

PUBLICATIONS

Preservation and Conservation: Principles and Practice Edited by Sharon Timmons. Proceedings of the North American International Regional Conference, Williamsburg, Virginia, and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, September 10-16, 1972. Published by the Preservation Press, National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States, Washington, D.C. 20006 547 pages, illus., US\$15 (surface postage US\$1)

Whoever has the wit to distill the content of this large volume into a small one will not only perform a signal service for the general reader but help to ensure the integrity of such tangible items in the cultural heritage as buildings, artifacts and historic landmarks. For those working towards that end already, and persuaded of the need for continuous intercommunication worldwide, it will be a valuable if somewhat unhandy source book.

The conference was sponsored by the International Centre for Conservation, Rome, Italy, and the International Centre Committee of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. It was a pathfinding exercise involving 140 professional practitioners—architects, archaeologists, historians, attorneys, planners, conservators and curators. A faithful record could not be other than discursive and repetitive to some extent. The absence of an index is less easily excused.

Fortunately, the table of contents is a reasonably adequate key to more than 60 papers and relevant commentaries and summaries of discussion. And it is a book of practical intent. The chapters on technology (preservation and restoration of wood, masonry and masonry products, metals, paints and varnishes), maintenance, life expectancy of materials, and problems of increasing visitor use occupy approximately 260 pages. They embody sufficient experience to validate some awful warnings (e.g., against sandblasting of stonework and brickwork), underscore the need for diagnostic and advisory centers and services, and confirm the wisdom of the decision by the U.S. National Park Service to establish a technical press and make a handbook of preservation available to the public.

Within limits, the mutability and degradation of man-made structures are reversible, given the will. There are areas in which institutionalization has advantages, but it must never stultify initiative by individuals

or groups of private citizens. One sees cause for slight concern in that the section on academic accreditation and professional licensing contains a hint or two of preference for a 'closed shop' and of incipient rivalry between different disciplines. In addition, Hermon H. Goldstone, discussing administrative, legal and planning aspects of historic preservation by reference to the work of the New York City Landmarks Preservation Commission, argues that no private body can compete with the effectiveness of an officially constituted component of government.

If by 'private body' he means all independent voluntary organizations, neither of the National Trusts in the United Kingdom would accept the contention. But both would agree, I am sure, with Professor Robert E. Stripe of the University of North Carolina—the Tarheels talk straight—that in general preservationists and conservationists talk too much to each other, in conferences and through publications and shared interests, and too little to the 'big world out there'.

Should a marginal note be permitted, let me add that William J. Murtagh's criteria for the designation of *historic districts* under the United States of America's National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 correspond so clearly to *group values* as applied by the Historic Buildings Council for Scotland (an arm of government) and by the National Trust for Scotland (an independent voluntary organization) in its program for the salvation of small domestic buildings as to be interchangeable.

For good measure, examples of restoration in Latin America, England, continental Europe, and Asia are described in some detail. There are admirable contributions on the philosophy of historic preservation, special presentations on the early preservations of Colonial Williamsburg (a counterbalance to the opponents of 'reproduction') and the restorations of Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia, and first-rate notes on bibliography throughout. One need scarcely say that the book is in all ways a worthy bit of typography; it comes from the Smithsonian Institution Press—Robin Prentice, *National Trust for Scotland*.

Wolves Proceedings of the First Working Meeting of Wolf Specialists and of the First International Conference on Conservation of the Wolf. (Held in conjunction with the XI International Congress of the International Union of Game Biologists in Stockholm, Sweden, 5-6 September 1973).

Edited by Douglas H. Pimlott (Canada) International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 1110 Morges, Switzerland 1975. Supplementary Paper No. 43. 145 pages, duplicated, paper covers, US \$6, including shipping by surface mail.

Under the sponsorship of IUCN's Survival Service Commission, wolf specialists from eight European and two North American countries joined forces several years ago in the first major effort to evaluate the worldwide status of the wolf, *Canis lupus*. These proceedings, which should interest many national park wildlife experts in the northern hemisphere, include 11 papers on the "status and preservation" of the wolf in 12 countries, plus five papers on more philosophical and scientific research matters. These relate to the problems of gaining public understanding, sympathy and support for wolf conservation, and techniques for learning more about the biology of the wolf and methodology for its preservation.

The proceedings reveal that the wolf is extinct in eleven European countries, is virtually extinct in three others (Fennoscandia) and is endangered in seven more. On the optimistic side, there are viable populations of wolves reported in Greece, Romania, Yugoslavia and the USSR, as well as in Canada and the USA.

The papers demonstrate a strong professional kinship among wolf specialists. They not only are concerned about the future existence and welfare of the wolf in all of its forms, but they have proposed to do something about it. A "Manifesto" was developed which contains decisive principles for wolf conservation and a series of guidelines and recommendations for accomplishing that end. This Manifesto is a very important part of the proceedings.

The mere fact that 27 people gathered in Stockholm to share their concern and knowledge is a good omen. Dr. Pimlott and all who cooperated and participated with him have earned our gratitude for a good start toward an objective which all conservationists should support.—Gordon Fredine