The Association for Preservation Technology

20 Years in Historic Preservation

From New Richmond, Quebec to Boston, Massachusetts, APT grew into a close-knit network of committed professionals who looked forward to yearly gatherings to exchange information and APT camaraderie.

From the Editor

Marylee MacDonald

As you read these articles from many involved with APT, you will be impressed by the noble motives, commitment, volunteer time, and vision of APT's dedicated founders and staff. All of us in APT owe them a big "Thank You".

It's not that we couldn't have survived without APT. We could have. Rather, it is just that APT has been such a shot in the arm, renewing our commitment to the preservation of our cultural heritage and feeding us a steady stream of technical information.

The main articles in this issue reflect the diverse interests of APTers. Perhaps what we like about the organization is learning more about areas outside our specialty. In that sense, every APTer is a generalist–generally interested and curious about a whole host of issues and problems. Creating an organization that embraces the diverse interests of its members was no easy matter. APT members *still* debate whether 'tis better to be *in*clusive or *ex*clusive.

For this special issue, several APT members have taken time to reflect on the past, present and future. These essays describe what was, what is, and what can be.

Notes from a New Member

Diana Jarvis

As a fledgeling building curator and would-be conservator, I viewed my first participation in the APT's annual conference in British Columbia with some trepidation. Having attended a variety of academic gatherings in my checquered historian's past, I thought that this group would be as elitist as most specialized organizations are. This ill-formed conception of APTers as cloistered snobs was disintegrated as easily as waterlogged wood exposed to air without the benefit of polyethylene glycol. My exposure to the APT contingent in Victoria and Vancouver left me with the impression that they were a little-known enclave of Renaissance men and women who combined technical expertise, aesthetic values, and that most necessary essential–a sense of humor.

Whether they were engineers, architects, craftsmen or Main-Street managers, the APT members were anything but exclusive. Sharing dinner, bottles of wine, and renovation horror stories led to fascinating late-night bouts of conversation and good company. In a sense, the APTers were like friendly children: They never met a stranger. Their openness to friendly dialogues and occasional monologues allowed our conversations to span innumberable architectural subjects and geographic locales. Their willingness to assist both the newcomer and old member with advice and moral support gave a sense of community to this gathering of Canadians, U.S. citizens and the occasional European.

In a society in which a fee is charged for the slightest ill-conceived consultation, it was refreshing to be among pragmatists who had preserved their sense of idealism without sacrificing reality. We shared our tribulations and anxieties in an atmosphere that encouraged perseverance. I realized that, novice that I was, my problems were similar to those faced by these most well-trained architects, conservators and engineers. I learned that there were no pat answers, that the newly emerging field of building conservation held not only satisfaction and challenge but also a certain amount of inevitable frustration. No matter how extensive a conservator's technical training might have been, each project could pose new dilemmas requiring innovative solutions. There was the paradox: the very thing that made the field a difficult and demanding one also made it not only interesting but fascinating. I found that creativity was the hidden common denominator that bound the technologist, the engineer,



Founders on the porch of Stanley House...

- Founding meeting took place at Stanley House, PQ

1968



Founders gathered at Stanley House in 1968.

and the architectural historian together.

Creativity allowed them to visualize the possibilities that historic buildings and materials presented. Creativity assisted the formation of solutions to difficulties that only conservators were willing to confront. In a world where we are often all too ready to sacrifice significant cultural artifacts, whether they be ships or totem poles, buildings or bridges, the members of APT dare us to find ways to preserve these links to our past. They challenge themselves to confront the opposition, often subjecting themselves to the ridicule of those who ask, "Why would anyone want to bother to preserve that piece of junk?".

Consider the things that we were shown in British Columbia: the loving restoration of the arctic ship, the St. Roch; the restoration of the Steveston Cannery complex; even the little vernacular houses so carefully returned to use in Victoria. Each of these represented a small triumph in historic preservation and the personal victory of at least one individual who cared enough to fight it out.

Although the APT members have among their ranks more than their fair share of ranconteurs, tireless dancers, and sardonic social critics, they are a well-schooled bunch as generous with their expertise as they are with their jokes. And even though they made me laugh enough to bring tears to my eyes on the Rockland "Light-up" tour, their concerns were just beneath the irreverent laughter of that architectural ship of fools.

Along with fond memories of the waterlogged group groping for insects beneath the massive Totems at the University of Victoria, the terra-cotta specialist who danced so hard he split his pants, the French-Canadian belle of the ball, the masonry maven from Yonkers and so many others from the APT cast of characters, I brought back to Florida a sense of belonging to an international community.

My ability to be effective as a conservationist was increased by the APT training programs, and I was now a part of an extensive informal network of support and technical assistance. Returning to Florida, I no longer felt isolated from the mainstream of the conservation field, and as building curator for nearly a dozen significant buildings, I soon found use for my newly increased knowledge of conservation skills.

Dr. Diana Jarvis is with Historic Pensacola, 205 E. Zaragoza, Pensacola, FL 32501.

The Publishing Roots of APT

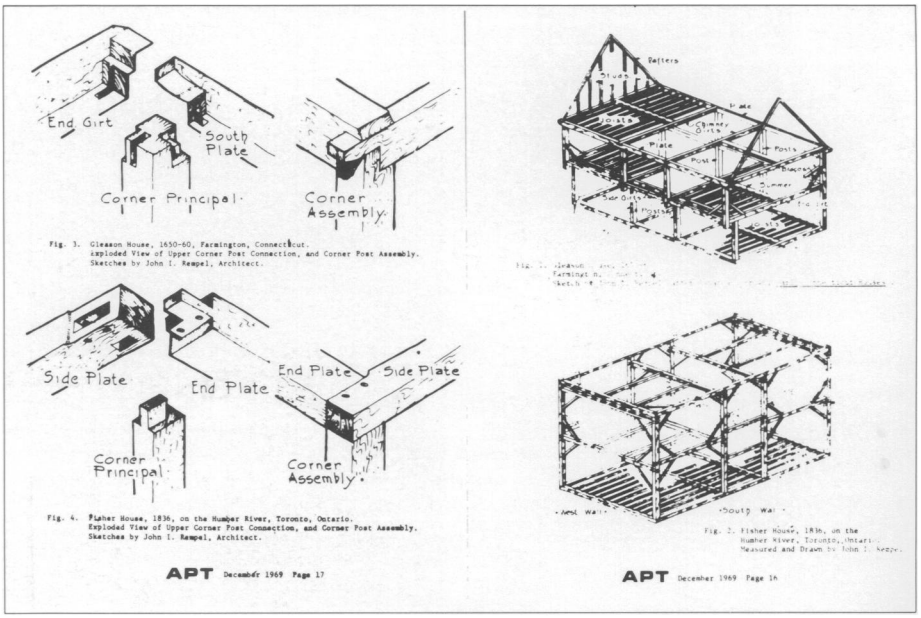
Lee H. Nelson, FAIA

If you were to query any of the APT founders about the origins and the reasons behind the establishment of APT, you would likely get as many versions as there are founders, not because of our predilections toward folk tales, but because of the surprising professional diversity of the founders and their differing points of view and needs as preservationists. Consider that when the initial discussions took place at Stanley House (located on the southern shore of the Gaspé peninsula, near New Richmond, Quebec) in July 1968, there were individuals representing museum administration and object curation, historic furnishings, documentary film making, cultural resource management, grants management, and historic architecture, including private and governmental restoration specialists. This bit of personalized APT history is from one in the latter category, one of two Americans invited by Torrey Fuller to participate in those initial discussions.

At that point in my career, I was participating in the team effort to restore Independence Hall, and we had encountered far more problems than we ever solved, especially in the areas of

- Conference at Saranac Lake, NY
- First *Bulletin* produced

1969



Microfiche of first BULLETIN shows emphasis on technology.

early building technology and craft practices, to say nothing of the technical problems of preserving historic fabric. Many of the answers to such problems exist today, thanks in part to APT; but I went to those initial discussions at Stanley House with a terrible NEED TO KNOW, a need to learn from other restorationists, and a need for a forum in which to share preservation knowledge and experience. Such a forum did not exist, nor did it seem likely that any existing organization would fulfill those needs.

I have a vivid recollection of a freak mishap that occurred while en route to the Stanley House meeting. Charles Peterson and I arrived separately in Quebec by plane, and then started the automobile trip with Jacques Dalibard and Jack Richardson, making numerous stops along the way to look at architectural details and early French-Canadian building practices; so that the day was nearly spent when it came time to cross the St.Lawrence River by ferry boat at St. Simeon.

We pulled into the ferry boat parking area, and Jacques stayed with the car awaiting boarding, while the rest of us assumed that we had ample time to have a drink on the terrace of the shore-side restaurant and still get on the ferry boat before the last crossing of the day. We sat there enjoying our drinks with the sun setting on the St. Lawrence, which at that point is so wide that you can scarcely see across, and then we watched with horror as the ferry boat pulled away from the wharf with our car (and Jacques).

Since we had missed the last ferry boat for the day, we decided to find another way to cross the river to catch up with the car, and to be ready to leave early the next morning for the remainder of the trip to Stanley House. After making queries in this small French speaking riverside community (yours truly speaks no French), we were able to get someone to drive us up the river a few miles, where we found a boat owner whom we hired to make the crossing in what turned out to be a foggy night. At that point, we were some 30 or more miles from the ferry boat destination at Riviere-du-Loup, and it was a scary and cautious crossing (actually I think the "captain" was lost in the fog) which took all night, and involved weaving our way in the fog not only between several islands, but between ocean freighters which were anchored in the river. I remember being very cold, and huddling down in the hull to keep warm in the damp, foggy night air, and becoming very sick from the diesel fumes. Jacques (on the other side of the river), assuming that we would make the crossing in several hours, rented motel rooms for us; but we didn't arrive until seven o'clock the next morning, cold, very tired, and feeling foolish.

