



US/ICOMOS E-News October 2009

In This Issue:

[Ann Webster Smith
Award Dinner](#)

[Letter from the
President of ICOMOS](#)

[Membership, Symposia,
and Other
Opportunities](#)



Katherine Slick at the National
Preservation Conference in Nashville

Welcome to the first edition of the US/ICOMOS E-Newsletter. Our goal is to use this medium to provide greater access to information and communication with our members. Expect to receive monthly e newsletters providing information about US/ICOMOS activities, news from around the world, opportunities for member involvement and calendars of upcoming events.

From time to time as in this inaugural edition, we'll include a "letter" from Gustavo Araoz as President of ICOMOS, describing his work making ICOMOS a stronger and more effective organization and opportunities for US involvement in the international preservation community. We want to hear your ideas about what would be useful to you in our newsletter - just send Don Jones a note at the attached e-mail address.

Katherine Slick, Executive Director

Ann Webster Smith Award Dinner

Ann Webster Smith Award Dinner honors Russell E. Train At a festive dinner on September 30 at the Cosmos Club in Washington, DC, US/ICOMOS honored Russell E. Train with the 2009 Ann Webster Smith Award for International Heritage Achievement. Over 100 guests attended the black-tie event, which included cocktails and dinner before the formal presentation of the award to Mr. Train by Frank Hodsoll, US/ICOMOS board member and chair of the Culture Committee and the World Heritage Subcommittee of the US National Commission for UNESCO.

Ann Webster Smith Award

The Ann Webster Smith award honors leadership in international cultural heritage conservation. A visionary, Ann Webster Smith conceptualized, supported and enabled numerous cultural programs for international cooperation; influenced major decision makers both in the United States and overseas in favor



Frank Hodson describes Russell Train's contribution to World Heritage

of the preservation ethic; and mentored dozens of young preservationists into professional capacities in key leadership positions. In recognition of her lifelong commitment to world heritage, the US/ICOMOS Board of Trustees named the organization's annual award in her honor.

Russell Train and the World Heritage Convention

US/ICOMOS honored Mr. Train for his leadership in creating the World Heritage Convention, which was adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in 1972. He advised two American presidents that an international trust should be established to preserve the world's outstanding scenic and historic sites for the benefit of all the world's citizens.

"Today, the World Heritage Program is UNESCO's best known program," said Frank Hodson, US/ICOMOS board member and chair of the Culture Committee and the World Heritage Sub-committee of the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO. "The competition for a site to attain World Heritage status is fiercely engaged in by countries from every part of the globe."

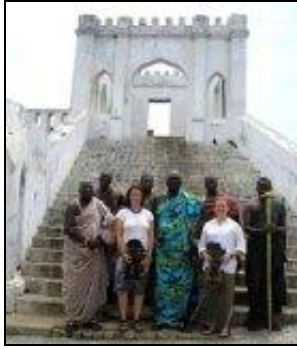
The United States was the first signatory to ratify the Convention, which has resulted in greater protection, conservation, and appreciation of 878 sites around the world—689 are cultural, 176 are natural, and 25 are listed as mixed cultural and natural. The Convention has been signed and ratified by 186 nations, comprising nearly all member states of the United Nations.



John Fowler, US/ICOMOS Chair, presents the 2009 Ann Webster Smith Award to Russell Train

Train was born in 1920 in Jamestown, Rhode Island, and later moved to Washington D.C. where he attended school. He earned degrees from Princeton University and Columbia University Law School. In addition to his efforts in creating the World Heritage Program, Train served in the U.S. Army during World War II, was Under Secretary of the Department of the Interior in 1969-1970, chairman of the Council on Environmental Quality 1970-1973, and administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from 1973 to 1978. He was president and then chairman of the World Wildlife Fund from 1978 to 1994.

Train's involvement with World Heritage began in 1965, when he and Joseph Fisher convinced a White House Conference on International Cooperation to recommend to President Lyndon B. Johnson that "a Trust for the World Heritage [be established] that would be responsible to the world community for the stimulation of international cooperative efforts to identify, establish, develop, and manage the world's superb natural and scenic areas and historic sites for the present and future benefit of the entire world citizenry." Even though no action was taken, Train persisted. And in 1967, as the new president of the Conservation Foundation, he presented an address entitled A World Heritage Trust to the International Congress on Nature and Man in Amsterdam and urged "the launching of an international cooperative effort



Gina Haney, US/ICOMOS Board member, and Theresa Coolahan, US/ICOMOS intern in 2007, at a World Heritage Site in Ghana



Chaco Culture
World Heritage Site in New Mexico



Mount Vernon, Virginia is being
nominated to the World Heritage List
(photo by Alex Plank)

that brings together in a unified program a common concern for both man's natural heritage and his cultural heritage."

