



ANNUAL MEETING OF CIVVIH

dedicated to the thirty years from the founding
and to the memory of the first president Andras Roman

AND THE SCIENTIFIC SYMPOSIUM

«Retaining Authenticity in Historic Cities and Urban Areas»
«Préserver l'authenticité dans les villes historiques et les territoires urbains»

BUDAPEST/VISEGRAD

Hungary

20-22 September 2013

Commemorative section:

Thirty years from the CIVVIH committee foundation

Opening by Sofia Avgerinou Kolonias President of CIVVIH

Dear colleagues I like to welcome you all in this commemorative meeting

Our Committee was founded thirty years ago after the decision, of the Executive Committee of ICOMOS on the foundation of an international scientific committee for the protection of historic towns. Therefore, this year is of particular importance for the committee as an anniversary. It is a year of review of our activity to date. But it is also a year of thinking regarding the new challenges and the establishment of a new work program within the context of the greater scientific objectives of ICOMOS, and the scientific objectives of the 18th World General Assembly to take place in the 50th anniversary of the Venice Charter adoption in Firenze.

Since its establishment, the Committee deals with questions relevant to the preservation, planning and management of historic towns and villages. Our members, who come from 49 different National Committees and are almost 130 today, are experts who have different professional backgrounds related to historic town preservation.

The committee was given as its first task to compile the *Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns*. This Charter was pioneering at the time, because it supported the fundamental principle of sustainability. It also adopted, as a fundamental principle, the connection of growth to social development and the adaptation of historic towns and urban areas to modern life.

Nowadays the urban phenomenon has acquired a global character but the towns still preserve their particular features. The rapid changes in the context of a globalized reality are instrumental in the future of historic towns. CIVVIH has been monitoring and discussing for the last fifteen years. Furthermore, it has been accepted that the main modifications consist in greater awareness of intangible values, socio-economic factors, environmental factors, as well as the issue of historical heritage on a territorial level and not only on an urban ensemble scale. CIVVIH recognized and agreed that, in this sense, the understanding of heritage as an essential resource, part of the urban ecosystem, is fundamental. This understanding must be respected in order to ensure harmonious development of the town and its territory.

Within the framework of reflection which is underway on an international level, on urban conservation, by the organizations charged with the conservation and

enhancement of heritage, and in a period of great changes in the political, economic, cultural and social fields .CIVVIH started considering the need to update the Washington Charter.Finally, a new document was adopted by the 17th International General Assembly of ICOMOS in Paris, France, in November 2011: *The Valletta principles for the safeguarding and management of historic cities and unurban areas*.

Its main objective was to propose principles and strategies applicable to the interventions in historical towns and areas. These should safeguard the values of historical towns and their setting, as well as their integration in the social, cultural and economic life of our times.

Connecting protection to economic and social development, within the context of sustainability, and adaptation of historical towns and urban areas to modern life is still the main task. However, the fact that historic towns are urged, through the aforementioned procedures, to increase their competitiveness, affects their main qualities, such as their identity, integrity, authenticity, which are, on the other part, both the basic elements for their being designated cultural heritage and strict prerequisites for their preservation.

The current global economic and social crisis are exerted on urban heritage, as well as on the entire human habitat. This crisis is visible on economic, social, and political levels, and has already shown its first impacts/results, such as problems of productive restructuring, social crisis and environment. Historic cities and urban areas are in danger of losing their historical identity, along with the natural and cultural features that formed their international, as well as their local, values

CIVVIH, being fully aware that the changes currently observed in the life of towns and urban areas take place rapidly, within the multidimensional modern environment, will continue being concerned with, and make its recommendations in view of, the main developments and challenges.Our meeting in Napoli paved the way for new-ideas and proposals for the scientific debate that CIVVIH must develop. We have to consider today and in the future the most modern opinions and, mainly, proposals for the protection and revival of historic towns, thus continuing the thirty-year tradition of our committee.



„Non omnis moriar”

In memoriam András Román

(15 September 1929 – 13 November 2005)

the Funding President of the CIVIH (and CIVVIH)

by Tamás Fejérdy

Architect by training, expert on urbanism and on the vernacular architecture, Dr. András Román engaged himself very early with ICOMOS activity. At the beginning in the ICOMOS framework he worked in close cooperation with Prof. Dezső Dercsényi, the first President of ICOMOS Hungary just from the birth of ICOMOS International in 1965. András used to be the Secretary General and, later on, for a long period, the President of ICOMOS Hungary.

András had a very strong commitment for the preservation of historic monuments and he worked for that in different State Institutions, most of his time as one of leaders in the National Office. As a professional of conservation of historic ensembles and cities, he believed that the conservation of a single monument is only possible if the urban context is in order. He used to be a contact person between architects-conservators and experts on urbanism in Hungary.