I won't claim that our lives were in danger, but there are moments when I think about all the various "labor pains" attending the "birth" of APT, that I also remember when one future president and one future editor of APT spent the night in the fog trying not to ram a freighter, and not end up in the bottom of the St. Lawrence.

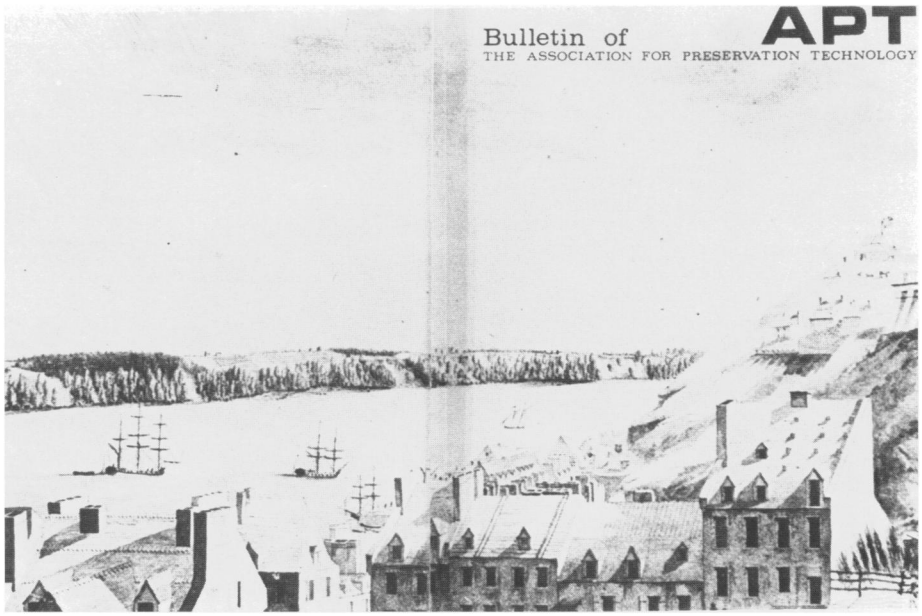
Early Relics

I remember several other stops during that trip, including one at a church that was being reroofed with tin shingles which were laid diagonally, a practice that I had never before seen. Eagerly, I "rescued" some of the discarded shingles as specimens of this roofing practice, and which I wanted for our architectural study collection in Philadelphia. I also recall stretching our legs at a gas stop, and wandering into a roadside antique shop where I bought an old carpenter's hand plane (a large half-round) that was stamped with the French name of the original owner.

I took these two "artifacts" with me to Stanley House and I used them during our discussions to evidence the

- Conference in Quebec City, PQ
- 450 members in APT
- Second *Bulletin* produced

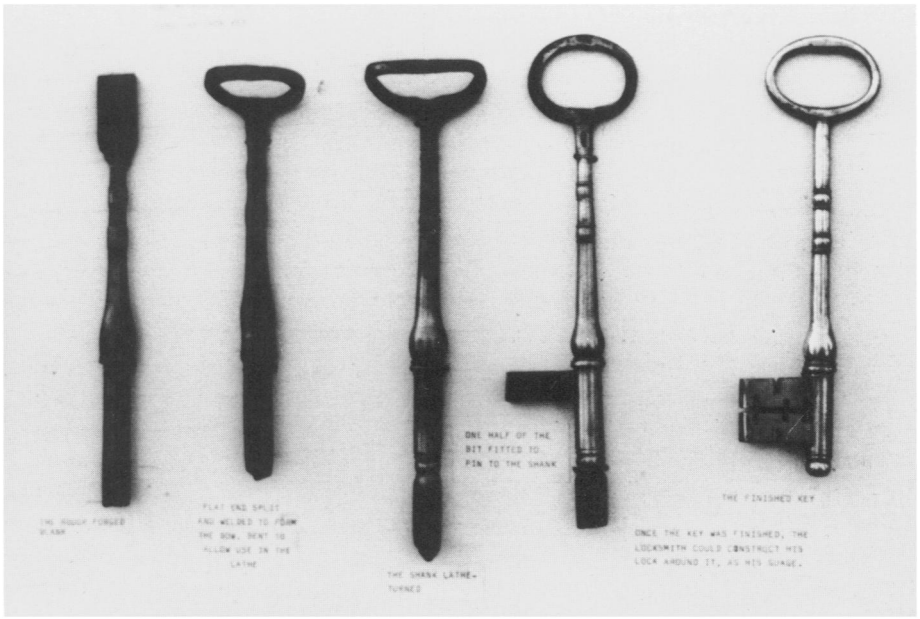
1970



Theme of old Quebec-City issue grew from Quebec conference.

"need to know" more about historic building materials and practices, and the history of early building technology. To me, the need to know about such things mandated some kind of a "forum" where we could share knowledge not only about the history of building technology, but also about techniques to restore (read preserve) the incredible variety of historic buildings in the United States and Canada.

Our host for the week-long (July 8-12, 1968) discussions at Stanley House was David W. Bartlett, Secretary-General of the Canadian National Commission of Unesco, which was an agency of The Canada Council, and which maintained the house for such meetings. All 12 participants voiced similar "needs" to share information within the broad field of historic preservation. For some, that meant wanting to know who could make special shingles, cane chairs, or where to get information about special fabrics, paper conservation, etc. It was clear that sharing knowledge with each other was the only way to go if we were to be responsible preservationists.



Collection of handmade keys exemplifies interest of early APTers in retrieving lost information about early technology. (Lee Nelson)

The Written Word. Always strongly oriented to the written word as the ultimate way to share knowledge, I hoped even at that early stage that our preservation "forum" would involve exchanges of correspondence or perhaps something approximating a newsletter, but in all honesty at that stage of our discussions, I did not envision anything like the *Bulletin* as we know it today. Instead I was thinking along the lines of the "handout" which we prepared for the so-called "Carpenter's Carnival," staged by the National Park Service in Philadelphia in 1963, but which was conceived and promoted by Charles Peterson, and which was developed as an in-house training conference (the third such annual conference) on the general subject of brick masonry (obviously having nothing to do with carpentry, but the "carpenter's carnival" name stuck after the first one in 1960). The technical information "handout" mentioned above was a 47-page mimeographed effort which encompassed the results of prepared papers by staff members, coupled with so-called

- Conference in Cooperstown, NY
- 700 Members in APT

1971

- Conference in Cornwall/Upper Canada Village

1972

- Conference in Boston, MA

1973

masonry data sheets prepared by summertime architectural students. Thus my idea of sharing knowledge and information was based on a successful series of one-day discussions and demonstrations (by restoration craftsmen), all of which was attended by invited "outside" professionals and the interested public. It was this kind of approach that I felt was absolutely essential for the sharing of knowledge and information by restorationists in Canada and the United States. There was no existing forum for such an exchange, nor were there any textbooks or other written media for professionals or students (the next generation that would have to reinvent the wheel).

Our discussions that week ranged over these and many other topics ranging from furnishings' research to conservation of museum objects, and focused on whether there were any existing publications (like *Antiques*) or any organizations such as the National Trust, the American Association of Museums, or the American Institute of Architects that could (or would) embrace our interests and needs. We concluded that they would not.

With our needs articulated, and with a remarkable "meeting of minds" we created a "Restoration Guild" (pro tem name), which was envisioned to be an organization of professionals, and it remained for the "organizing" participants to establish qualifications for membership, to develop a nominating committee for membership; and it was determined that each person should write a letter four times a year on some "interesting discovery" as a contribution towards a *Newsletter*. Pro-tem Committees were drawn up for membership, program, exhibition and publications.

Organizational Goals

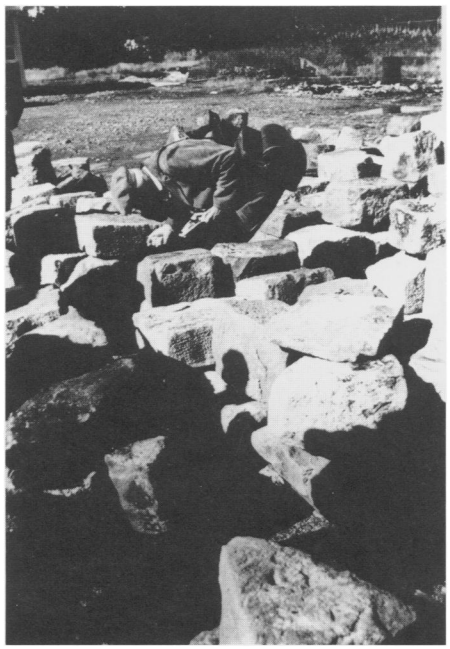
A report of that organizational meeting was subsequently distributed to the participants, and should serve as the first organizational document of APT, for it encompassed the meeting (from notes and tapes) with its then agreed upon objectives, with points of view from various organizations and professional disciplines, and with conclusions about the immediate needs of the group, specifically: 1) a collection center, 2) a publication, 3) an advisory reference service, 4) seminars, and 5) research.

The minutes (actually a report) note that Dave Bartlett "stressed the need for an association of people first followed by a publication, then a seminar in order to bring people together and build the association. He volunteered the assistance of his office over the next year to assist the association to get underway." Thus several committees were formed, including Membership, Programme and Liaison, and Publications. While the minutes show that the first publication committee consisted of Peter Stokes, Pierre Mayrand, George MacBeath, Alice Alison, and Lee Nelson, and that a "simple" quarterly should be produced, little came of these intentions or "appointments" until after our second meeting at Upper Canada Village a few months later, in November, 1968.

