

also applies to non-tangible heritage such as oral traditions or rituals. The answer may sometimes be less about historic fabric and more about philosophy and interpretation.

A three-day symposium made up an integral part of the General Assembly. The symposium on "Heritage and Social Change" included tracks on Ethics and Philosophy, Politics and Economics, and Methodologies and Techniques. Delegates and guests presented some 120 papers during three concurrent sessions. I attended 18 of these presentations. ICOMOS has published all submitted papers and provided one bound copy to each delegate. I have placed my copy into the Denver Service Center Library.

During the symposium, participants visited three of Bulgaria's important cultural sites. The delegates also participated in study trips to the historic towns of Plovdiv and Koprivshitsa and a visit to the world heritage site of the Rila Monastery. The visits illustrated the themes of the assembly and provided an opportunity for dialog with local conservation authorities on the local conservation challenges. The visits provided participants an opportunity to understand the value of Bulgaria's heritage and the protection and preservation work underway.

I traveled with a group of delegates to the Rila Monastery, a World Heritage Site. Primarily a complex of mostly 19th-century structures, the monastery has been built and rebuilt on the site since the 6th century. Only a remnant of a 14th-century tower provided a clue to the earlier incarnation of the monastery. Magnificent wall mural and architectural decorative patterns provide marvelous interior and exterior spaces, well suited to the contemplative monastic way of life. We saw that the artistic finishes, wood, and masonry materials of the complex had received good maintenance. The religious leader of the monks highlighted the cooperative relationship between the

state agencies and the religious community that ensures preservation of the site. I saw one clear weakness, a lack of adequate fire-fighting equipment and a limited fire detection system. The monastery's history of severe fire damage accented this deficiency. The continuity of religious and pilgrimage (cultural tourists of today) uses provide an important ingredient of the site's authenticity.

Bulgaria's "second" city, Plovdiv, provided superb examples of the 19th-century National Revival architecture. Plovdiv also boasts some Roman ruins. The city hosts large numbers of tourists. Local authorities appear to have effective influence on the scope and location of new development. With the change to market economy, centralized state control has significantly decreased. Local authorities have now stepped into this role.

The Bulgarian ICOMOS committee organized extensive tours through the country following the General Assembly. These post assembly tours illustrated further the development and preservation aspects at historic sites within Bulgaria. I participated in a tour that included visits to 2nd-4th-century BC Thracian tombs. These tombs are threatened from both over-popularity and modern-day grave robbers. Kazanluk, east of Sofia, toward the country's center, scholars investigate several earthen mounds concealing Thracian tombs. The tombs offer cultural tourism opportunities that can diversify the agricultural-based economy of the area. We saw the results of a tomb that grave robbers had vandalized with heavy equipment only two months earlier. We received a rare opportunity to enter the a Thracian tomb discovered in the 1940s. The tomb contains very unique 2300-year-old murals. UNESCO has designated this tomb as a World Heritage Site. The authorities typically permit only four or five visitors a year within the actual tomb. This limit addresses conservation concerns of maintaining a consistent environment and minimizing risk of abrasion of the wall paintings.

Normally, tourists visit a nearby replica of the tomb, allowing appreciation of the site without endangering the original.

We visited Zheravna, a mountain town of beautiful vernacular wooden architecture. The town reflects the meeting line of the medieval Ottoman and the modern European civilizations in the late-19th century. The national government designated Zheravna a national architectural and historic reserve.

The church of the Blessed Virgin Birth within the courtyard of Rila Monastery World Heritage Site.



The post assembly tour concluded with visits to the historic Black Sea ports of Sozopol and Nessebur. There, we observed the overlays of culture heritage from Greek colonial times to 19th-century architecture. We saw how the local residents and officials treat and interpreted this heritage. The local conservation architects pointed out the relationship between recreational tourism of the many Eastern European (and more recently Western European) Black Sea sun bathers with cultural tourism. These differing types of tourism bring pressures onto each other.

The General Assembly included the tasks of election of officers and the adoption of resolutions.

The assembly elected the ICOMOS officers and Executive Committee for the 1996-1999 triennium. ICOMOS President Roland Silva (Sri Lanka) and Treasurer General Jan Jessurun (Netherlands) both won third terms. Jean-Louis Luxen (Belgium) won election to a second term as Secretary General. The assembly elected Ann Webster Smith (USA) to one of five vice presidential posts, along with Mamadou Berthe (Senegal) Esteban Prieto (Dominican Republic), Joseph Phares (Lebanon), and Christiane Schmuckle-Mollard (France).

Participants in the General Assembly adopted several resolutions. One resolution called on ICOMOS to develop explicit English, French, and Spanish definitions for the terms regarding the protection of the cultural heritage. The Assembly adopted another resolution calling for a revision of the *Charter on Cultural Tourism*. Several resolutions addressed concerns about threats to the heritage in specific regions. One resolution counseled the Bulgarian government to ensure the preservation of the heritage, whatever its ownership. Another resolution expressed concern about the situation at the Russian World Heritage site of Kizhi Pogost. The recent interference with the Titanic grave site and the commercial exploitation planned under that venture received strong condemnation.

Through meetings and interacting with conservation colleagues I learned of their experiences. I listened to discussion about problems and their solutions ranging from city zoning policies, funding of site maintenance to development of cultural tourism for diversifying local economies.

Participation in gatherings such as the 11th General Assembly of ICOMOS promotes NPS's leadership role in the management of cultural resources. The Albright-Wirth employee development fund provided crucial support to my participation in the assembly.

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Phyllis Ewing

Colonial Williamsburg A Seminar for Historic Administration

The course titles were subjects like Preservation, Leadership and Management, Building Public Support, Researching a Changing Past, Interpretation and Exhibits, Ethics, Personnel and Fundraising.

The speaker list included Charles F. Bryan, Jr., Director of the Virginia Historical Society; Frank Sanchis, VP of Stewardship of the National Trust for Historic Preservation; Rex Ellis, Executive Director of the Center for Museum Studies, The Smithsonian; our own National Park Service Chief Historian, Dwight Pitcaithley, and other equally-successful members of the profession.

The 18 class members represented many positions, such as directors, educators, curators, interpreters, and an archeologist who were from all types of institutions—big and little, private and public—which focused on history, children, cultures, homes, collections, landscapes, and even an 18th-century reproduction functioning ship.

The place for all this was three weeks in Colonial Williamsburg and other museums and historical sites in the area. What more could you ask!

Change for Survival was for me the overall theme which ran through the sessions of the Seminar For Historic Administration. In this time of cutbacks and downsizing, and with so many places for people to spend their leisure time and money, we must adapt in order to survive. As part of every session, suggestions were made not only on what to change and how to make the changes while dealing with these situations, but also how to have a better institution or park after the change.

Knowing our need for and desire to have new and returning park visitors, and aware we have less staff to assist them and fewer dollars for programming, we all acknowledge change is the only option. Each session presented a different aspect of these issues with three speakers who had expertise in that area. To best describe their knowledge and excellence in relaying information, many were asked to join us for lunch so the discussion and sharing of ideas could continue.

Field trips were an important ingredient and emphasized the concept that stronger relationships come with better understanding. At the Virginia Historical Society, we saw the results of a complete institutional transformation, from basically a scholarly research repository with no interest in outreach to an important center for the people of the