

Stephan Tschudi-Madsen

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Stephan Tschudi Madsen

At the wall of Akershus Castle and Fortress, Oslo.

Stephan Tschudi-Madsen (25 August 1923 - 11 October 2007) was a Norwegian art historian. Tschudi-Madsen was the first antiquarian at the Norwegian Directorate for Cultural Heritage from 1959 until 1978 and was Director-general between 1978–1991. He was the Advisory President of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) from 1981-1990 and ICOMOS Norway President 1978-1992.

Early life

Tschudi-Madsen was born in Bergen, Norway. He graduated in 1950 from the University of Oslo with a thesis in art history on Romantic architecture. In 1952-1953 he worked as a British Council scholar in London. Tschudi-Madsen received his Ph.D. in 1956.

Career

Tschudi-Madsen worked as an antiquarian at the Directorate for Cultural Heritage in Norway from 1959. He was active for the preservation of Norwegian wooden buildings during the European Architectural Heritage Year campaign that was organized in 1975. He was also one of the pioneers of rediscovering the qualities of the compact Art Nouveau townscape of Ålesund, Norway. He was engaged in international cultural heritage through the association ICOMOS where he held a central position, and through UNESCO's work with World Heritage Sites. Under his leadership Urnes stave church and Bryggen in Bergen were listed in 1979. For a period he was also vice president of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee.

Tschudi-Madsen had a large academic production. He was adviser for the restoration of the Royal Palace, Oslo, Supreme Court of Norway and Den Nationale Scene in Bergen. For a long period he was the president of Friends of Akershus Fortress. He was a supporter for

establishing an Art Nouveau Interpretation centre, Jugendstilsenteret in Ålesund, Norway. Between 1999-2003 he also worked as adviser for Jugendstilsenteret.

Honors

Tschudi-Madsen was member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters (1965) and Honorary Member of the Society for the Preservation of Ancient Norwegian Monuments (1983) and Honorary Member of ICOMOS (1992). He was Knight, First Class, of the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olav (1983), Commander of the Dutch Order of Oranje-Nassau (1986), Knight of the Belgian Order of Leopold II (1992) and Commander of the Royal Norwegian Order of St. Olav (1996).

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