

# Editorial

## International cooperation in the conservation of cultural heritage

The World Heritage Program was created in 1972, when UNESCO's General Conference adopted the "Convention for International Cooperation in the Protection of the Cultural and Natural Heritage of Humanity". Since then, we talk about cultural heritage beyond geographical borders, languages, and cultures. The Convention established that the preservation, meaning, and permanence of cultural heritage concern us all. While this was a milestone in heritage protection, it does not mark the beginning of the effort to preserve and value cultural heritage at the global level. Instead, its creation was precisely the result of prior historical, global efforts.

In order to talk about the history of cultural heritage conservation in Mexico, it is necessary to take into account the relevance that foreign institutions and specialists had in the development of it as a professional practice, at a theoretical and technical level. As it happened in most regions of the world where heritage conservation actions are carried out.

It is important to note that before institutions or international agreements, global conservation efforts were driven by individuals, people of curious impetus, sensitivity, and empathy, who did not hesitate to offer or solicit knowledge; they ventured into unknown places, strange contexts, and grappled with languages different from their own. The international cultural environment is full of people who found complicity between peers, reflecting and associating through the conviction of the importance of their work, those who believe that through collaboration, it is possible to improve, change, and promote initiatives that have an impact on society. This resulted in the creation of training programs, study centers, conservation and documentation projects, heritage rescue projects, institutions and agreements.

Professional conservators know that their daily work and training is based on an international collective construction, adapted to the contexts and characteristics of each country's specific heritage. Convinced of the relevance of their work, they share the conviction, implicit in the profession, of the importance of collaboration, providing feedback, and learning from other specialists who, even in distant contexts, share similar problems and the same passion for the patrimony.

Since cultural heritage conservation is an international responsibility, it is momentous to reflect on the role of specialists in its study, its management, and its safeguarding. It is also important to understand the prominent role played by members of society in its consumption, use, and capitalization.

In the following pages, the reader will be able to know, through the voice of conservators, different approaches to international cooperation: its impact on the professionalization of the discipline, the relevance of training and permanent professional updating, the understanding of other cultures through their heritage, and the resignification and use of cultural manifestations as a symbol.

Ultimately, it is through cultural heritage that we can better understand each other.

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