

Preventive Conservation: Practice in the Field of Built Heritage

Annual Congress, Fribourg, Switzerland, 3-4 September 2009

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The conference “Preventive conservation: practice in the field of built heritage” was held on 3-4 September 2009 at Fribourg, Switzerland. It was the very topic of the 2009 annual congress and annual general meeting of the Swiss Association of Conservator-Restorers (SCR/SKR).

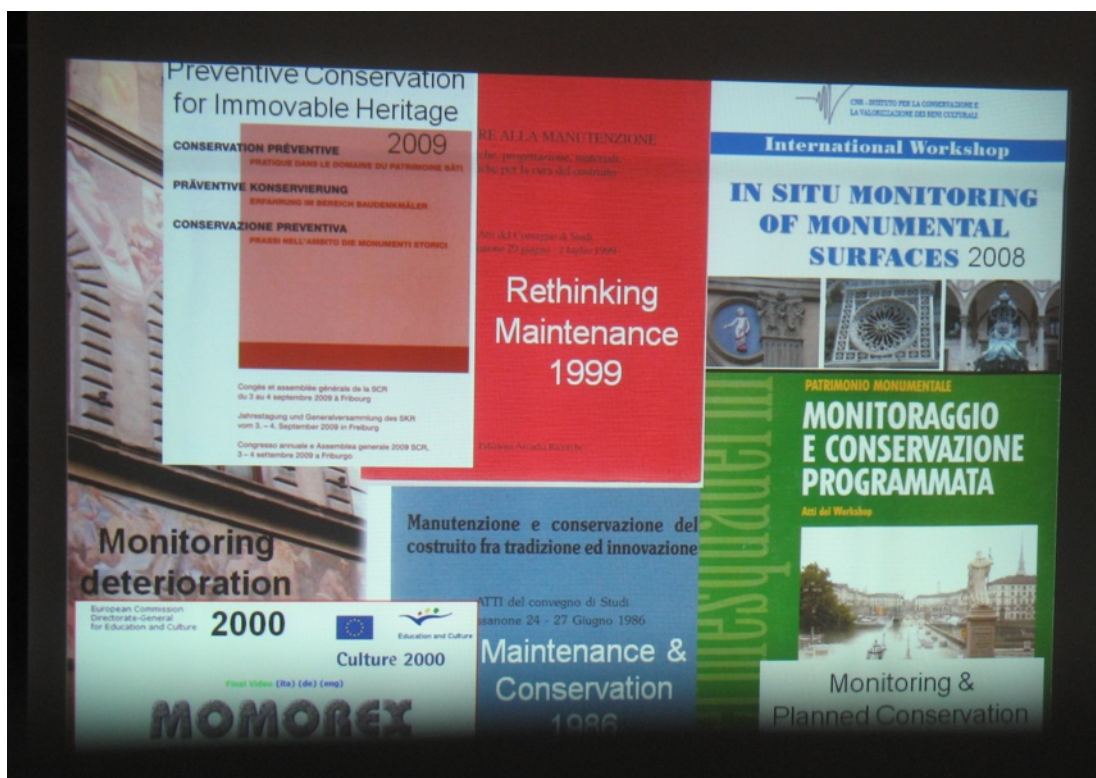
Preventive conservation is universally recognized and generally practiced in the museum context, but in the last 50 years, the importance of regular inspection and maintenance of historic buildings has been emphasized, and recently, the same principles have been reiterated by the Swiss Commission of Historic Monuments.

There are several subjects in this symposium:

1. Definition of preventive conservation in the field of built heritage and monumental objects: the tasks, the competences, and the structures.
2. Legislative frameworks and subsidy: how to encourage maintenance? What are the economic impacts? How can regular maintenance be practiced?
3. Inspection and monitoring as preventive conservation tools for built heritage.
4. The use of risk assessment in the practice of preventive conservation.



Different cases of application in European countries, America, African and Asian countries were discussed. The director of Monumentenwacht Vlaanderen, Anouk Stulens (Belgium) and the chair of Maintain Our Heritage, George Allan (The United Kingdoms), both as keynote speakers, shared their experiences on maintenance and monitoring of historic buildings. There were also experts from Switzerland, Germany, Italy, USA and so on. Two researchers of RLICC, Hsien-yang Tseng and Meiping Wu participated in the symposium and both submitted their papers and posters. A book of proceedings titled “Preventive Conservation: Practice in the field of built heritage”, was published for the symposium, and it contains 28 papers from the participants.



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Guided visit to the Cathedral of Saint Nicolas in Fribourg during the conference
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The emerging preventive concepts and practices in the field of the conservation of built heritage. From the presentation of Francesca Piqué, SUPSI Lugano