Early in the Nixon Administration, as chairman of the newly established Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), Train persuaded President Richard M. Nixon to include, in an environmental message to Congress, a directive to the Secretary of Interior, in coordination with CEQ, and under the foreign policy guidance of the Secretary of State, "to develop initiatives for presentation in appropriate international forums to further the objective of a World Heritage Trust."

In June 1972 at the U.N. Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment, Train put forward the World Heritage concept. It was overwhelmingly endorsed. The World Heritage Convention was drafted and adopted by UNESCO that November.

For the complete list of World Heritage Sites including the 20 located in the United States, visit <http://whc.unesco.org/en/list>.

For more information on US participation in the World Heritage Convention visit the website of the National Park Service's Office of International Affairs at <http://www.nps.gov/oia> and follow their new blog *World Heritage Matters* at <http://worldheritagematters.blogspot.com>.

Letter from the President of ICOMOS

[Ed. note: The following address was adopted from the presentation given by Gustavo Araoz at the US/ICOMOS International Breakfast, National Preservation Conference, October 16, 2009, Nashville, Tennessee]

Dear US/ICOMOS members,

It was a real pleasure to see so many of you at the US/ICOMOS Breakfast. All of us in US/ICOMOS really appreciate the fact that you chose to attend this event. By simply being there, you manifested your desire to be part of the global heritage conservation network, whose maintenance and nourishing are the responsibility of ICOMOS. It was refreshing to see the British National Trust (the first organization to collaborate on interns with US/ICOMOS) and the US/ICOMOS Breakfast on this year's program acknowledging our global preservation efforts and that we inhabit and share this planet with many others.

Clearly, the United States has achieved a high level of success in preserving and protecting our own heritage with innovative programs. We should strive not only to showcase our success, but also to share with others those aspects of our national preservation experience that may be applicable in other cultures and in other societies. We know that whether it is in Namibia or



US/ICOMOS International Breakfast,
National Preservation Conference,
October 16, 2009
Nashville, Tennessee



US/ICOMOS, along with other
National Committees, has adopted
the ICOMOS Pegasus logo to help
affirm our international relationship

Nashville, all preservation is local. But the mere presence of so many of you at the National Trust annual conference is ample proof that you believe in the benefit of broadly sharing your local experiences and knowledge with your peers from elsewhere.

Our challenge is to take the next step - to elevate our participation in national arenas to participation in international ones. In view of all this, you may ask - how do I get involved in the international discussion on the future of heritage conservation? I would say that by being at the US/ICOMOS Breakfast, many of you have already taken the first step, and of course, as members of US/ICOMOS, each of you has also taken another important step - you are a card-carrying member of ICOMOS - but that is not equivalent to having full international participation. You have to become a contributing member of the network.

The United States needs a huge presence in the international dialogue on heritage conservation if we are to share our success. Perhaps the most effective and rewarding way to become so engaged is through the International Scientific Committees of ICOMOS, who select their membership from heritage specialists from all over the world. There is also the ability to take part in international research programs that deal with policy and practice. For instance, at the Advisory Committee meeting that took place in Malta several weeks ago, the United States Committee proposed to start a program to foster a policy of corporate responsibility for the way that multi-national franchises establish their image and their physical presence in historic settings.

At the domestic level, US/ICOMOS is the primary non-governmental preservation organization fostering official American involvement in international heritage issues and treaties. This is what cultural diplomacy means. US/ICOMOS can open important doors for you in every country through our worldwide heritage network, but the ideas and the will must be locally grown; the local muscle can only be made to flex by you, our members in their home communities. Luckily, you are not alone in this mission.

The priority for ICOMOS during the coming years will to foster a greater utilization of each member's skills. Therefore, ICOMOS is proposing several methods of involving our members in carrying forward our mission. The first initiative will be the creation of a global monitoring network whereby each National Committee will be asked to designate a group of qualified members to track the state of conservation of each World Heritage site in its country. With 714 cultural sites worldwide, a system is needed to ensure that recommendation reports and conservation methods are uniform.

However, a global monitoring network would be useless without a method of identifying qualified members.



Above: Acre, Israel,
World Heritage Site
Below: James Cocks,

US/ICOMOS Intern to Acre in 2007



US/ICOMOS Interns have worked on
World Heritage Sites in Bulgaria,
Croatia, Ecuador, Ghana, India,
Israel, Jordan and the United States,
among other places.

US/ICOMOS Interns like Jodi Black
(below) also have worked in the World
Heritage Unit of the
ICOMOS Secretariat.



