



## Herb Stovel. Editorial

This volume of *Conversaciones...* is dedicated to a dear former colleague, Herb Stovel (1948-2012). He was a giant in the field of conservation. He played an important role in the preparation of a number of important international documents and his constant support for younger conservation professionals, always encouraging and bringing out the best of them.

A Canadian by birth, but a citizen of the world, he traveled far and wide, starting out as a backpacker. That seems to have sparked his eagerness to deepen his knowledge of other places, and understand the importance of cultural heritage in each of them. As a young architect, he applied to the ICCROM course on Scientific Principles of Conservation (SPC) in 1982; as a participant, he would often wander into other ICCROM ongoing courses, always full of curiosity about what was happening everywhere. As is often the case with former ICCROM course participants, Herb became an important part of its network, and he returned on numerous occasions as a consultant and as a course lecturer.

Herb Stovel was also a professor at the University of Montreal where he served as the first director of its post-graduate conservation program. He became the President of the Association for Preservation Technology (APT) from 1989 to 1991; he additionally served as ICOMOS' Secretary General from 1990 to 1993 and as President of ICOMOS Canada from 1993 to 1997.

During those years, he was actively involved in international activities, promoting the development of theoretical issues in conservation. He participated in the drafting of the *New Orleans Charter* in 1991, a document that integrated the concerns of those involved with objects with the larger structures in which they are housed. The following year, he was also part of the development of the international Blue Shield risk-preparedness plan for built heritage; this topic would remain an important concern for him throughout his career. In 1991, he had already published his book, *Safeguarding historic urban ensembles in a time of change: a management guide for World Cultural Heritage cities*, which was a landmark publication in the field of urban conservation; it was later followed by *Risk preparedness: a management manual for World Cultural Heritage* published by ICCROM, ICOMOS, and UNESCO's World Heritage Centre in 1998.

During 1994, he was also deeply involved in the discussions related to authenticity and heritage and participated actively in the meetings that took place in Bergen and Nara. At the latter, he was one of the rapporteurs of the conference and drafters of the *Nara document on authenticity*, alongside Raymond Lemaire, who was responsible for the French version.

In 1998, he joined ICCROM where he was director of the Heritage Settlements Unit until 2004. In this capacity, he was in charge of the Integrated Territorial and Urban Conservation Programme (ITUC). He was part of the continued development of concepts related to integrated urban conservation, which eventually led to the current understanding of the Historic Urban

Landscape (HUL) approach. Herb Stovel was also interested in living heritage, and some of his ideas are contained in the book he edited along with Nicholas Stanley-Price and Robert Killick, *Conservation of living religious heritage*, published by ICCROM in 2005 as part of the ICCROM Conservation Series.

During this period, Herb Stovel organized a wide number of courses, both at ICCROM's premises in Rome, and also in many places including Lithuania, Hungary, Brazil, India, and the Dominican Republic. Herb Stovel also served as the Coordinator of ICCROM's role as an Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee, drafting the first Global Training Strategy for World Heritage in 2000 and participating in many aspects of the implementation of the World Heritage Convention.

After leaving ICCROM, he returned to Canada and became a professor in the Canadian Studies program at Carlton University in Ottawa. He also served as a frequent consultant to ICOMOS and to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre in work related to the World Heritage Convention. He was instrumental in setting up several of the new UNESCO Category 2 Centres focused on World Heritage through his preparation of feasibility studies for these centres prior to their approval by the Executive Board and General Conference of UNESCO. He also prepared the feasibility study for ICCROM's own ATHAR Regional Centre, located in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates.

Stovel was presented with the ICCROM Award at the 27<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly in November of 2011. For his devoted activity in favor of heritage conservation, he was also the recipient of numerous other honors, including an appointment to the Board of Governors of the Heritage Canada Foundation and membership in the Order of the Knights of the Apocalypse, conferred in Patmos, Greece by the Bishop of the Monastery of Saint John on behalf of the Greek Orthodox Church for services in conserving the religious heritage of Patmos, and promoting it around the world. He was also awarded the Lithuanian Order of Merit, conferred for services to the cause of heritage conservation in Lithuania and was appointed honorary Associate Professor in the School of Architecture at the University of Hong Kong. Additionally, he received an honorary membership in ICOMOS Canada, as well as the Heritage Canada Achievement Award.