When he was elected as member of Executive Committee of ICOMOS – at the same time already an active member of CIAV – he decided to initiate the establishment of a new International Scientific Committee dealing with Historic Towns, with urban conservation-rehabilitation. This very proposal has been accepted by Ex. Com. in 1983 during its meeting in Summa Vesuviane meeting house of ICOMOS Italy – at the same moment when the International Monuments Day was also accepted by ICOMOS (and proposed to UNESCO).

András was nominated as first President and authorized to organise this Committee and also identify the most important and urgent topics for it forthcoming years.

That time the ISC-s usually had a Headquarter somewhere, like CIAV in Plovdiv (Bulgaria); therefore András launched a small competition between historic cities in Hungary who was

among them ready to host this Headquarters of CIVVIH – of course giving also a considerable economic support for its work. To be short: the City of Eger was selected and from 1983, during about the first 20 years CIVVIH had this Headquarter in Eger, in the former “palace” of the smaller Provost. Unfortunately this is no more the case. With many other changes, this possibility also ceased to exist.

András used to be the President the CIVVIH during the first 9 years ((1983-1992; followed by myself and by Ray Bondin and now with our current President, Sofia Avgerinou-Kolonia).

I believe that the main achievement the CIVVIH was to create a network of experts in this very field and produce the Charter for the Conservation of Historic Towns and Urban Areas (Washington Charter 1987).

From the very beginning, András put in the axe of the activity the production of a specialised Charter on Historic Cities, following the model given by the Florence Charter (1981), and our Committee worked on really hard. We had quite a lot of heated discussion during this very demanding work among ourselves and also with external experts, like Gerard Bolla, one of the authors the UNESCO’s World Heritage Convention, who was asked by Michel Parent then President of ICOMOS to help us, or with Mme Françoise Choay, we met whom in the private apartment of M. Parent in Paris, or Abdeleziz Daoulatli, then Secretary General of ICOMOS who came in Hungary for this very purpose.

When we are commemorating András, we should not forget many other Colleagues from the funding members of the Committee: some of them are already passed away like J. M. Gonzalez-Valcarcel, Dary Fowler, Ales Wosahlik, Heimo Widtmann, prof. Urbano Cardarelli, Maura Shaffrey, Julio A. Morosi, Herb Stovel, Balnche Weicherding-Goergen, Janusz Bogdanowski, Siri Myrvoll; or the others who, I do believe are with us but are not more active in this cooperation like Jamila Binous, Water Jamieson, B. Dias-Sousa, Tzvetana Polichronova, Todor Kreteev, Leo van Nispen, Krzysztof Pawlowski and Maire Mattinen. I know that we had also many valuable Friends and Colleagues as members, so I have to apologise not to mention all of them.

Under leadership of András, the CIVIH extended its activity also for villages following a special (somewhat “personal”) suggestion made by then President of ICOMOS, Prof. Roland Silva. During annual meetings of CIVVIH, committee members made study trips in Hungary visiting many historic towns and villages and quite often giving valuable advises to the local Communities. I never forget another meeting which started in the weekend house in the Lupa island (in the Danube) where András and his wife, Vera Szekeres-Varsa hosted in a magnificent way the committee members, as they did many times the same in their wonderful art nouveau apartment in Pest. We also had in 1989 a joint meeting with CIAV and, by invitation, many other interesting sessions in other countries.

The World Heritage issues started to be more and more important already that time. CIVVIH was also giving opinion on different nominations. The most memorable case was the nomination of Vlikolinec /part of Ruzomberok, Slovakia) when CIVVIH was asked to prepare a comparative analysis on villages of the Central-European region.

This study was done by a group of members of CIVVIH, with positive outcome for Vlikolinec and resulted in its inscription to the WH list.

I should mention many other activities like special volume in a series of ICOMOS Publication supported by ICOMOS Germany or Sri Lanka.

I strongly believe that András with his work for and in the CIVVIH opened a new chapter in the History of ICOMOS. We never stop to be grateful to him for that and I think we are ready to continue this work with the same enthusiasm as András always had.

Budapest, September 2013



From the passion for the historic cities to a strong friendship

By Alvaro Gomez Ferrer Bayo

1. - The beginning of the committee 1983-1993 Andras Roman our President

I would recreate the pioneer time of CIVVIH, when it made part of the very few scientific committees at the moment. If I well remember, in Spain it was the time of Manuel Gonzalez-Varcarcel, in Hungary Andras Roman, David Fowler from Britain, Urbano Cardarelli from Italy Jamila Binous from Tunisia, etc. Among all this people Andras Roman took the responsibility to carry out the future of CIVVIV. Our deepest gratitude in this commemorative section.