Therefore, I am proud to announce that a new membership database will be operational by the end of 2009. The database will be named in honor of the late Gilles Noursissier, who was instrumental in the conception and funding of this project.

Furthermore, ICOMOS will continue to publish a peer-reviewed Journal for our members. This will provide a much-needed venue for the exchange of ideas and experiences. The Journal will be available electronically on our website to ICOMOS members only.

Finally, I have launched a global discussion forum on a topic that I consider to be of the most extreme urgency - to reaffirm or re-define the tolerance for change in the emerging heritage paradigm. For the next two years, all ICOMOS members will be invited to analyze our ability to properly protect heritage as it is currently conceived by competing stakeholders. ICOMOS has begun an exciting journey in which we can all take part, and I invite each of you to join us.

Gustavo Araoz. President ICOMOS

Membership, Symposia, and Other Opportunities

Membership Renewal Reminder

If you haven't already, please renew your membership online at <http://www.usicomos.org>. In order to receive your 2010 ICOMOS Card in January, you must **renew by December 1, 2009** at the International level so the roster of US/ICOMOS International members can be sent to the ICOMOS Secretariat in Paris—they will print the cards and send them to US/ICOMOS in early January 2010 for distribution to our members.

The Inaugural National Cultural Heritage Law Moot Court Competition

March 5-6, 2010 in Chicago, Illinois

Sponsored by the Lawyers' Committee for Cultural Heritage Preservation and DePaul University College of Law

Cultural heritage law is a growing legal field that deals with the issues that arise as our society comes to appreciate the important symbolic, historical and emotional role that cultural heritage plays in our lives. It encompasses several disparate areas: protection of archaeological sites; preservation of historic structures and the built environment; preservation of and respect for both the tangible and intangible indigenous cultural heritage; the international market in art works and antiquities, and recovery of stolen art works.

To register and for additional information, please visit <http://law.depaul.edu/chmoot> or email chmoot@depaul.edu.



Serra Akboy (2006 US/ICOMOS Intern from Turkey) helped the NPS HABS/HAER team digitally survey the Statue of Liberty. Below: Ms. Akboy in the statue's torch.



13th US/ICOMOS International Symposium May 20-22, 2010 in Washington, DC

AT WHAT COST? Social and Economic Pressures and the Protection of Cultural Heritage Sites

The 13th Annual US ICOMOS International Symposium will focus on the increasingly complex relationships between cultural heritage and the world's market economies. It will look at real world problems and practical solutions through formal presentations, round tables and group discussions. The Call for Papers has been distributed; abstracts are due November 13, 2009—visit <http://www.usicomos.org/symposia> for details.

Vernacular Architecture Forum May 19-23, 2010 in Washington, DC

This will be the VAF's 30th annual meeting. Two days of in-depth tours will go beyond the usual tourist attractions to explore the urban and suburban neighborhoods of this robust metropolitan region. Tour sites include nineteenth-century urban row houses, post-World War II suburban subdivisions, FHA garden apartments, and the New Deal enclave of Greenbelt, Maryland. The deadline for the call for papers has passed— but you may visit their website at <http://www.vernaculararchitectureforum.org> for details.

Preserving the Historic Road Conference September 9-12, 2010 in Washington, DC

The conference will consist of four days of education sessions, special events and field workshops to provide you with the latest best practices, theories and methods for the identification, preservation and management of historic roads. From our conference hotel at Metro Center in downtown DC you can walk along the historic avenues of the historic 1791 L'Enfant city plan to the National Mall and Smithsonian Museums. Experience our national monuments from historic park roads and parkways, or travel to nearby Maryland to experience the National Road, the nation's first federally funded highway in 1806, or to Virginia to visit the sublime Skyline Drive. The Call for Papers has been distributed; abstracts are due January 31, 2010—visit <http://www.historicroads.org> for details.

Fulbright New Zealand

invites applications for the 2011 Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellowships in Public Policy. Ian Axford (New Zealand) Fellowships in Public Policy give outstanding American mid-career professionals the opportunity to research, travel and gain practical experience in public policy in New Zealand for seven months. Established by the New Zealand Government in 1995 to reinforce links between New Zealand and the United States, the programme aims to advance all areas of public policy.

by cross-fertilisation of ideas and experience, to build up a network of public policy experts on both sides of the Pacific. Three or four Fellows are selected each year. Applicants must be US citizens with at least five years experience in their professions, and must submit a formal application. Please forward this e-mail and/or flyer to anyone you know who would make a good 'Axford Fellow' and benefit from this opportunity. For further information and an application form, see Fulbright New Zealand's website at <http://www.fulbright.org.nz/awards/am-ian-axford.html>