This volume of *Conversaciones...* focuses on an article by Stovel, "Origins and influence of the *Nara document on authenticity*", which the *APT Bulletin* kindly allowed us to reproduce and translate here. The *Nara document*, in addition to clarifying the concept of authenticity, has been a key element in promoting the concept of cultural diversity in conservation. To accompany this text, we have invited five guest authors to explore the central ideas presented and discussed by Stovel. Several of them were present at the Nara Conference on authenticity in 1994, which makes their testimony to the importance of the ideas promoted there all the more relevant.

Jukka Jokilehto initiates these conversations, by launching a review on the questions on authenticity, and how this concept has evolved over time to arrive at its current meaning, which is deeply related to the concept of truth, and can have different meanings according to the context in which a heritage site is located. The concept of authenticity has been influenced by the increasingly wide range of elements which are considered to be heritage, and where diversity and the living aspects of heritage are fundamental for decision-making in relation to their conservation and management.

Christina Cameron, an active participant to the Nara Conference in 1994, analyses the evolution of the debate on authenticity, but she also focuses on another of the key concepts for heritage conservation, integrity, which has received less attention, and still requires further theorization. Christina Cameron adds on to Stovel's text in describing the further

developments of the concepts since 2008, using information from the interviews of Herb Stovel she conducted in 2011, as well as her own vast experience and knowledge in heritage conservation, and on the context of World Heritage.

Pascall Taruvunga offers a broad analysis of the concept of authenticity, following the Nara Conference, and the reflections made in the African context. He analyses the results of the discussions that took place at a workshop organized in Great Zimbabwe in 2000, particularly in view of integrating traditional systems as a relevant part of the conservation and management of heritage sites. Then offers additional ideas on the use and applicability of the concept of authenticity for a specific World Heritage site, Robben Island, whose history and material remains must be seen from many angles. He also reflects on an additional element promoted by the *Nara document*, related to the importance of relevant information sources.

Jean-Louis Luxen, another participant of the Nara Conference on authenticity, offers a critical study of the issues discussed in Nara, highlighting some previous discussions that had taken place within the framework of the *World Heritage Convention*. He continues his reflections regarding the implications of the *Nara document* in light of additional analyses within the World Heritage context, and particularly the impact of the Global Strategy, which aimed at having a more representative, balance and credible list of sites inscribed as World Heritage. This essay would also lead to a broader understanding of the Outstanding Universal Value, defined by a more inclusive view of cultural diversity.

Finally, Rohit Jigyasu presents a more personal account of Herb Stovel, and the influence he had in his career, steered towards disaster risk management, as well as in the organization of young conservation professionals in India. This reflection is very useful in understanding the lasting effect of Stovel's teachings, but also the impact that the evolving theorization on the concept of authenticity has had on the recovery and management of heritage affected by disasters.

This volume also contains a transcription of the *Nara document on authenticity* in its English version (drafted by Herb Stovel and containing his comments) and the French version (drafted by Raymond Lemaire), as well as a revised translation into Spanish, which takes into consideration the variations between both original versions. We also considered it would be important to include the *Riga Charter on authenticity and historical reconstruction in relation to cultural heritage*, also developed by Herb Stovel, and which he mentions in his article. It is accompanied by a translation into Spanish.

Stovel's professional legacy will be carried on by the hundreds of students and colleagues who have benefited from his knowledge and enthusiasm for heritage conservation. His contribution to the development of conservation concepts will also be long remembered, in particular related to the ideas surrounding the concepts of authenticity, integrity, disaster risk preparedness, living heritage, and cultural landscapes. His bibliography is presented at the end of this volume.

At ICCROM, Herb Stovel will be remembered for his warmth, generosity, and sense of humor, as well as for working lunches at Il Ponentino in Piazza del Drago where key conservation concepts were debated and discussed along with the fortunes of his favorite soccer team, AS Roma.

Valerie Magar and Joseph King  
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