

EDITORIAL**Lucía Gómez-Robles**

Projects Director, DIADRASIS, SPAIN

e-dialogos is an annual publication, yet this new issue comes out with a five months delay. Other projects and changes in the structure of our NGO are the cause for this delay, and it finally circulates in May 2016. With this 5th issue of the journal we wish to say good bye to our previous editor-in-chief, Valerie Magar Meurs, who was with us for the last five years. But as every end is also a new beginning, we would like to welcome our next head of the editorial board, Nota Pantzou, a regular collaborator of DIADRASIS, who has also participated in several of our projects.

The project which kept us busy till the end of 2015 was Viaduct, a communication tool for scientific analysis in heritage. This research project, funded by the John S. Latsis Public Benefit Foundation, gave us the opportunity to create a handbook and a website on laboratory analysis for architectural restoration. The whole process which led to the publication and the final results are presented in the first article of this issue.

A great contribution has been made by Douglas Porter, from the University of Vermont in the USA and his collaborators, David Broxton, Angelyn Bass, Deborah A. Neher, Thomas R. Weicht, Patrick Longmire, Rebecca Domingue, Michael Spilde, by presenting an interesting research on the role of the biotic and abiotic crusts in the preservation of cultural heritage, specifically, in Long House Pueblo at Bandelier National Monument (USA). By analysing the surface

of the tuffs the team discovered that the surfaces created over the tuffs are more erosion resistant than the underlying rock and, therefore, they protect the delicate prehistoric remains.

Moving from micro to macro preservation, Abdelhamid Salah El-Sharief describes the amazing story of the creation of “The Egyptian Heritage Rescue Team”. This initiative was the outcome of the frustration, after experiencing the failure of the rescue in the archaeological storerooms at the Giza Plateau. Yet, instead of just complaining, Abdelhamid started a long path towards creating an organization, where members would be properly trained to implement high standard first-aid interventions for cultural heritage. At the moment, this is probably the most skilled group acting on a national level in heritage rescue worldwide.

Longer term actions for heritage protection are however conducted by the Cultural Heritage without Borders. Jonathan Eaton presents their efforts to stop the chain of neglect affecting an Albanian city, Gjirokastra. The organization is trying to recover some of the ruined buildings in the city, through restoration and the introduction of new activities which will keep the structures alive.

Activities for children to keep museums living through dissemination, is the proposal by Jovana Mijatovic from Serbia. She is presenting several dissemination

projects for the city of Belgrade, aiming at the improvement of children's knowledge about the history of the city and at raising awareness for the conservation of the cultural heritage.

Finally, and as a complement to dissemination topics, our journal closes with an article on a multi-layered information system for exhibitions, where traditional and non-technological devices are applied. The article presents two cases of temporary exhibitions, where different coding systems were used in order to organise the information and to help the visitor select the most suitable data according to his/her interest or available time.

Our "favourite" section is this time signed by Líneas Cruzadas, a Spanish cultural association focusing on Contemporary Art, which underlines the importance of public involvement in heritage preservation

This is certainly quite a varied issue but we trust all our readers will find topics of their interest. We hope they will enjoy reading as much as we enjoyed preparing it.

20 May 2016

Lucía Gómez-Robles

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lucía Gómez-Robles', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Editor