Jacques Dalibard has reported on that second meeting at upper Canada Village (*Communique*, vol. XVI, no. 4, 1987), wherein we moved away (quite reluctantly by some) from the idea of a "guild" limited to professionals, to an organization of professionals with an open membership. This was a major shift, but it was felt that the profession was too small to financially support our needs. Despite the open door approach, the stated aims of the organization were targeted to professionals, as they continue so to this day. Jacques mentions the important role that Jim Fitch played in that meeting, especially in developing a less elitist though more tongue twisting name for the fledgling organization. It is interesting that the term "technology" was so

- Conference in Halifax, NS

1974



Harley McKee recorded stone craftsmanship in Nova Scotia.

prominent in those discussions, considering the traditional restoration bias of the group, but it was the *apt* acronym that carried the day.

Gradually, during the discussion, the newsletter concept "evolved" with Jacques and me volunteering to be editors, and the earlier committee approach was not reaffirmed. Then the idea emerged that Canadian items would be sent to Jacques and the American items to me–and finally, to the simpler approach of sending everything to me, partly because I had a "permanent" address at the time (Jacques was studying at Columbia) and partly because it was perceived that I had the support of the National Park Service. In fact, I knew that the effort would be carried out at home, and I gave the participants my home address, and I hoped that those present would forward material for the first newsletter so that it could be reproduced or printed by Canada Council early in 1969.

Volunteer Time

In retrospect, the discussions at Stanley House and Upper Canada Village are interesting because they involved a mix of interdisciplinary professional idealism and professionals needs, coupled with a willingness to volunteer for tasks that cut across those disciplines, across borders and cultures, and because all of those ideas for creating a new organization were built on a number of unfounded assumptions about how to get the job done.

In fact, so little material was forthcoming in the coming months, that prospects for the first newsletter were bleak. In a Memo to the Board of Directors, dated January 1, 1969, Torrey Fuller (as Secretary) noted that "Lee is a trifle bitter about the fact that so far only two persons have sent in material for the newsletter...It is not too much to say that the entire future of APT depends upon our initial efforts."

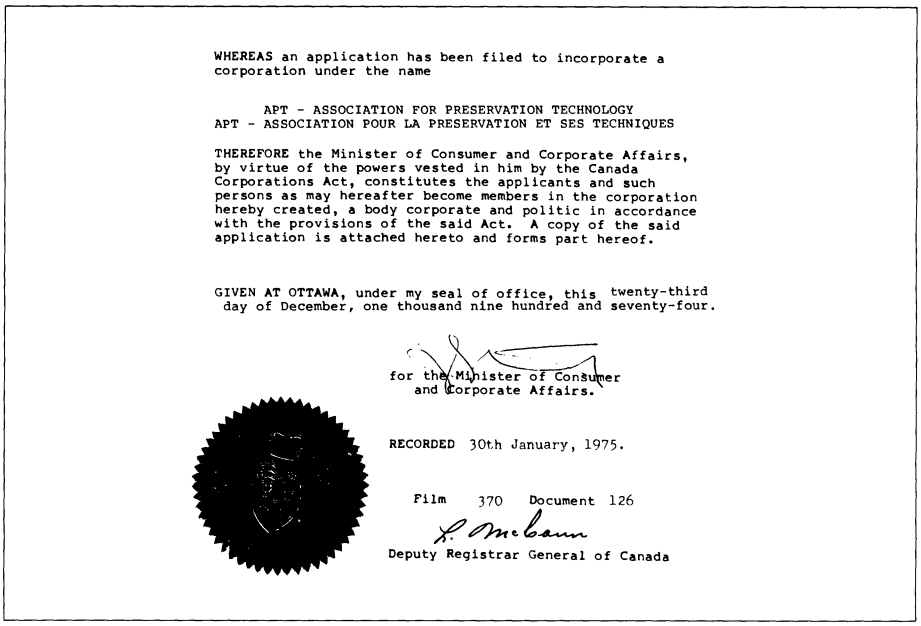
Lacking any suggestions from the members, Jacques and I met twice (in Boston and Philadelphia) to plan our own approach to that first *Newsletter*, and we decided to devote the first issue in its entirety to Charles Peterson's sweeping Outline of the Technology of Early American Building (TEAB), which we felt helped to define the scope, the thrust, and the future content of the *Newsletter*. We also hoped that it would help define one of the future thrusts of APT itself, that is, the history of building technology.

I prepared the logo for the new publication with press-on letters, bought an IBM Selectric® typewriter and pressed Lois into typing duty (which was to last 10 years). By mid-April, I had sent the camera-ready copy of vol. 1, no. 1 to Torrey Fuller, who turned it over the Dave Bartlett at Canada Council for printing and mailing. Torrey followed its mailing with a memo to founding members, suggesting that the first issue be saved "for your grandchildren: it will be a collector's item long before that!" However, there were complaints from several quarters about the logo, the general design, and the editorial policy that produced the single subject content and its lack of "spice" or variety, or the inclusion of items about material suppliers, etc.

In early May, I sent a three page memo to all the Founding Members outlining my plans and perceived needs for the second issue of the *Newsletter* which was to be on the subject of early housepainting. This memo did produce some contributions on that subject (especially from Jeanne Minhinnick and Meredith Sykes), although most of the information came from our National Park Service files in Philadelphia. In that second issue, which I finished and sent off to Canada for printing in early August (1969), I managed to include several pages of listings for books, articles, meetings and courses, so that it began to take on the trappings of a real *NEWSletter*. It consisted of 20 pages with one half-tone illustration, and it was mailed out in time to help set the tone for the first annual meeting of APT at Pinebrook, Upper Saranac Lake, New York, held October 3-5, 1969. Incidentally (since this is a personal recollection), that was the first of many such annual meetings which took place about the same time each year wherein I managed to miss our youngest son David's birthday, which over the years has become a family joke about fatherly neglect.

- Conference in Williamsburg, VA
- Training course on polymer adhesives–the first Training Course!
- Salaried Executive Secretary hired
- APT incorporated in Canada

1975



WHEREAS an application has been filed to incorporate a corporation under the name

APT - ASSOCIATION FOR PRESERVATION TECHNOLOGY
APT - ASSOCIATION POUR LA PRESERVATION ET SES TECHNIQUES

THEREFORE the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, by virtue of the powers vested in him by the Canada Corporations Act, constitutes the applicants and such persons as may hereafter become members in the corporation hereby created, a body corporate and politic in accordance with the provisions of the said Act. A copy of the said application is attached hereto and forms part hereof.

GIVEN AT OTTAWA, under my seal of office, this twenty-third day of December, one thousand nine hundred and seventy-four.

for the Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs.

RECORDED 30th January, 1975.

Film 370 Document 126

Deputy Registrar General of Canada

Official seal made APT a Canadian non-profit corporation.

Creating the Bulletin

By the time of to the Pinebrook meeting, there were 84 paid-up members, and we had an all afternoon open session on the *Newsletter*, with suggested topics for future issues, and we pleaded for more contributions and input from the attendees. Jacques came to the Pinebrook meeting with plans for a major issue on roofing; since I came with an expanded third issue well under way (with real articles), we decided to call it a *Bulletin* instead of a *Newsletter*, mostly because the planned content was rapidly expanding beyond a news format. However, by switching the name from a *Newsletter* to a *Bulletin*, without changing the volume and number sequence, we unwittingly messed up the future serial history of our publications.

On April 18-19, 1970, Jacques and Meredith came down to spend the weekend with Lois and me at our home in Havertown, Pennsylvania, and to finalize our plans for that special issue on roofing. They brought a pile of research notes, photographs and old views, and we finalized an approach to the subject that merits some explanation.

Instead of random notes or articles on the subject of early roofing materials and practices, we decided to outline the subject by listing the different *types* of documentary sources about the subject of roofing, with samples of the information that could be found in those various sources. All this was followed by six original articles, three from Canada (one in French) and three from the US. Lois got her first extended practice typing in French, to say nothing of our first ambitious efforts to include photos and old views.

Since we were putting together typewritten pages with pasted-on illustrations (to be "camera ready" for the printer), it meant that each page with an illustration had to be composed on my light table, with pencil "tick marks" so that Lois could type the captions, then I attached the pictures with spray- on adhesive, with their brain- damaging chemicals filling the house.

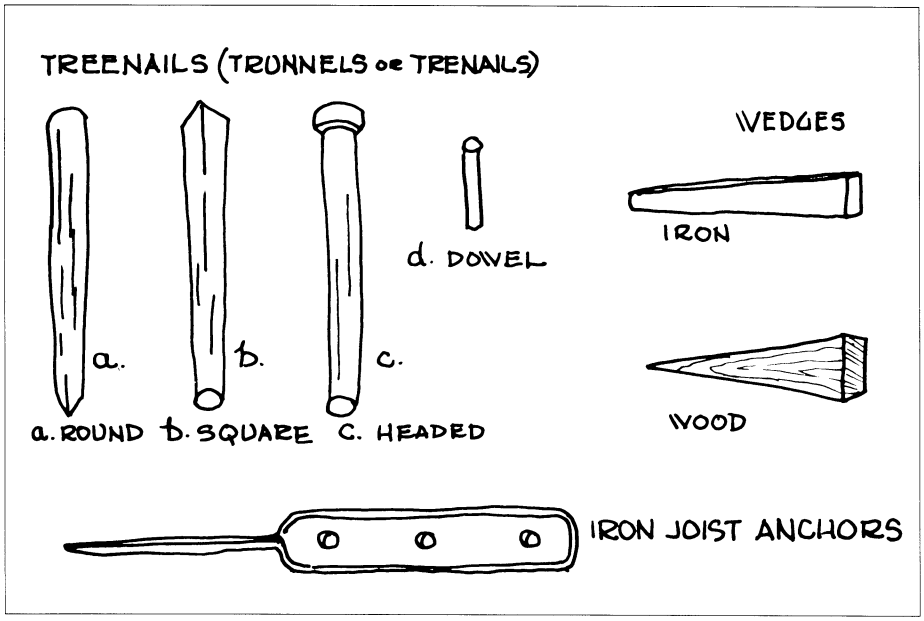
A lot of marriage-threatening mistakes were made in that process over the years. That whole ten-year experience seems akin to the stone-age with its labor intensive and error-prone typing and gluing, compared to the present use of word processing programs and ability to set type directly from a computer disc.

