



**The Newsletter of the Heritage Stones Subcommittee**  
**A Subcommittee of the International Union of Geological Sciences**  
N° 3

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## 1. Welcome to the 2016 HSS newsletter

Welcome to our new Newsletter! It is our pleasure to share with all of you the involvements and activities of this Group with the aim that you get involved into them as much as possible. We hope to get to you once a year and to get the feedback from you to improve it every issue! This is the third issue. Find previous newsletters in our website!

The Newsletter will only be available electronically. It can be download at <http://www.globalheritagestone.com>

## 2. An overview of the HSS

For those of you that are new in the network, HSS is a Working Group, formally established as Heritage Stone Task Group by the International Union of Geological Sciences (IUGS) in 2011, with an initial administrative Board of Management being appointed at the 34th International Geological Congress in Brisbane for the period 2012-2016, and renewed at the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC in Cape Town, South Africa, for the period 2016-2020.

HSS had earlier origins in 2008 as a project within Commission (C-10) - Building Stones and Ornamental Rocks of the International Association for Engineering Geology and the Environment (IAEG C-10) that was recognised at its meeting during the 33rd International Geological Congress in Oslo, Norway.

The second executive board of the working group is made up of:

	<b>Vice-chairs</b>
<b>Chair</b>	Barry Cooper (Australasia)
Björn Schouenborg (Sweden)	Brian R. Pratt (N America)
	Piero Primavori (Europe)
<b>Secretary General</b>	Fareeduddin (South Asia)
Lola Pereira (Spain)	Adichat Surinkum (East Asia)
	M Heloisa Barros de Oliveira Frascá (S America)
	Phil Paige-Green ( <b>to be confirmed</b> ) (Africa)

HSS retains its link with IAEG C-10 with the HSS Chair also being IAEG C-10 Chair and several events are prepared and executed in collaboration.

The objectives of HSS are:

- To facilitate formal designation of natural stones that have achieved widespread recognition in human culture (i.e. heritage stones).
- To create the “Global Heritage Stone Resource” (GHSR) as an internationally recognised heritage stone designation.
- To promote the adoption and use of heritage stone designation by international and national authorities.

One of the urgent matters of the subcommission was to review the activity of the so-called “correspondents”. Unfortunately, since the group creation we have lost some of the most active and dear colleagues (<http://www.episodes.org/index.php/epi/article/view/85216>). Many of our “correspondents” never show any activity and therefore the board decided to maintain an updated list of correspondents, only with those that showed clear interest in our activities

and the ones that sent permission to keep in touch with them through their email addresses. At present, the number of correspondents is 74, representing 28 countries.

We have created a new body within the subcommission: an **Advisory Panel**. This Panel will give advice and will be empowered to make recommendations to the executive board. This panel is made up of correspondents that sent a positive reply to the enquiry from the Secretary General. The final composition of the Panel, after HSS board consultation, is made up by:

Anna Frangipane (Italy)

Jana Horak (UK)

Lidia Catarino (Portugal)

Jan Elsen (Belgium)

Brian Marker (UK)

Jacinta Talegón (Spain)

Marcos Musso (Uruguay)

Giovanna Dino (Italy)

Luís Lopes (Portugal)

Antonio Gilberto Costa (Brazil)

JoAnn Cassar (Malta)

Some of the main tasks of the advisory panel will be related to the review (and finding reviewers) for our special publications and the Global Heritage Stones and Global Heritage Provinces initiatives, as well as to act as conveners during the conferences sessions linked to our group. We acknowledge the constant help of some of you and many other colleagues that volunteered for these actions.

The advisory panel will be reviewed and updated annually, to make sure that we keep an active group of advisors.

The administration of the Group is carried out via email and through our web page. The group has developed a new web page, more user-friendly and appealing than the previous one: <http://globalheritagestone.com/>. The IGCP-637 paid for the development of the web page and its maintenance is mainly done by Lola Pereira. An annual updating of the main structure is done by an expert, with the financial support of IUGS-IGCP.

### **3. Recent activities: Activities in 2016 and contributions from our correspondents**

#### **CONFERENCES**

##### **HSTG at IUGS Executive Committee meeting in Kunming, China**

The IUGS EC met in Kunming, China, in January 2016. The chair of the Task Group at the moment presented the annual report. The minutes of the meeting can be found at <http://www.iugs.org/>. At this meeting it was requested that the HSTG merged with the Geoheritage Task Group in a Commission, as recognition of the continuous activities and achievements of both Task Groups. The IUGS EC mandate for the **International Commission of Geoheritage** (ICG) is to meet the growing requirements from UNESCO, IUCN, ICSU, and other Geo-Unions dealing with topics related to the geological perspective of heritage. One reason for merging and upgrade of the pre-existing Task Groups was the coordination and advise by experts that could identify and evaluate sites and natural stones of geological significance. Therefore, our priorities for future actions will be related to achieve this purpose. HSS will seek the expansion of correspondents, liaison with national/ local natural stone organisations, preparation of draft GHSR nominations, maintenance of a GHSR

register, GHSR promotion and further development of HSS communications including an international dimension stone Newsletter and Heritage Stone Circulars.



