSERVATION SCIENCE

Papers arising from the ICCROM FORUM on Conservation Science
Rome, 16-18 October 2013

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Papers arising from the ICCROM 2013 Forum on Conservation Science
Supplement to *Studies in Conservation*

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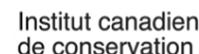
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Editorial

The papers gathered together in this supplement to *Studies in Conservation* (supplement 2 for 2015) present the findings of the ICCROM Forum on Conservation Science. This international think tank event which took place in Rome in 2013 was brought into being through the collaboration and support of an international consortium of 16 institutional partners, and provided a venue for critical reflection regarding the current role and future directions of science in the field of cultural heritage conservation worldwide.

The Forum recommendations focus on enhancing the integration, relevance and impact of conservation science within the cultural heritage conservation sector, and its capacity to deliver wider societal benefit. In its findings, the Forum highlighted key issues such as the setting of strategic priorities, and promoting engagement and dialogue with stakeholders beyond the sector (e.g. policy makers and the public), as well as the need to strengthen the role of specific actors within the sector (e.g. conservation organizations and educational institutions) to carry this forward.

To communicate the findings of the Forum, the recommendations developed by the eight discussion groups on the final day of the Forum have been summarized and further elaborated by individual authors into the series of position papers presented in this volume. Each paper relates to the work of a single discussion group, apart from that by Heritage and Golfomitsou, which provides an overview of the Forum findings as a whole and outlines follow-up initiatives. Four of the papers are concerned with broad issues of relevance and effectiveness: the paper by Brokerhof focuses on enhancing the contribution of conservation science to heritage conservation, Lagnesjö discusses the contribution to wider societal priorities, Bell outlines how to set strategic priorities for the sector, and Michalski examines tools for assessing needs and impact. A further four papers focus on specific actors both within and beyond the

sector: Corbeil considers the role of conservation organizations, Golfomitsou sets out new paradigms for education and training, Lee details the processes of policy making and the needs of policy makers, and Lithgow elaborates opportunities for enhancing collaboration and co-working with the public.

While these papers in part present the individual viewpoints of the authors, nevertheless it is important to recognize that each stems fundamentally from the findings of the Forum discussion groups, and therefore contains the collective contributions of all those involved. In writing these papers, each author has made considerable efforts to remain faithful to the spirit and recommendations of the Forum. Yet, at the same time through reflection and in light of their own personal experiences, the authors have managed to convert the somewhat raw statements that inevitably result from such group work into polemical inspiring pieces that take stock of the current status of the field and make compelling arguments for change. We wish to thank all those who contributed to the success of the Forum and the production of these papers, most notably the consortium partners, the Forum participants, the authors of these papers, and also the fellow colleagues, interns and consultants at ICCROM, without whose efforts the Forum, and this publication would not have been possible. An appendix with the names of all participating institutions of the Forum Consortium of partners, their designated contact persons, the participants at the Forum, and the composition of the various discussion groups is provided at the end of the volume.

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