Nevertheless, from my 20-20 hindsight, I look back on that fourth issue (on roofing) as a turning point in APT, partly for what it said about the potential of the publication and for its usefulness to preservation professionals in the US and Canada. After the roofing issue, there was a marked membership interest in the *Bulletin*, and articles began to be forthcoming, although I was always amazed at how much editorial work it took to make most articles publishable, and since we did not have a peer review system, sometimes articles were published that were beyond the expertise of the editor. Despite the increased interest of the members in our efforts, we still had to do a great deal of "bush beating" which involved a lot of letter writing and phone calls, but that goes with the editorial territory.

After the 1970 roofing issue, Jacques and I "traded" issues, that is, he prepared one issue and I did the next, although there were some exceptions, and some were called "double" issues, because of their size or tardiness. Thus, in principle, we each prepared two issues a year, and this arrangement, between myself and the Canadian editors, continued after Jacques resigned and became APT President in 1973, and until my own resignation in 1978.

- Conference in Hamilton, ONT
- Course on wood deterioration

1976



A drawing of early fasteners illustrated the first BULLETIN.

Contributors

The foregoing represents my own personal (and imperfect) version of the publishing "roots" of APT. It does not begin to assess the contributions of the many other supporters and contributors and authors. However, it should be understood that those early *Newsletters* and *Bulletins* would not have seen the light of day without the financial contribution (printing and mailing) of the Canadian National Commission for Unesco, and the good office of David Bartlett, then Secretary-General. Only much later were the printing costs paid out of the income from membership dues.

There are several other early issues in my ten-year tenure that deserve special mention, and these include (both American and Canadian) the Jack Richardson issue on the Buildings of Old Quebec (vol. 2, nos. 3-4, 1970); the Sam Edgerton issue on Heating Stoves in 18th century Philadelphia (vol. 3, nos. 2-3, 1971); the Louisbourg cartographic issue (vol. 4, nos. 1-2, 1972); and the Charles Peterson "Sawdust Trail" issue (vol. 5, no. 2, 1973); and the interiors and landscape issue (first with a color cover, vol. 7, no. 2, 1975).

These largely single-subject issues and articles were mostly in the realm of history, but perhaps the most pioneering articles to focus on aspects of preservation technology were those by Paul Stumes on the application of epoxies for repair work (vol. 3, no. 1, 1971), the article by Morgan Phillips on the discoloration of old house paints (vol. 3, no. 4, 1971), and the David Hart article about x-ray investigation of buildings (vol. 5, no. 1, 1973).

During those first ten years, APT gave a lasting legacy to historic preservation, thanks to the many who unselfishly shared their knowledge.

Some of these issues and a number of individual articles would have made excellent reprints as sales items or for purposes of training. Although a very modest series was developed which did utilize several articles for reprints, much more could have been done along that line. Another potential avenue for publications could have been reprints of early trade catalogues and trade manuals, such as the 1860 *Tinman's Manual...*(Boston), though we hinted at its usefulness in vol. 1, no. 3. Only much later, under the auspices of the Foundation for Preservation Technology (FPT was an APT spin-off, aimed at getting American grant monies for APT objectives) was there a complete reprint, specifically of the richly illustrated Russell and Erwin Hardware Catalogue of 1865, which we reprinted in 1980. The potential for reprints has not yet been realized.

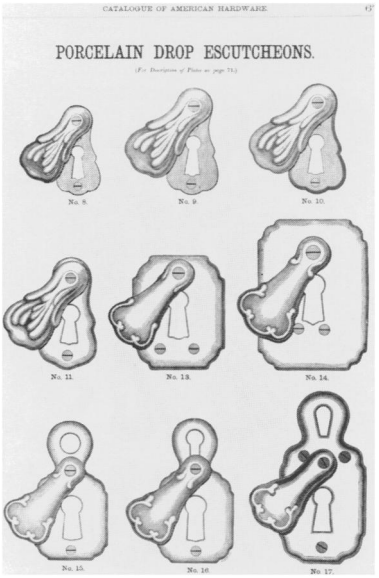
Despite some missed opportunities, it is still exciting to look back on my ten years as the first American editor, to remember the needs that were expressed by the participants at Stanley House and Upper Canada Village, but even more exciting was the interaction with many other professionals as authors and contributors to the *Bulletin.* I believe that during those first ten years, APT made both a pioneering and lasting legacy to historic preservation, thanks to many people who unselfishly (and without remuneration) shared their knowledge and experiences in the field and in the archives, so that the rest of us wouldn't have to continue to reinvent the wheel, all to the benefit of our cultural resources.

Lee Nelson is head of the Historic Preservation Assistance Division of the U.S. National Park Service.

- Conference in Cleveland, OH
- Courses on wood, paint
- Russell & Erwin catalogue reprinted



Russell & Erwin catalogue, reprinted in 1977.



Richly illustrated, the catalogue holds a wealth of detail.

1977

A Retrospective and Prospective View of APT

Walter Jamieson

My eleven years on the APT board as Secretary-Treasurer, Vice President, President, and now in the "august" position of Past President have provided me with an opportunity to see the organization change, grow and mature. While I never doubted the important mission of APT, the financial crises of the last ten years have at times made its future precarious. To the APT member this may not have been obvious, but it has been an every day reality to the executive. What has compensated for this financial situation is the satisfaction of helping to maintain an organization that has an important role to play in the maintenance and improvement of our built heritage. The celebration of twenty years of service has to be seen as a significant achievement, especially when one considers that APT is strong and seemingly willing and able to accept new challenges.

Others in this issue of the *Bulletin* have discussed the founding of APT, and I will not attempt to provide a comprehensive history of the organization. Rather, I would like to make some comments about the past from a personal perspective and, more importantly, provide some possible future directions for the organization. The future directions that I will discuss are personal and are based on my own perceptions and concerns and not those of the board.

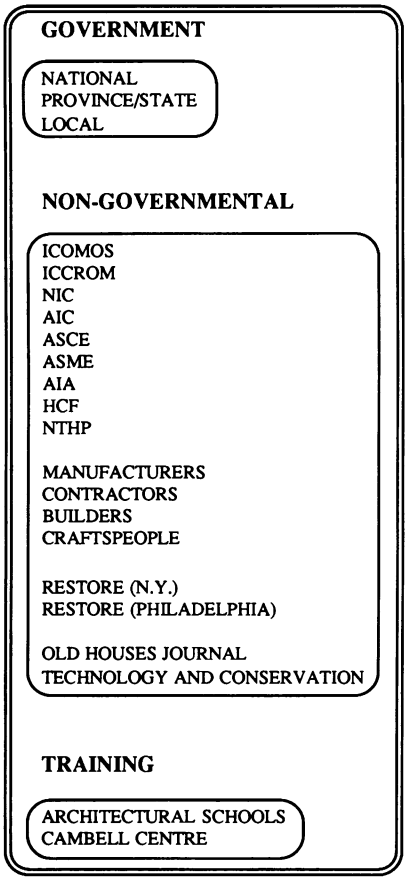


Figure 1
APT's Environment

In preparing for this article I have "climbed" through the APT archives (they could use some preservation) and I have been able to obtain a very good understanding of the beginnings of APT. Simply reviewing the Directors' Register provides one with an interesting view of many of the "Who's Who" in the Historic Preservation field as it has changed over the life of the organization. While many of the original members were involved in what could be classified as the restoration of buildings and sites, the board has changed significantly, and has included representatives from the fields of maritime preservation, decorative arts, landscape preservation, rehabilitation, education, contracting, the crafts, and Main-Street revitalization. A welcome change is the reintroduction of the concerns of the craftsperson/contractor to the board. Recent events have clearly demonstrated that the concerns of contractors and craftspersons are again being dealt with by APT, and there is every reason to conclude that these concerns will have a much higher profile in future activities. It is interesting to note that not only have the interests of board members changed, but some earlier board members have reappeared on the board, involved in quite different areas of prac-

- APT's tenth anniversary celebrated at Ottawa conference
- Courses on soils, foundations and wood
- Proxy voting at annual meeting begins

- Conference in Denver, CO
- Members total 1464
- First Directory–"Who's Who in Historic Preservation"
- Index to *Bulletin*

- Conference in Quebec City, PQ
- Courses on plaster and maritime conservation

1978 1979 1980

tice within historic preservation. Some interests such as maritime preservation and the decorative arts are no longer represented on the board nor in our activities.

The boards' composition can be seen as only one indicator of the changes that APT has undergone. In 1968, the membership stood at 101 members, in 1970, 450 members, and in 1987, 1903 members. Given that APT is a professional group without a non-professional audience, these numbers are more than respectable. What is more important is that the membership has always included those who are seen to be leaders in the field.

There are a number of other indicators that can illustrate change in the organization. Cities now compete for the opportunity of hosting an APT conference, and there are elections for positions on the board. A few years ago it was difficult to plan for conferences one year in advance, and there was rarely any competition for positions on the slate put forward by the board. In addition, APT has gone from a volunteer staff to two full-time persons, a paid editor for the *Bulletin* and a part-time development officer in the US.

