

THE ICCROM AWARD PRESENTATION TO HERB STOVEL

The Award

The ICCROM Award is presented every two years to “a person who holds special merit in the field of protection, conservation and restoration of cultural heritage and who has contributed to ICCROM’s work.” ICCROM, (International Centre for the Study and Preservation of Cultural Property) was founded in 1959 and is an intergovernmental organization based in Rome, Italy.

The ICCROM award was created to commemorate the XXth anniversary of ICCROM’s foundation and was presented for the first time in 1979, and thereafter regularly at the General Assembly of ICCROM held every two years. Eleven awards were presented in 1979, and in the following years, the number of awards varied between 1 and 5. Between 1993 and 2001, two awards were presented at each General Assembly; since 2003, one award has been presented. Only one other Canadian has received this award, Charles Gruchy, former Director of the CCI (Canadian Conservation Institute).

The Sculpture

The small bronze sculpture presented to the recipients was created in 1979 by Peter Rockwell, an American sculptor who has made Rome his home for many decades. Peter recently described the work in the following way:

The Idea that I had in mind was a hand putting the world back together or holding the world together... I was trying to give the impression that ICCROM helps hold the world together... the award winners have done their bit to keep the world together... I added some pieces sort of symbolic of scaffolding because my experience of restoration has been with scaffolding.

Peter also described his approach to the fabrication of the award. The prototype was “a small wax” that was then cast in bronze so a silicon mould could be made in order to have the copies created. Each time ICCROM requests a sculpture he works with the foundry which begins again with the wax copy. Peter retouches each one personally so they are all individual expressions. There is no edition number because it is “an unlimited edition”. It is signed “PR” with 1979 as the date of creation.

Extracted from the “Laudatio” read at Herb Stovel’s Award Ceremony held in Rome on 14 November 2011

ICCROM focused on several key points when selecting Herb for this honour, noting that he has contributed, in an outstanding manner to the organization’s mission to advance the field of conservation and build capacities around the world.

Herb joined ICCROM’s Rome staff in 1998 as the Head of the Heritage Settlements Unit. In this capacity, he was responsible for, among other things, managing the *Integrated Territorial and Urban Conservation Programme* (ITUC) and initiating the *Living Heritage Programme*, two landmark capacity-building initiatives which introduced a new paradigm in the field. During this time, he headed up ICCROM’s delegation as Advisory Body to the World Heritage Committee, and made a special contribution to the strengthening of the World Heritage Convention’s policies and practice, notably through the development of its Global Training Strategy, the authoring of a well-known ICCROM publication on risk preparedness for world cultural heritage, and the editing of another on the conservation of living religious heritage. He also played an active role in post-inscription training and management activities. ICCROM also identified his ongoing involvement with training programmes since his return to Canada where he joined Carleton’s Canadian Studies faculty in 2004.

The Award recognizes Herb’s extensive contributions to the conservation field outside ICCROM noting that these have been achieved even more impressively, both in his academic role and his prominent role as an advocate within international institutions and professional associations. As a prolific writer, he has authored hundreds of books, papers, articles and reports on conservation and, in the past twenty-five years, played a key training and education role in Canada and abroad, for the benefit of literally thousands of young students and mid-career professionals. In addition, he has provided precious technical advice for hundreds of heritage sites the world over and participated in countless international meetings and workshops, enriching their discussions and contributing to their management outcomes. Perhaps his most important achievement is the role played in crafting a number of doctrinal texts (charters, guidelines and codes of practice) for the heritage conservation field, on topics ranging from risk preparedness and urban conservation to vernacular architecture. The most recognized of these texts is the 1994 Nara Document on Authenticity which he helped to develop with Raymond Lemaire, primary author of the Venice Charter (1964). Herb has given his time as a volunteer to a number of the field’s most influential professional organizations as a member of the various executive committees, culminating in his election as President of ICOMOS Canada, President of the Association for Preservation Technology International, and most notably as Secretary-General of ICOMOS international based in Paris.

The Award recognizes Herb for his special combination of intellectual curiosity and rigour – which led him to make significant advances in the theory of cultural heritage conservation – based on his profound field experience at international level. It identifies his commitment and talent in sharing his knowledge with his international students and colleagues, associated with a genuine interest in diverse cultural perspectives. This has meant that his advice has always been considered both relevant and useful by heritage practitioners and students from all corners of the world.