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## **THE INTERNATIONAL TRUST FOR CROATIAN MONUMENTS IN 2015**

I am grateful to Fra Ljubomir Šimunović for giving me another opportunity to inform the readers of his annual publication, THE BRIDGE, which truly bridges our two communities, about the work of our Trust, THE INTERNATIONAL TRUST FOR CROATIAN MONUMENTS.

During “THE DAYS OF EUROPEAN HERITAGE”, celebrated across Europe including Croatia at the end of September this year, the Ministry of Culture of Croatia held its annual VICKO ANDRIC AWARDS ceremony. Vicko Andric, 1793 – 1866, an architect and surveyor by profession, was the first Croatian conservator, responsible for the preservation of many monuments of his time and for establishing the practice of conservation as such. The awards are given in honour of his memory to people especially devoted to conservation and preservation of artefacts and cultural heritage of Croatia. The awards were started in 2004 and have three categories; for Life Achievement, Annual Achievement and for Contribution to the Life of Local Community in the field of conservation. Anybody, public at large, professionals and institutions, can nominate people they feel are deserving of such an honour.



Foto: Robert Matic



Kuca Bukovac, with one of the paintings from the Glen Collection.

I am particularly proud that among those so honoured were “our” boys from Split, a group of young stone conservators, who initially trained under our auspices in this country and then completed their studies at the Arts Academy at Split. In 2013, they received the Vicko Andric Award for their conservation of Diocletian's peristyle, on which they had worked for full ten years, carefully and very patiently removing the grime and dirt of many centuries, using pen-shaped laser instruments and finally reaching, at the clear surface of the stone, the tool marks of its original carver. Created 1700 years ago, these monuments still leave us in awe and “our” boys from Split richly deserved their award.



In September this year, the Annual Achievement Award was given to Gordana Car and two of her colleagues, textile conservators from the Croatian Conservation Institute, for conservation of a set of clothes found in the crypt of the cathedral of St Theresa of Avila in Požega. I followed their work on these pieces of clothing and admired their dedication to the task at hand, fraught also, in my view, with danger of possible infection, but they were completely up to it. Gordana was also one of “our students”, who spent six months at the Textile Conservation Department of the Victoria & Albert Museum where she learnt a great deal and passed her knowledge acquired in this country to her colleagues at home. More about the awards can be found under Vicko Andric Awards.

This year, I also had the honour of receiving a “Special Mention” from the Ministry of Culture for the work of our Trust in the field of conservation. I was glad and happy that our work has been recognised in such a way. This has all been possible due to support, moral and financial, of our trustees, John Julius Norwich, Serban Cantacuzino, Peter Stormonth Darling, my late husband, Henry, my family and our supporters.

Among the main benefactors and donors to our Trust I would first like to mention the Headley Trust, who have supported us financially since their first donation, to help rebuild the dome of St James's Cathedral in Sibenik in 1996. Another major donation followed in 1998 to the Cathedral of St Lawrence in Trogir. There have been several others until latterly they have especially helped us with the project of preservation of historic church vestments. Through the Headley Trust we have been able to buy conservation chests for several churches and friaries in Croatia, in Skradin, Zadar, Hvar, Kostanje, Veli Lošinj, Trogir, Zaostrog, Makarska, Komiža, etc. In collaboration with Conservation Departments of the Ministry of Culture and the Croatian Conservation Institute, these historic vestments, sometimes found under very unsuitable conditions, have been sorted out, cleaned and safely stored in these chests where they can wait to be either exhibited or restored one day. They can be of Ottoman or Italian provenance, they tell many stories, how they were acquired, who gave them, under which circumstances. They are a document of their time and owing to the intrinsic fragility of textile, I am proud that, with the help of the Headley Trust, they are now safely preserved for future generations.





An example of work in the Textile Department of the Croatian Conservation Institute. One of a set of seven 18<sup>th</sup> Century tapestries belonging to the Archdioceses of Zagreb.

The Headley Trust has, most recently, donated a very substantial sum to the Benedictine Sisters in Trogir, who celebrated the 950<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their convent in December 2014, for the restoration of Vitturi tower, one of their structures, which was in need of a complete overhaul. Our Trust is very grateful indeed to the Headley Trust for this donation.



Through the kindness and generosity of the Sandy and Zorica Glen Charitable Settlement we have been able, for many years now, to support the International Workshop on the island of Lopud. This little island has over 30 churches, all of them needing help, and the Workshop, with the participation of four universities, from Antwerpen, Koln, La Cambre and the Arts Academy in Split, meet every year in September and spend two weeks working on particular projects in these churches. The students and their teachers arrive at their own cost, bringing their own tools and materials and our Trust, in collaboration with the Society for the Protection of Natural and Cultural Heritage of Lopud, helps towards the costs of their board and lodgings.