The most significant change has been in the widening of the focus and concerns of the organization. Concerns

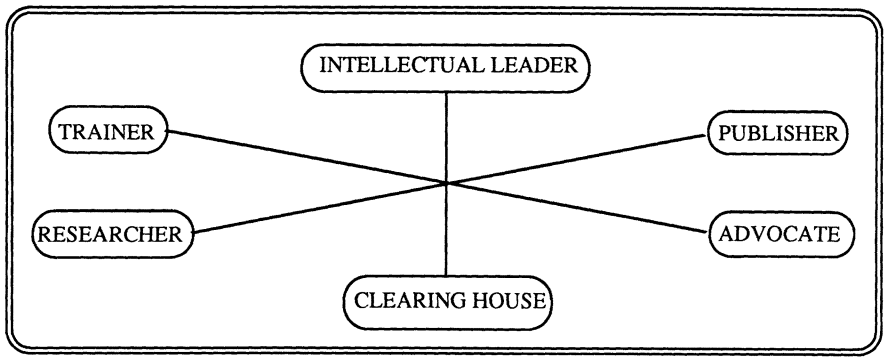


Figure 2
Potential Roles for APT

have developed from what can be seen as those centered on the historic sites business to the application of preservation technology expertise to much of the historic environment. These changes have paralleled the widening of the entire historic preservation field and have been reflected in changes in *Bulletin* articles. Moreover, our conferences and training have recognized these changes.

I would argue that the organization has moved ahead and met some of the challenges that have been presented to it. One of the major membership exercises has centered on attracting more architects. This initiative was based on the fact that many architects have little knowledge of preservation technology, and membership in APT would expose them to much needed information. There were a number of changes that were implemented in order to attract this professional group to the preservation scene. The ultimate success of these changes will be evaluated in the future, but a number of other interests were ignored in this membership drive. I can be critical since these actions were taken while I was president.

There remain a number of challenges and opportunities that the organization will face. I would like to do a bit of "crystal-ball gazing" and examine the implications for APT in the next five years. I will do this by investigating the environment in which APT operates, the issues facing the field, the potential roles for APT, potential

- Conference in Washington D.C.
- Course on energy conservation

- Conference in Banff, ALTA
- Courses on stained glass and wood

- Conference in Nashville, TN
- Courses on historic structures and terra cotta
- Successful Rehab courses: Series I
- Position of Executive Director created

1981

1982

1983

activity areas, and the possible geographical influence of the Association.

APT's Environment

When APT was first created, the entire field of historic preservation–let alone preservation technology–was in its infancy. For many years APT provided the only outlet and forum for the dissemination of information in the field of preservation technology. Since then there have been a number of new "players" in the field and significant developments in preservation technology expertise. The sophistication of organizations providing information and training in the field has also increased. The nature of the new environment can be best understood by examining the roles of governmental, non-governmental, and educational institutions.

The national park services in each country have evolved into major forces in the field of preservation technology and have trained many of the leading practitioners in the field. Changes in funding and policy have lessened the role that each of the services plays, but each still employs some of the finest talent in North America. State and provincial governments have broadened their activities and have employed more professionals and consultants. Given the sentiment for less government in both countries, it is fair to predict that these government agencies will maintain a role that is important but of a different order than in the past.

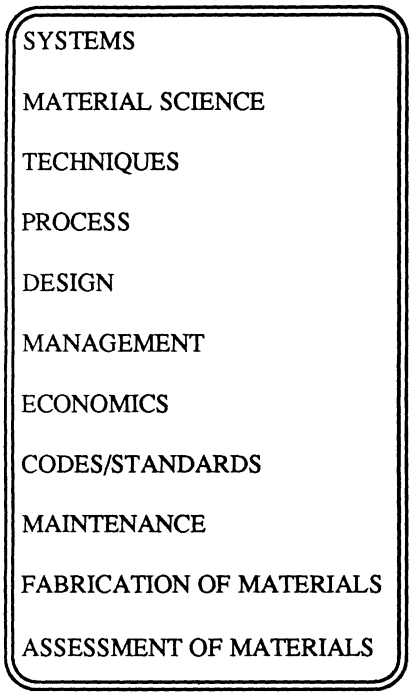
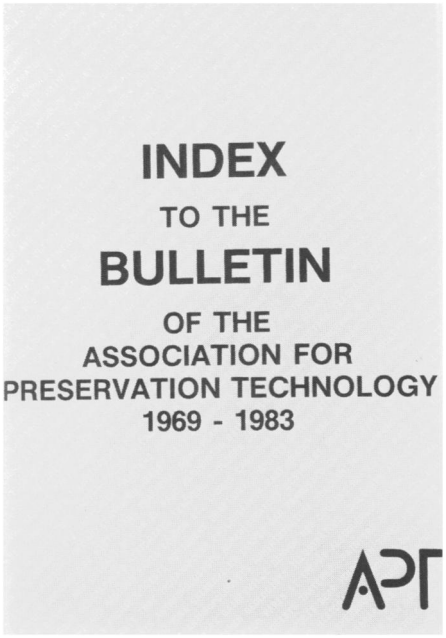


Figure 3
Preservation Technology Concerns

Organizations such as ICOMOS and ICCROM have varying levels of interest and expertise in technology and have the resources to disseminate information and provide training on an international level. They bring a clear international dimension to the field that APT has been unable to develop. The Wood Committee of ICOMOS is a good example of a group that brings together international experts in technology and provides training and an international exchange of ideas. APT will no doubt never be able to compete with these organizations and should seek to integrate its activities within the work of these groups. A number of other organizations have either specific or peripheral interests in technology: AIC, ASCE, ASME, NIC, and the Historic Resources Committee of AIA. The programs and plans of these interests must be assessed, and the role of APT must be determined within this organizational context.

The Heritage Canada Foundation and the National Trust for Historic Preservation have played differing roles in preservation technology. The nature of these roles has changed over time. For example, Heritage Canada recently decided to play a less significant role in preservation technology. The rather minor role of each of these groups provides APT, as a membership association, with a unique role for advocacy and leadership.



Index to the BULLETIN lists authors, subjects, and titles.



Board meeting at Woodlawn Plantation, 1983.



Baltimore Successful Rehab conference brought new members.

Industry groups representing a number of manufacturers, contractors and builders have to be recognized as a potential force in furthering the field, and must be approached. Also, the Restore Program in New York and Restore Philadelphia are examples of local groups providing services at a local level similar to those of APT at a national level. The *Old-House Journal* and *Technology and Conservation* reach both similar and different audiences to those of APT's membership, and must be seen as major forces in disseminating information. Suppliers such as PRG are now playing an important dissemination role. Initiatives by other organizations will have an impact on the services APT offers.

Architectural and planning schools also offer courses in technology, and organizations such as the Campbell Center are providing new training opportunities. I have discussed some of these opportunities in a previous article in the *Bulletin.* One can only assume that there will have to be a new level of training in the field as more people recognize the need for knowledge and skills in preservation technology. APT must strive to be on the "leading edge" and provide leadership to other training interests. "Training the trainers" may become an important role for APT, and it is one for which the organization is uniquely suited.

It is clear from this short review that APT is but one of many organizations working in the area of preservation technology. In the last twenty years more organizations have developed an interest in preservation technology, and in some cases, because of resources or direction, these organizations are establishing leadership roles. The nature of this environment is represented in *Figure 1.* It is clear that APT must accept that it cannot be all things to all people and begin to define realistic and specific new roles for the future.

APT must strive to be on the "leading edge" and provide leadership to other training organizations. Training the trainers may become an important role for APT, and it is one for which the organization is uniquely suited.

CRAFTSPEOPLE

ARCHITECTS

TRADES

MATERIAL SCIENTISTS

CONTRACTORS

MANAGERS

DEVELOPERS

STUDENTS

ACADEMICS

RECORDERS

MUSEUM CURATORS

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

ENGINEERS

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS

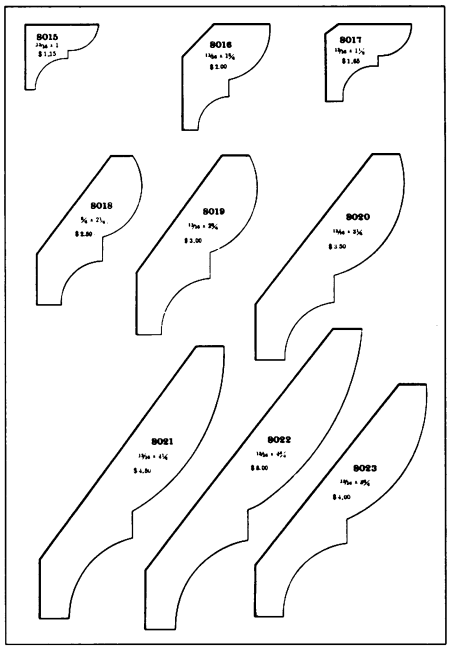
PLANNERS

ARCHAEOLOGISTS

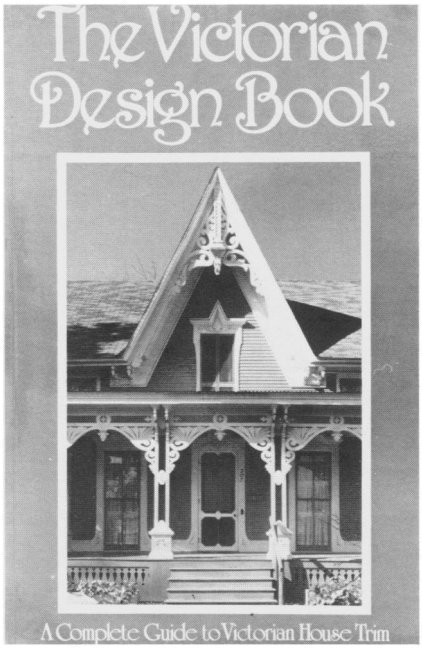
Figure 4
Practitioner Areas of Activity

- Conference in Toronto, ONT
- Courses on masonry and archaeology
- Index to the *Bulletin*
- *Victorian Design* book printed
- Successful Rehab: Series II & III

1984



Molding profiles are in VICTORIAN DESIGN book.



Potential Roles for APT

Given the environment described above, there are a number of possible roles for APT to adopt. APT must go back to its origins and regain its role of intellectual leadership through the advancement of its primary services of publishing and training. The *Bulletin* remains as one of the leading sources of information in the field. With its new format and appearance it must be marketed more widely to enable APT to get its message to much wider audiences.

