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Author/s:

Tse, N

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Editorial

In 2014, at the ICOM CC 17th Triennial Conference in Melbourne, Professor Colin Pearson established the AICCM award for the most 'Outstanding Research in the Field of Material Conservation' published in the *AICCM Bulletin*. Some three years later at the 2017 AICCM National Conference in the Blue Mountains Sydney, a *Gedenkschrift* dedicated to Professor Colin Pearson celebrated his life and contribution to cultural materials conservation. Colin, the 'Father of the Conservation Profession in Australia' had passed away the the previous year, on 17 April 2016. Friend and mentor to generations of conservators both in Australia and overseas his passing was felt keenly across the heritage sector and beyond (Lyll & Batterham 2016). In honour of the immense contribution that Colin made throughout his 30-year career, this memorial publication of the *AICCM Bulletin* is dedicated to Colin, and captures the themes and papers explored during the *Gedenkschrift* and the Conference. The papers exemplify Colin's legacy and an Australian conservation profession that he valued. As such the focus of this volume 39.1 explores the areas important to Colin, covering materials research in conservation, conservation education and training, preventive conservation and environmental guidelines, and conservation in the Asia Pacific.

As considered in all the papers, Colin was very much central to the formative period (1960 – 1980) and growth period (1980 to the present) of conservation in Australia (Scott 2018). We see this examined in Marcelle Scott's paper 'Professor Colin Pearson: 'one of the most versatile and capable conservators of his generation' that considers Colin's contributory role as an educator over the two periods. In 1977 Colin joined the Canberra College of Advanced Education (CCAЕ) to establish a conservation training program, the first in Australia and one of earliest programs to include an ethnographic conservation specialisation. Under his tenure, the CCAЕ (later the University of Canberra) program offered courses at Bachelor, Master, and PhD levels graduating 338 students over its 25 year history. Scott's paper fleshes out the issues of 'what an "ideal" conservation course might be' (Scott 2018). The paper points out the challenges faced by Colin working across the University and professional contexts, and more importantly the 'tensions between the need to prepare students for the future while wanting new graduates to be work-ready' (Scott 2018). This is akin to managing diverse expectations while building disciplinary bodies of knowledge that are grounded by ethical and conceptual responsibilities to collections, culture and society. As such, Scott also recognises that Colin may model what a future educator should look like and one that fully combines research, teaching and practice. In doing so, Colin 'was able to construct such a rigorous, and internationally recognised and recognisable professional conservation curriculum that was both traditional and innovative' (Scott 2018).

In Colin's later years, he spoke of the necessity to build relevance and visibility. Ian MacLeod's paper 'Contribution to Research: Colin Pearson, AO, MBE, FTSE, FIIC, BSc (Hons), MSc, PhD' warmly commends Colin's long list of awards and credits. In 1994 Colin was appointed Professor of Cultural Heritage Conservation and made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) for his contribution to heritage conservation, having earlier become a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE). One year later, Colin was appointed Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (TSE) and Honorary Life Member of the AICCM. In 2002, upon his departure from the University of Canberra, Colin was appointed Emeritus Professor and in 2014 received the ICOM-CC

Medal in recognition of his influential role within the field of conservation. MacLeod's paper provides a context for each of these achievements, and how Colin laid the foundations for marine archaeology and corrosion science in conservation, employing scientific methodologies that are now common practice. The final list of Colin's 120 publications compiled by MacLeod, is a significant document that captures Colin's breadth of enquiry and research outputs.

Amanda Pagliarino's paper on 'Environmental Guidelines-An Australian Perspective', picks up on Colin's evidence-based research on collection environments and how his insights 'led to the development of climate-specific environmental guidelines and collection care strategies' (Pagliarino 2018) declared by the AICCM in 2014. Colin discussed the shortcomings of HVAC long before it became a critical resource issue, possibly as Pagliarino shows, he was 'a progressive thinker who followed up with action' (2018). At a time when museological principles were more universal, Colin responded to the Australian tropical and sub-tropical climates through his involvement in the Asia Pacific region. He was collaborative in his approach and shared his findings within institutional frameworks, which was true to his ethics as a researcher and educator. Bruce Ford's paper 'A microfading survey of the lightfastness of blue, black and red ballpoint pen inks in ambient and modified environments and lights' is a true example of customised environmental guidelines rather than the use of universal standards. Ford's micro fading expertise characterises lesser known behaviour of modern writing materials and their fading, which allows us to hone our decision-making skills for collections care and tools for their evaluation. Specifically, he critically assesses whether low RH and hypoxic environments can reduce fading rates of ball point pens. Finding otherwise, because the 'behaviour of ballpoint pen inks is so variable and idiosyncratic', Ford's paper illustrates the necessity for tailored solutions.