The same charitable organisation has helped us, also over a number of years, to supply conservation material for the State Archives in Zadar and towards the costs of education of students. Through them, the Museum of Vlaho Bukovac in Cavtat, Kuća Bukovac, acquired ten paintings by Vlaho Bukovac from the legacy of Lady Glen.

In Croatia this autumn, I visited Sisak and its Town Museum. They have recently founded their own conservation workshop and employ one metal conservator. It is well known that Sisak is a rich archaeological treasure trove, it abounds in finds, a recent discovery may change our perceived history of the region. They have asked our Trust to help them equip their conservation workshop. We have bought for them a fraction of what they require and that is all they have. Sisak is important and I would now like to ask the readers of this publication to help equip their workshop, if they possibly can.

The same “cry for help” comes from the Textile Department of the Croatian Conservation Institute. They, the conservators in the department, have asked if we could help them buy a vacuum table, a large piece of equipment which would be used not only for textile conservation work, but also for paper, leather and parchment, which would help them enormously in their painstaking work on important artifacts. Throughout years I have seen so many beautiful pieces, testament to Croatia's rich holdings, going through their capable hands and this vacuum table would make their work safer to accomplish and quicker, leaving them time to do more.



## Razgovor

**Prof. Lady Jadranka Njerš-Beresford-Peirse**  
**utemeljiteljica Međunarodne zaklade za obnovu**  
**hrvatskih spomenika kulture**

**Profesorica Jadranka Njerš-Beresford-Peirse 1964. odlazi na posljediplomski studij na King's College University of London. U Londonu upoznaje svoga budućeg supruga Henryja s kojim 1966. zasniva obitelj. Na početku Domovinskog rata 1991. utemeljuje i predsjedava Međunarodnom zakladom za obnovu hrvatskih spomenika kulture. Kako se bliži 25. obljetnica rada ove poznate Zaklade zamolili smo njezinu utemeljiteljicu za razgovor o rezultatima rada i budućim planovima.**

**Tema iz domovinskog rata**

novnu izgradnju i popravak razorenoga iz pepela rata. Tu mi je odmah i svestrano pomogao naš svjetski poznati pijanist Ivo Pogorelec i u listopadu 1992. godine dao je prvi od tri humanitarna koncerta za našu Zakladu u Royal Festival Hallu, najvećoj koncertnoj dvorani u Londonu, koja prima 3000 posjetitelja. Dvorana je bila do zadnjeg mjesta popunjena. S lvinim drugim koncertom za Dubrovnik, održanim u Bruxellesu 1994., u Dubrovnik smo poslali zamašnu sumu novca s kojom se postavio novi krov na zgradi dubrovačkog ljetnog festivala. Ivo je 1999. isto u Royal Festival Hallu, održao koncert u korist Vukovara. S tim koncertom, postavili smo novi, središnji krov na palači Eliz u Vukovaru.



vinama, *Evening Standard*, u studenom 1994. Članak je važan, jer se odnosi na mojeg supruga, koji mi je tijekom svih tih godina bio najveći oslonac, a kojeg danas

prije nego što bude potpuno prepušteno zaboravu. Pomoću Palme Klun-Pesavec, dugogodišnje ravnateljice Otvorenog sčista u Ivanić Gradu, to smo i ostvarili. Od

O prof. Lady Jadranka Njerš-Beresford-Peirse, utemeljiteljica Međunarodne zaklade za obnovu hrvatskih spomenika kulture pisalo je Hrvatsko slovo u broju od 2. Listopada 2015.

Both Sisak and the vacuum table are equally important and I would be more than delighted to send to anyone more information on these subjects.

You may have heard about the very recent floodings in Croatia. Many places were affected, including Sibenik and its town library "Juraj Šižgorić". This library has been badly flooded and we have just been asked to help them with acquisition of conservation material which will be used once everything has been dried out. If any of you would be interested helping with this project, please, kindly let me know.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank so many of our friends, who may be reading this journal, for supporting the concert we organised in June this year in memory of my husband and in aid of our Trust. Henry's memory was honoured with fine renditions of songs that Henry loved, sung by Croatian opera singers Dubravka Šeparović Musović and Ivana Lazar and accompanied by Piers Lane. The generosity of those present, and those who were not able to join us and sent contributions, brought some of the needed funding, which will enable us to continue our work. I thank them all again for their contributions.

**Jadranka Beresford-Peirse**