APT's training programs must be redesigned and expanded, as described earlier in this article, and provide new directions for training. Training programs must take into account new issues and practitioners. It will no longer be sufficient to offer a course in the conservation of wood, but rather to look at a number of educational opportunities in wood conservation for diverse audiences.

Training may take the form of a symposium, a publication, videos for some practices (building cleaning as an example), seminars, and more traditional training in the form of courses. Courses have to be adapted to a number of specific audiences. It is clear from our experience that architects often will require (demand) different experiences than contractors. It may be that the organization will have to decide what audience it wants to reach.

APT has not realized its potential as an advocate for better practice. While it may not be involved in lobbying due to the nature of its Canadian charter, there is no doubt that the Association could play an important role as an advocate in the field of preservation technology practice. Part of this advocacy role could lead it to certify practitioners. This role is filled with problems that could be the subject of another article.

APT must go back to its origins and regain its role of intellectual leadership through the advancement of its primary services of publishing and training. Training programs must look at addressing the educational needs of diverse audiences.

Finally, in order for the Association to fulfill its many roles it will have to become involved in research and evaluation. At the moment APT does not carry out its own research, and this could become an important activity that will allow the organization to adopt a leadership and advocacy role. The possible range of roles is presented in *Figure 2.*

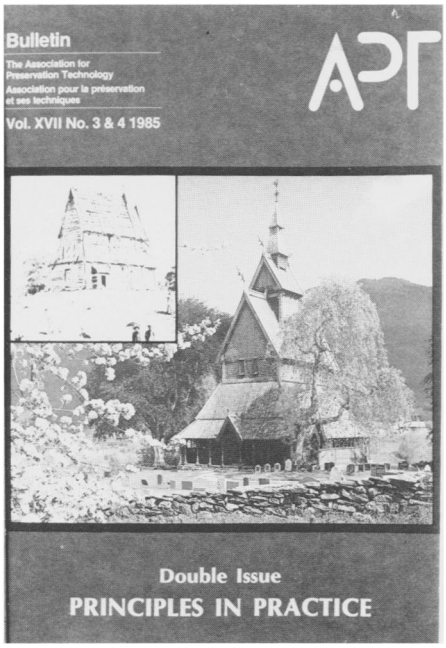
Preservation Technology Concerns

In reviewing the literature in the field, one finds the term "preservation technology" used to describe many different activities and interests. Preservation technology means different things to different people. APT must begin to recognize that its services are based on widely differing definitions of its central concern. APT has not one but many audiences working at different levels of concern–from restoration, to rehabilitation, to home renovation. All are valid areas of concern, but APT may decide that it wishes to concentrate on a particular level of concern for a period of time.

Within each of these levels of concern are areas of specialization that are portrayed in *Figure 3.* While many practitioners are interested in the "whole" picture, a number may be interested in only a subset of the areas of



She's proud of the poster for "Principles in Practice".



Toronto conference provided focus of BULLETIN issue in 1985.

activity. Some organizations may be better suited to dealing with these subsets, and others may be best treated by APT. The realization that there are different needs will lead to a clearer direction for training and publications' services, and possibly to a modified organizational structure for the board and its committees.

Areas of Activity

The areas of concern, while numerous, are even more difficult to deal with when one accepts that there are a wide range of practitioners working under the umbrella of preservation technology. Some work exclusively in preservation, while others work within new as well as historic settings. *Figure 4* illustrates the range of practitioners, and the figure could be complicated by the addition of further levels of activity. For example, contractors could be further divided up into those specializing in preservation or those in general contracting with some preservation work. Within each of these categories the contractor could be a specialist (i.e. electrical, plaster) or a generalist providing a range of services and making use of specialists. It is clear that the training and publishing needs of each interest would be different. It is important for APT to define the areas of activity it will concentrate on in order to provide a focus for its services.

Conclusion

APT must begin to carefully define its role within the larger environment described in this article. It must begin to differentiate its services and to orient them to specific audiences based on the nature of their activities. Finally, the Association must look at the territory it wishes to cover. It could expand from what is largely a North American focus to Europe, to Latin America, and to third-world countries. Each of these expansions would involve a number of problems as well as opportunities.

APT must use the occasion of its 20th Anniversary to plan for the future, taking into account a number of realities that are now part of the practice of preservation technology. A special committee of existing and past board members might be the way to begin this discussion.

Walter Jamieson is Past President of APT and a faculty member in the Department of Environmental Design at the University of Calgary, Alberta.

Reflections on 15 Years with APT and What Comes Next

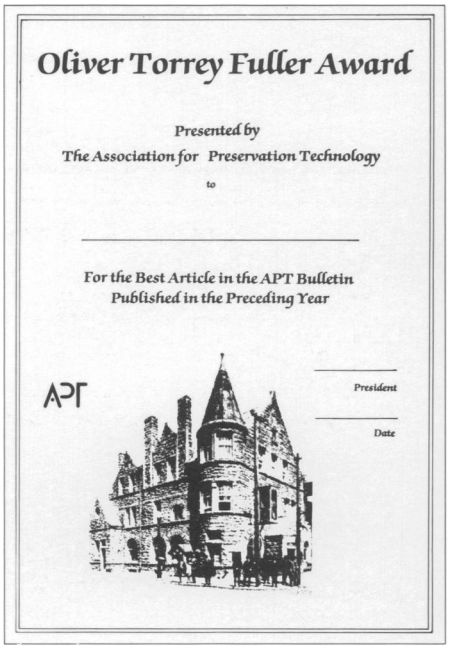
Martin Weaver

Some time ago I was asked to write an article on my thoughts about APT–where it has been and where it could be going. My relationship with APT has always been a very personal one and this article too is very personal, clearly not representing any sort of "official line".

For those who like statistics and a little historical background, my first active involvement with APT was when Jacques Dalibard came to me for emergency assistance in 1973 to help rescue APT's archives and stock of *Bulletins* and *Newsletters* from his basement where a sewer had backed up! A much less smelly and more pleasant involvement was as Canadian editor of the *Bulletin* for 1975 and 1976. I served two terms as President of APT from 1976 to 1980 and still actively contribute to the *Bulletin*. In 1976, with a small but excellent team, I helped to develop and deliver APT's first training course which was on "Wood" in Hamilton, Ontario. During my second term as president I had the unique honor also to be president of the International Institute for Conservation–Canadian Group, thus being president simultaneously of two of North

- Conference in San Francisco, CA
- Courses on maritime preservation, concrete, and paint analysis
- Successful Rehab: Series IV

1985



Lee Nelson received the first Oliver Torrey Fuller award.



San Francisco hosted one of the most lavish APT parties ever. Victorian costumes put party-goers in a festive mood.

America's most prestigious conservation groups. I have been and continue to be proud of my work with APT, and I feel that it can be, and usually is, a unique and most valuable organization. I also feel that in the organization far too much time can be wasted on divisive issues while the potential benefits are sometimes allowed to slip into the background.

Stanley House Revisited

Apart from enthusiastically launching APT's now familiar and valued training courses with great work from Richard Byrne, one of my most significant actions was the organization of the Stanley House meeting in 1978. It had been at Stanley House in July 1968 that a small group of Canadian and US preservationists had come together to lay the foundations of APT.

The Canada Council had, for many years, the wonderful resource of Stanley House on Quebec's South shore of the Gaspé Peninsula. Once the summer residence of a governor general of Canada, Stanley House was more than just a heritage home–it was a Canadian institution.

The Canada Council offered Stanley House complete with staff, excellent cuisine and all travel costs for small groups to come together in a beautiful and congenial setting for four or five days of intensive "brainstorming" on cultural issues and the development of culture and the arts in Canada.

The meeting which I chaired in 1978 was not just a 10th anniversary meeting: It was a much needed review of APT at what we felt was a critical point in its development. The group was given the task of reviewing what APT had done and how it had met its original objectives. On the basis of this study and of then-current trends and problems, we also needed to chart a course for APT's future development.

When the meeting was planned the group was supposed to consist of the following:

Richard O'Byrne: Head, Furniture Conservation, Parks Canada, Quebec.

Jacques Dalibard: Director, Historic Preservation Program, Columbia University, New York.

Roy Graham: Vice President, APT, Williamsburg, Virginia.

Walter Jamieson: Faculty of Environmental Design, University of Calgary.

Francois Leblanc: Regional Architect, Parks Canada, Quebec.

Hugh Miller: President of FPT, and Chief Historical Architect, US National Park Service.

Martin Segger: Director, Maltwood Art Museum and Gallery, University of Victoria, BC.

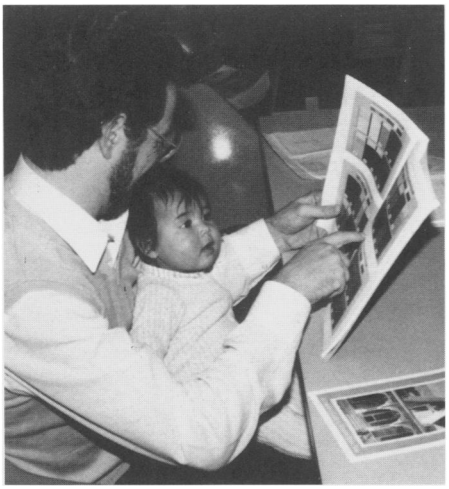
Martin Weaver: President of APT and Acting Chief, Restoration Services Division, Parks, Canada.

Owing to an unfortunate series of clashes of priorities and two cases of ill health, the final group which met at Stanley House consisted of Messrs. Jamieson, Miller, Segger and Weaver.

