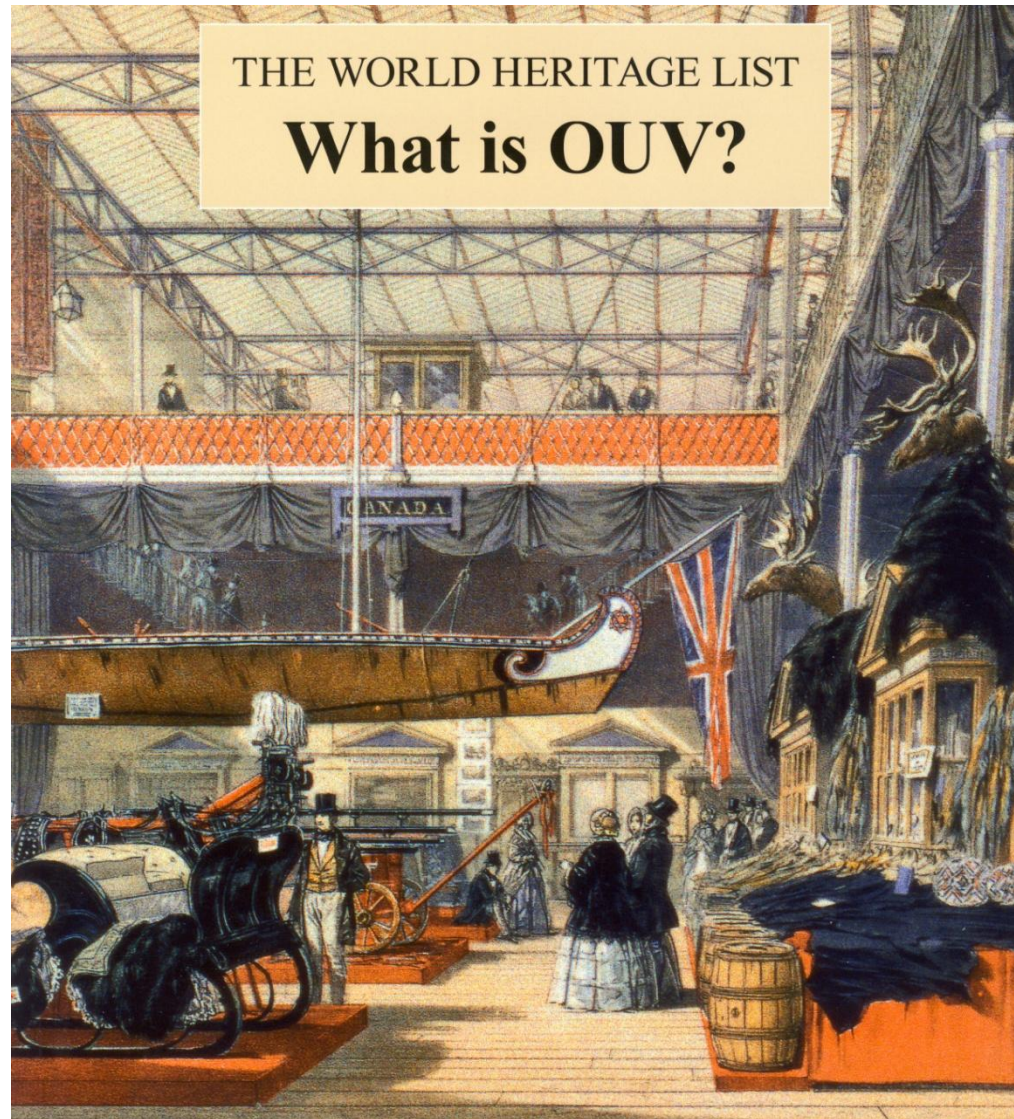


World Heritage Inscriptions – OUV and Alanya



CIVVIH - Mediterranean working group meeting – Alanya, 2-3.5.14

Turkey submitted Alanya twice for WH inscription.
ICOMOS World Heritage panel rejected it twice.

ICOMOS' explanation for the rejection : it did not
find that the site meets the **OUV** condition !
It does meet all other requirements.

Without OUV a site cannot be inscribed .

The WH Operational Guidelines require the
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49. Outstanding universal value means cultural and/or natural significance which is so exceptional as to transcend national boundaries and to be of common importance for present and future generations of all humanity. As such, the permanent protection of this heritage is of the highest importance to the international community as a whole. The Committee defines the criteria for the inscription of properties on the World Heritage List.

*78. To be deemed of outstanding universal value, a property **must also** meet the conditions of integrity and/or authenticity **and must** have an adequate protection and management system to ensure its safeguarding.*

The WH Committee and its advisory bodies, ICOMOS, ICCROM and IUCN are struggling since years with the attempt to define **OUV**.

ICOMOS has published in 2008 the publication: "**What is OUV**"?

The publication failed to define clearly what is OUV and what has to be demonstrated to prove its existence.

Thus – it is up to ICOMOS' WH "advisors" and ICOMOS WH Panel to decide whether a site has OUV. The 'advisors' prepare presentation and recommendation for the panel – they have huge impact on the panel's decisions

As a result, in too many cases evaluating OUV remains subjective and almost up to one single person – the ICOMOS WH "advisor".

State parties tend to withdraw the nomination once rejected by ICOMOS, since acceptance of the rejection by the WHC means that it cannot be re-submitted.

General points for consideration:

Should crucial issue for WH inscription like OUV, remain the domain of a single WH 'advisor', convincing the WH Panel?

Shouldn't the state party be allowed to defend its case in front of the Advisory Body and its panel? (it can be done when presented to the WHC, but then it might be too late)

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I would like to use the case of Alanya, to demonstrate how I believe that the existence of its OUV should have been established -

Three questions should be asked and answered:

1. Is the Mediterranean basin one of the important cultural regions of the world? **YES !**
2. Were the Turkish Seljuks one of the important cultures of the Mediterranean Basin? **This is up to a scholar, not for an ICOMOS expert to say ! The scholars said – YES !**

3. Are Alanya and its tangible components the best preserved representatives of this culture?

Local scholars say 'yes' and ICOMOS experts do not deny. It has also been answered positively through a comprehensive comparative study.

Then a-priori Alanya meets the requirement of having OUV !!!

This is not how ICOMOS advisor analyzed it.

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The nomination of Alanya is not about A tower, A Shipyard, A house, A Sultan's palace and its decorations, fortifications or neighborhood – it is about the totality, presenting integrity of a Hellenistic, Seljuk, Ottoman town, with unique and well preserved remains of Seljuk Sultans' palace, shipyard, fortifications, residential neighborhoods, hundreds of ships' graffiti (with no comparison anywhere in the world).

ICOMOS 'advisors' failed to see it and managed to convince the ICOMOS WH Panel.

We, as experts and a Mediterranean working group should not accept it !

Thank you !

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over 12 years member of ICOMOS WH Panel