2. - The Toledo CIVVIH meeting 1986, and the Charter for the preservation of the Historic Cities.

I remember very well, that meeting, the end of a very strong work made by several members of CIVVIH. At that time the city of Toledo and the Spanish committee of ICOMOS (I was at that time his president), undertook the challenge to finish the Charter for the Historic Cities. We invited an important number of experts outside CIVVIH, and we worked hard during three days. The Charter was written in four languages. The ICOMOS president Michel Parent made a philosophic speech at the end of the meeting, and the Charter was adopted in the General Assembly in Washington in 1987.

3. - Remembering Eger 1993-2003 The support of the Hungarian authorities.

That time was more or less the Eger time. I remember the city, the castle, the bishop's palace, our home. Thanks to the Hungarian authorities and the Eger ones, for his fruitful help. We can't forget some special meetings outside Hungary as the ones in Stockholm, Porto or Corfu.

4. - Opening the committee. Mediterranean and Iberoamerican sub-committees

New prospectives were opened when Eger declined. It was the Mediterranean time: Malta, Greece, and Turkey. CIVVIH created sub-committees, new statutes, new members, and we began to think in a new Charter for the Historic Cities. We can bear in mind the meetings in Lodz in Poland, taken in charge for Chirstopher Pawlowski, and other meetings as those in Helsinki, in Nancy, Narni, Edirne, etc.

5. - From Athens to Malta. From Malta to Athens 2003-2013. The Valletta Principles

The Valletta Principles were the end of a very deep and participated work for the whole CIVVIH members. We can remember the meetings in Valletta, Istanbul, again in Corfu, Athens, and finally Malta. We can be proud of this document that has passed through all the steps that ICOMOS has put in our way. In our last meeting in Naples we could appreciate how our work was well finished.

6. – The CIVVIH future

Only two words to define our next period. First of all I think that our friendship will be reinforced even more strongly. This friendship resumes for me the image and the memories of all this time working together. Secondly, I also think that we can't work outside the guidelines of the World Heritage Centre. May be it is time to get deeper into new concepts, such as the Historic Urban Landscape, Contemporary Architecture in Historic Centres, Integrated rehabilitation. May be these are our new challenges for the next years.

Alvaro Gómez-Ferrer Bayo

Doctor Architect. Town Planner

CIVVIH Honorary Member

MODERN INTERVENTIONS IN HISTORIC CITIES

By Ray Bondin

We have moved in recent years from a restricted view of what we consider to be `historic cities` to a wider definition of `historic urban landscape` but this new terminology has still not been accepted by many academics and conservators. There is actually a movement to go back to the old terminology.

One of the main problems is that we may have resolved certain issues by this new terminology but we have not resolved the issue of modern interventions in historic cities. Mayors in particular are very frustrated at the different explanations that they are given as to what is and what is not acceptable.

I aim to show some examples of re-use of buildings or modern interventions to try and re-animate a debate on this issue and to arrive at some acceptable solution.

ICOMOS Hungary - Tradition, continuity and new ways

By Gergely Nagy

Tradition

ICOMOS Hungary always played important role in the life of ICOMOS. András Román followed the activity of Dezső Dercsényi, Géza Entz, Miklós Horler's heritage. He was a great organizer not only on international level, but attended to the national work, too. The mixture of his appreciated professional work and of his human attitude is a part of the Heritage of ICOMOS Hungary.

Continuity

This heritage has founded our activities, that is present even in our everyday work nowadays as well:

We have to make us more visible for professionals and local people, too.

We organize conferences and post-graduated courses just like as regular events:

András Román Summer Course in Eger, and our vernacular scientific committee organizes the Békés Conference.

Our visibility is helped by our prizes as well:

Public Area Renewing Prize, ICOMOS Prize, Monument Care Prize, Lemon Prize

Publications for professionals and for communities

In 2011 the ICOMOS Prize was 5 years old so we edited a book to introduce the prize-winner restorations, in 2002 ICOMOS Hungary issued the Book of Charters. The second edition is almost 800 pages collection of regulations. In 2013 we issued a book about the world heritage site of Hollókő.

Six times a year appears our newsletter with the latest news.

New way

We obtained a one year long program. This is a unique task of our NC. In this program we are making an exhibition about the best restorations of the last ten years, and we'll exhibit this in ten universities, museums and high schools in different towns all over Hungary. Parallel with these events we organize conferences to the exhibitions. Every conference has different theme. Next year in September will be the two days long closing conference to evaluate the one year long work. One of the result of this work will be published for the decision makers. The other one to pay more attention to the importance of the protection of cultural heritage all over the country.