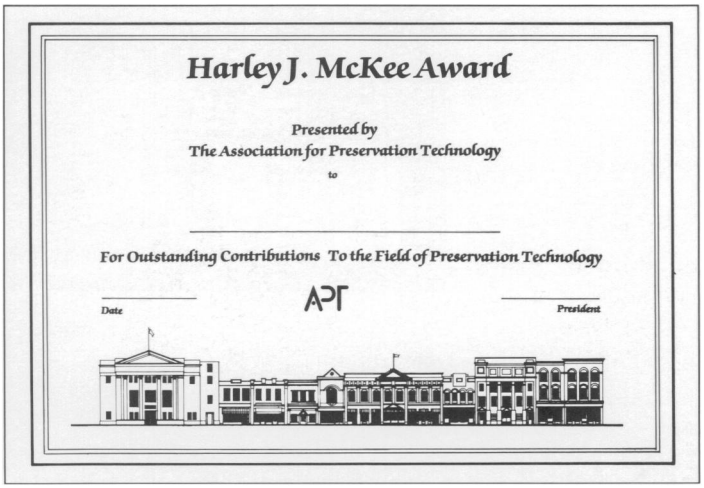
In an exciting and at times grueling series of meetings over five days, we hammered out a remarkable scheme for APT's development. It was remarkable for many reasons, but primarily because so many of the things we planned actually came to fruition.

In 1978 APT had reached that magic point of maturity–a six figure annual budget. However, it lacked proper long-range financial planning, and it lacked a proper full-time staff. APT had risen to this point almost incredibly on volunteer time, masses of it, plus that most essential ingredient, the support of federal and other levels of government.

It had not been and still is not a lopsided bargain for governments. The professionals and decision-makers in the public sector can use APT to great advantage to maintain and improve their professional standards and to obtain access to data and experience in new materials, methods and technology which would otherwise be practically inaccessible. Thus APT provides a



Francois Leblanc read text to future APTer during publications committee meeting in 1985.



Authors of dendrochronology article received McKee award.

unique service to the public sector and thrives in a sort of symbiotic relationship.

We proposed the creation of permanent positions for an executive director and secretariat. These were subsequently created. The Stanley House group felt strongly that the Board of APT should then change to a policy-making body and cease to be involved in operations.

Training Courses. The group also took a hard look at the original description of APT and its goals and objectives. A new description and a new set of goals and objectives were drawn up after long and lively discussion. APT is still using them. We set certain essential principles which are worth repeating:

- the international character of APT should be affirmed.
- a stress should be laid upon preservation technology.
- a stress should be laid on the interdisciplinary team approach to the conservation of structures and sites.

The group strongly urged the development of APT's training activities. This happily went forward so successfully that properly developed and managed training courses and workshops are now an essential and major factor in APT's budget and continuing operations. Following a careful review it was noted that APT had no place in the distribution, marketing and handling of publications *unless* very careful surveys were carried out to assess the real immediate and long-term markets. APT has found out the hard way how profit margins can be swiftly eliminated by large piles of unwanted publications gathering dust.

A paid position for a training coordinator was also recommended. This has come about but in a slightly different way in that the Executive Director has sometimes filled this role and sometimes there has been one person paid on a percentage basis to coordinate a specific series.

Cooperative Ventures. Perhaps the most important of all of our other great ideas back then in 1978 was to try to ensure that APT shared its resources and gained benefits from working with other organizations in mounting major activities. This too has been happening for many years now with cooperative ventures of many kinds including conferences, courses, workshops, symposia and now even cultural tourism, with other preservation-oriented organizations and with universities. We still need more.

In the 10 years since 1978 we have witnessed in North America two revolutions which have affected APT. One has been the swift growth in popularity and public acceptance of preservation, primarily because of the US tax incentives for the rehabilitation of older buildings. The second feature of this quiet revolution has been the advent and phenomenal growth of the use of personal computers.

The Preservation Profession

The former has led to what some have regarded as regrettable watering-down of the "professional" intensity and potential technical sophistication of APT. This feeling is not, I believe, as elitist as its opponents would claim. There is most definitely a need for advanced studies in preservation technology and a forum for advanced discussion. It is unreasonable to allow this to be pushed aside by continuous repetitions of elementary or basic aspects of our developing field. Many heritage preservation organizations have run into this problem which is closely allied to the frequently expressed need to maintain contact with the grassroots of the movement.

Professional Objectives. In all sincerity I must say that my personal feeling is that we have here a number of

- Conference in Austin, TX
- Courses on historic bridges, maintenance, hardware
- *Bulletin* editor hired
- Project Development Officer hired



Barb Daniels accepts award from Walter Jamieson in Austin.



Members receive the BULLETIN on time.

1986

objectives which may not be compatible. It may in fact be undesirable or even impossible to attain them all under the APT umbrella. Possibly we should be creating a new organization to deal with the professional aspects of what should by now be the "Preservation Profession". We clearly do not have a profession as yet. There are no clearly defined and recognized educational standards, no codes of ethics and none of the other paraphernalia which, cumbersome as they may be, *define a profession*.

I am sure that in saying all this I am going to find that some will strongly disagree with me. I have tried to confront this dilemma in a realistic and ethical manner and would make two further observations. It is perhaps not too exaggerated to draw a parallel with the field of medicine. No professional organizations of specialists in say epidemiology or neurological disorders would devote substantial portions of their conferences, workshops, symposia or publications to repetition of first-year course material for a degree in medicine. If we are truly to develop a standard of excellence in the preservation profession we would do well to bear this in mind. In fact it might even be said that we will not truly have a profession until we recognize this and act accordingly.

I have remarked in the past–and been attacked for my pains–that APT has stepped in to undertake work at the basic or elementary level which should really have been undertaken by government or by large national organizations.

Before the telephone starts to ring or the rude letters hit the doormat, I should add that I do appreciate the dilemma of APT and similar organizations faced with the necessity to raise funds to support essential activities. But, however apparently attractive some options may be initially, they often ultimately turn out to be an enormous drain on scarce resources without adequate return for APT. There is no easy answer. APT's board and executive director are faced with a continuing requirement to evaluate such options, frequently on the basis of insufficient information.

Computers. The second development to which I referred was the personal computer explosion. With the extremely fast rate of change and consequent risk of obsolescence in the data storage, retrieval and communication and networking fields, great care is mandatory in long-range planning for the development of APT's use of computers. I am sure that it will be in this field that we shall see the most fundamental changes in APT.

The Next Ten Years

What might we look for in the coming 10 years? I would suggest some basic features. First, the three principles noted in 1978 have not changed – the stress on APT's international character, its multidisciplinary-disciplinary nature and the fundamental element of preservation technology. The last should be combined with an integral development of studies in historic building materials and technology.

Most members of APT would, I think, agree with me if I put the highest priority on the development and accessibility of reliable data on preservation technology, materials and products. It goes without saying that there is an associated requirement for keeping the data up-to-date.

The *Bulletin* will, I believe, remain as the prestige publication which its successive editors and contributors have made it. I believe that the *Communique* will be largely replaced by an electronic "preservation information service" married to a preservation problem hot-line and referral service. Many members may not be aware of the large number of questions which are received by the secretariat from members and non-members. This en-



Contractors held their first winter meeting in New Bedford.

tire area should be reviewed and a policy developed and implemented.

APT's training and educational activities are, I believe, also going to undergo a number of changes. On the basis of my experience in preservation education I believe that APT's involvement in education–at all levels–should be restricted to cooperative ventures with other organizations which have the mandate and infrastructure to actually deliver the programs.

APT's training courses, workshops and symposia could, I believe, gradually change their essential nature, concentrating increasingly on more advanced technical and professional issues. This should not be a total or exclusive concentration but should retain say a 20% content on basic issues. APT has undoubtedly benefited from the diversity of its interests and presentations. This beneficial diversity needs to be carefully nurtured and structured, but within reasonable limits.

In conclusion I would note that I have tried for many years to forge links between conservators in all of the areas of specialization. I have seen the links and exchanges develop most satisfactorily, but I would urge that the communications' channels should be constantly maintained and improved. The growth of the postgraduate university courses, particularly in North America, has also been most encouraging; but the standards of these courses and the amount of preservation technology being taught are not uniform and in some cases leave much to be desired.

I would like to see a constant stream of the best graduate studies published in the BULLETIN.

In recent years there have even been some attempts to change some programs in such a way that excellent and thriving technical courses would have been displaced by more "generalist" courses. In the USA alone we already have far too many of the latter programs which lack technical depth and skim the science of preservation or conservation like a flat pebble skipped across a pool. APT members need to exercise constant vigilance to ensure that we keep our postgraduate scientific and technological courses developing and do not lose what we have so painstakingly gained. As a positive move on APT's part, I would like to see a regular flow of the best graduate studies being published in the *Bulletin*.

I would also like to suggest that we be cautious and not duplicate or usurp the work of others in the broad field of heritage resource conservation. For example, *Art and Archaeology, Technical Abstracts*, that most useful reference work which has been produced for many years by the International Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works, London, is now produced with the support of the fantastic resources of the Getty Conservation Institute. They are using the most up-to-date technology to develop this resource which contains book and article titles and abstracts arranged in sections devoted to all aspects of preservation technology. It seems extremely inappropriate for APT to expend its valuable resources in following an independent route and duplicating parts of this work through the *Communique* or by other means. Instead APT could very profitably cooperate with IIC and the Getty Conservation Institute to enhance AATA or to complement it.

There are almost certainly more such opportunities for cooperative ventures. For example, APT should aggressively seek out a ground-breaking new relationship with ASTM. This association is increasingly working in areas of direct concern to APT, and it is inexplicable that the two organizations do not work together.

My ideal goal would be the development of APT as an organization dedicated to the development and dissemination of preservation technology to the highest professional standards. It should be neither an exclusive society nor a policing body, but rather a dedicated association for dedicated people.

Martin Weaver is now a private consultant on conservation practice. His office is 100 Lorne Ave., Ottawa, Canada, K1R 7G9.

- Conference in Victoria/Vancouver, BC
- Courses on wood and preservation theory
- Executive Director resigns
- Search for new Director begins
- Membership Directory published
- First TPPT courses held

1987



Tour of Victoria's gardens was option at 1987 conference.