Ian Cook's paper 'Pioneering collections conservation in the Asia-Pacific 1978 – 1998 A job well done', examines Colin's founding role in building regional conservation links and expertise. Cook credit's Colin's commitment and ability to activate opportunities that were internationally authorised or partnered with UNESCO, ICOM CC, ICCROM, PIMA and ASEAN COCI. Colin's contribution to conservation knowledge in the Asia Pacific region is captured in an important publication, *Cultural Heritage in Asia and the Pacific: Conservation and Policy* (MacLean ed. 1991), which 'has been continually used as a valuable reference for the last three decades' (Cook 2018). Such knowledge creation specific to the region is also the focus of Wendy Reade's paper 'The Kuthodaw Pagoda, Myanmar: collaborative conservation of a UNESCO Memory of the World site', and Nicole Tse, Maricor Soriano, Ana MT Labrador and Robert Balarbar's paper on 'Decision making, materiality and digitisation: Esteban Villaneuva's Basi Revolt Paintings of Ilocos'. Both papers illustrate how localised knowledge, values, and resources navigate the purpose of conservation in their specific locations and its performance.

Likewise, support for locally held cultural materials is the focus of Robyn Sloggett and Janelle Middleton's paper 'For mutual benefit: cultural materials conservation and local government - a case study'. Bathurst Regional Council's Strategic Plan into 2040 is forward thinking and the paper takes this on board to consider how cultural materials conservation can economically support a 'sense of place' in remote and regional communities. A functioning partnership between the Bathurst Regional Council and the Grimwade Centre is key to their argument, and the valuation of heritage as an asset 'to argue for [its] investment' (Sloggett and Middleton 2018). They contend that there are important conservation lessons to be learnt working with regional communities such as Bathurst, as their closely connected constituency and coinciding responsibilities can bring about meaningful purpose and impacts for the future. Here the paper engages with broader knowledge experts for its decision making.

The future is reframed in Mary Jo Lelyveld's paper that speculates the value of 'Futures' thinking in conservation. Titled 'Beyond the Bench: Using scenarios to generate, evaluate and navigate conservation futures', the paper presents the tools used in 'Futures' and presents conservation scenarios and stories. Bedded down in some dense terminology that Lelyveld explains, she also presents modes of conservation planning that we are familiar with and how these relate to future scenarios. The very breadth of conservation futures across the social, economic, environmental and technological domains clearly has something to offer the conservation profession and it is pleasing to see how Lelyveld's previous role as the AICCM President (2013-2017), is being translated into such disciplinary research outcomes.

In summing up, the papers presented in this *Gedenkschrift* volume of the *AICCM Bulletin*, reflect upon or relate to Colin's significant contributions to conservation in Australia. ~~As a dedicated volume, the papers are reflective and praise Colin.~~ Colin's contributions, however were also a product of his time and today the profession is part of a society with very different concerns. Being aware of the importance of change and conscious of our role through engagement with localized values, sites and circumstances, is a way to remain flexible and situated in what we decide on doing. Colin rightly pointed out that change was imperative for the conservation profession and as he put it 'I tell my students 'If you were still carrying out in 10 years' time the treatments I taught you today I'd be very disappointed', because I know the conservation profession doesn't necessarily move all that quickly, particularly in the treatments area, but it does move, it does change...' (Lyll 2003, in Lelyveld 2017).

This is a simple but important lasting message from Colin and something all of us can easily reflect upon with the hope that the conservation profession can move faster than Colin projected.

Finally, in supporting change and ways to test and evaluate the disciplinary strength of cultural materials conservation, the *AICCM Bulletin* is supported by a solid Editorial Committee and Editorial Assistant Committee. More particularly I deeply thank the Editorial Assistant Committee and am happy to say that they really epitomise what the future may hold for cultural materials conservation (with special mention of Claire Grech, Eliza O'Donnell, Robyn Ho and the Editorial Committee members Sabine Cottee, Catherine Smith and Cobus Van Breda).

Dr Nicole Tse, Chief Editor, AICCM Bulletin

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