Contractors met in Waltham and discussed craft training.

Continuity and Change

Ann Faulkner

As the thread of continuity within APT for the past fourteen years, I have been asked to prepare some comments from the perspective of the Director's position in the organization.

That many years of memories, experiences, struggles and accomplishments, frustrations and satisfactions make it difficult to know where to begin or what to include. When I think of what has come across my desk in the form of correspondence and telephone calls, of conversations at conferences and meetings, and of private confidences entrusted to me, I realize I have a unique perspective of APT that perhaps differs from that of the Board and the members.

From that perspective, I know that the people "out there" have a tremendous respect for APT, and that what we produce in publications and training and assistance is of enormous value to the majority of our members who are the hands-on people. We have opened many eyes to the significance of preservation and the necessity to save the built environment. When someone has been struggling along trying to solve conservation problems on their own, and they suddenly discover APT, they are overwhelmed with the resources we have, and they frequently buy up back issues on all kinds of subjects. This has all been tremendously rewarding, and I have found great satisfaction in having been a part of it.

But to go back to the start of it all, I recall being elected to the Board of Directors as Secretary-Treasurer in Halifax in 1974. It became very quickly apparent to me that the task was far more than a part-time, volunteer job. Although APT had been in existence for six years, the filing system was a series of cardboard boxes, stored in a garage that "froze over" to the point of inaccessibility every winter; the back issues of the *Bulletin*, having suffered a backed-up sewer dunking, had to be dried out and aired before they could be mailed; and the membership records (on 3x5 cards) were a little confusing, to put it mildly. We were in fact, mailing to 300 unpaid members, and there is a parking lot attendant somewhere in Ottawa with a full preservation education. The parking lot address was for a building that had been demolished three years earlier. I worked on a card table at home; the back issues were stored in yet another basement; and I was quickly realizing the complications to come in dealing with a joint Canadian/American organization. I, therefore, suggested to the Board that if APT were ever to be a viable organization, some salaried staff was necessary. They agreed, and I was hired as Executive Secretary in 1975.

Aside from a strong conviction of the value and future potential of APT, my background and qualifications for the job were somewhat sketchy . Although I had worked in preservation since the mid-60's and written a Canadian "handbook" on conservation, my technical knowledge was an education by osmosis. Accounting, bookkeeping, editorial details and printing methods, dealing with a Board of Directors, ideas for increasing membership, and conference management were among the to-be-learned skills.

For example, there are many who would like to forget the Hamilton conference in 1976. About 6-8 months out it was suddenly quite apparent that the whole event was to be my total responsibility–the President was unexpectedly to be in Europe until "opening night", the local sponsoring group, having proposed the site in 1974, had drifted away into the mists, there was *no* support staff, and I had never even been to Hamilton!!

With the wonderful help of Nina Chappel from Dundas, I stumbled along and made the conference actually happen (in about July someone suggested it shouldn't), and at the expense of the participants, the experience was

- Conference in Boston, MA
- New Executive Director hired
- First Study Tour to England
- Members total 1930
- Celebrating 20 years in preservation!

1988



Ann Falkner: "Save me a piece of the cake..."

a major, traumatic learning experience for me. I have never seriously considered a Holiday Inn as a conference hotel since then and continue to be suspicious of "Greeks bearing gifts".

I recall being naively delighted (thinking of the budget) with an offer from a gentleman to provide all the wine for one of the social evenings, little realizing that it would be provided from a home-brewing operation that took place in his basement involving the crushing of some unknown local produce.

This event subsequently took place outdoors in tents on a very cold evening–the outdoor heaters were very effective if you happened to be 9'6" tall–and quite early on in the evening all the food and other beverages had been consumed, leaving only the "brew". A certain Mr. Keune, while critiquing the donated vintage, nonetheless became the life of the party in the course of the necessary sampling to research the essence of the vintner's errors. By about 10:00 p.m. it was beginning to taste quite good to everyone, and all Mr. Keune had to do was hiccup and we all dissolved into fits of laughter. And that was the HIGH point of the conference. However, everyone was forgiving; they remained faithful, and we managed to survive to go on to bigger and better conferences. I like to think that I redeemed myself to some degree by 1978 when, under Paul Stumes and Bill Keenan, we hosted the 10th Anniversary conference in Ottawa. It still stands as one of our most successful meetings–excellent training courses, a broad program including several international speakers, a fine hotel, wonderful social events and one of the most beautiful autumn weeks that I can remember.

Whether wildly successful or not quite so, APT conferences have always had a very special quality that many people have remarked upon. This quality is difficult to deny, but I believe the essence is in an assembly of people who have almost a pioneer feeling about the work they all do in preservation. Most are eager for solutions to problems, enthusiastic about anything that adds to their knowledge, and very generous with their own intelligence and experiences. APT has been accused by some of being elitist. This is simply not the case nor has it ever been, as anyone who has experienced the camaraderie and the sharing will attest. I draw your attention to an article in this issue by a newcomer to APT from Florida. Diana Jarvis has written one of the most articulate statements about APT that I have ever read. Future direction, technical content and the esoteric concerns that we have all spent hours and years discussing seem quite irrelevant issues when what Ms. Jarvis has to say is really the essence–the uniqueness and the wonder of APT. Her experience in British Columbia is a true fulfillment of APT's original and most basic objective–the free and generous exchange of information on the technology of preservation in an atmosphere of friendship and good humor. If just a few people enjoy that type of experience and that quality of APT each year, I feel that the "aims and objectives" are still being accomplished successfully.

We may publish the most exceptional material ever, find exciting solutions to all the major conservation problems and run an organization with superb efficiency, but without the interplay of people, their personalities and their experiences, the organization is without heart, without strength and certainly without a future.

And that has been the joy of the past 14 years for me–the members of APT–the hundreds of people with intelligence, humor, kindness, generosity, friendship and affection that it has been my pleasure to meet and to know. It would be difficult to appropriately honor and thank all those who have assisted me, who brought pleasure and delight to the job, and who recognized the accomplishments and overlooked the shortcomings. Nonetheless I say a sincere "Thank You" to all of them.

In going back through old minutes, I was reminded of the many people who have served APT with hard work and dedication. The list is long, but a special place is due APT's first President, Charles Peterson. From those early minutes I must quote some sample words of his from the Annual General Meeting at Colonial Williamsburg: (APT Book Review Editor–please note.)

Whereas the Questers, an American group of collectors and students of the antique, have through their President, Janet J. Holley of Crown Point, Indiana, expressed an interest in improving the quality of historic restoration work and

Whereas the Questers have generously made a grant of $2,500.00 to the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture towards the education of a young architect and

Whereas the grant is being applied to the training of Michael A. Tomlan, Tonawanda, New York (recently graduated from the School of Architecture of the University of Tennessee) in the Columbia program in Restoration and Preservation

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Questers, through President Holley, be thanked for their enlightened generosity (with the hope that their interest will continue) and

that Columbia University be congratulated on the receipt of this deserved national recognition.

We have not seen the like of such classic rhetoric since, and I regret that "Pete" had left the Board by the time I became active in APT. The development of APT has perhaps not always met with Mr. Peterson's vision of the future (and he has reminded us of this on occasion), but our respect for him and the standards that he set remains undiminished. We can only hope that this respect is mutual and that at this milestone of twenty years, he will forgive some errors of judgment and look upon our survival and our progress as a success in itself.

Others within this issue have reviewed APT's past and put forward their ideas for its future. I hope that future can be built upon the past, to a degree, because it is interesting to note that APT began, as you will perceive from the "histories" that have been published this year, with a proposed organization that was to be limited to professionals in preservation, and fortunately went on to become a much broader-based association for professionals and laymen alike, from many different disciplines and 15-20 varied fields of interest. We added to that breadth by enlisting speakers from all over the world to speak at APT conferences and have regularly published articles of universal interest from many countries.

From this foundation, it has been a priority of mine to enlarge upon the international aspects of the organization, to promote it from that viewpoint and to try to discourage the attitude of Canada vs. the United States that has frequently prevailed. I have always felt that whether we be Americans, Italians, Canadians or whatever, whether our heritage is 50 or 500 years old, or whether our buildings are glorious palaces or ethnic barns, the same basic problems are shared all over the world.

It would be difficult to honor and thank all who have assisted me, who brought pleasure and delight to the job. Nonetheless, I say a sincere "Thank You" to all of them.

We are essentially striving toward a common goal–the sympathetic conservation of a threatened, yet very visible, history. Although the majority of our efforts have focused upon North American preservation, we nonetheless have an appreciative worldwide audience who recognize, as perhaps we do not, the universality of APT. Our hosts and guides for the Study Tour in England this year were clearly honored to have us, and equally interested in the expertise and intelligence that our participants brought to all the restoration and development projects that we visited.

In all of this, we may also overlook the fact that APT is the only organization that has consistently published, lectured and trained in the specific field of preservation technology. No other group has addressed the problems of preservation with basic, on-the-job, essential solutions to a range of problems that practitioners encounter every day. The past twenty years of emerging intelligence regarding the value of historic conservation have coincided with the twenty years of APT's existence, and APT, in all that time, was the only source for the technical knowledge that everyone was seeking. There is still relevance in much of the material that we published in that time span.

When I look at the record, as it were, it is amazing that we accomplished so much, always in the face of teetering-on-the-brink finances, without ever any future goals set by the Board, never more than two full-time staff people at any one time and certainly breaking new ground all the time in trying to maintain a two-country organization. It has been a most challenging experience, and I wouldn't have missed it for the world!!

This twenty-year landmark will see the end of a particular era of development and will mark the beginning of some very significant changes within APT. The central office will move from Canada to the United States under a new Executive Director; *Communique* will have a new Editor; and many of those fine people from APT's past will be retiring this year, as I am. I anticipate that the next *twenty* will be as exciting in a different way, and I look forward to 2008. Save me a piece of birthday cake...