IUGS EC at Kunming, China (picture by B. Schouenborg)

### **HSTG at EGU2016 in Vienna, Austria, April 2016**

A session entitled “Natural stone research and Heritage stone designation” was again held at the General Assembly of European Geoscience Union (EGU) Congress, 17-22 April 2016 in Vienna, Austria. This annual conference has been our most important communication meeting since 2013.

The Convener was Lola Pereira with Co-Conveners: Björn Schouenborg, and Sabina Kramar. 20 presentations were offered, both as orals and posters. Complete information on contributions can be retrieved at: <http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2016/session/20135>



Oral session at EGU 2016

### **HSS at 35<sup>th</sup> IGC, Cape Town, South Africa, August-September 2016**

We organized a special session on Heritage Stones at the IGC meeting, where 23 contributions were presented, both as oral and posters. Björn Schouenborg and Lola Pereira acted as convenors. Complete information on the contributions and abstracts can be downloaded as pdf at the American Geosciences Institute (AGI) website: [www.americangeosciences.org/information/igc](http://www.americangeosciences.org/information/igc)

The session was followed by a business meeting to discuss future activities within the new International Commission of Geoheritage.



Business meeting of ICG-HSS at Cape Town IGC 2016

Also at this meeting, the formalization of the new IUGS commission took place, with approval by the new IUGS EC. Preliminary executive board was also approved.



Björn Schouenborg (Chair of Commission), Kevin Page (Secretary General of Commission) Patrick De Wever (Chair of HSCS) and Lola Pereira (Secretary General of HSS) at the 35<sup>th</sup> IGC in Cape Town.

Our sessions were partly funded by IGCP Project 637, which provided assistance to participate young researchers, women geologists and geologists from developing countries.

***Other stones meeting. Contributions from our correspondents.***

**Conference of Roman ornamental stones in North-Western Europe, Tongeren 20-22. April 2016.** Provided by Beatrix Moshammer (Geological Survey Austria)

The conference was inspired by the aim to convey the current well established geological and petrological research on natural stones of Belgium and cross-border regions testified by cooperations and demands of the regional archaeological sciences. The chosen city for the conference was Tongeren (province of Limburg, Belgium) which provided a unique and stimulating ground. Tongeren, interpreted as Atuatuca in history, was the capital town of the roman Civitas Tungrorum and is renowned as the place where Gaius Julius Cesar's army suffered a severe loss in 54 BC caused by Belgian tribes lead by Ambiorix. The linkage with the past is reflected by the prize awarded modern Gallo-Roman Museum, clad with tiles of Ceppo di Poltragno conglomerate. It houses exhibitions on the area's archaeological and anthropological explorations and scientific facilities. Accordingly, the museum offered the ideal setting for this conference with about one hundred attendees.



Organizing committee and PhD winners of oral and poster presentations. Left to right: Wim de Clercq, Guido Creemers, Linda Bogaert, Roland Dreesen, Catherine Coquelet, Eric Goemaere, Vilma Ruppene, Sibrecht Reniere.



Jean-Claude Bessac (CNRS délégation Paris Michel-Ange) using a stone axe for dressing a limestone block of "tuffeau de Maastricht" (NL). The right-hand block is a volcanic tuff from the Eifel (DE).

**13<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Deterioration and Conservation of Stone "Science and Art: a Future for Stone"**. Provided by JoAnn Cassar, Head of Department of Conservation and Built Heritage, University of Malta

The 13<sup>th</sup> International Congress on Deterioration and Conservation of Stone "Science and Art: a Future for Stone" was held in Paisley, Scotland from the 6th to the 9th September 2016, with site visits being held on the 10th of September. Organized by the University of the West of Scotland, and attended by over 200 delegates from all 5 continents, the almost three hundred presentations and posters spread over 4 days give the opportunity for participants to meet, discuss and debate current problems in the field. This conference is

held in a different country every four years, with the previous one being held in New York in 2012.

This year the conference was divided into 6 main themes, including: Stone damage phenomena, Methods for investigation, Stone conservation, Other inorganic porous building materials, Digitalization and documentation, and Case studies and projects. This wide-ranging look at stone deterioration and conservation gave the opportunity for the scientists, conservators, students and researchers to meet, talk, discuss and debate the most recent advances in these areas of great importance to cultural heritage and its preservation.

Further information on the conference as well as links to the full proceedings of the conference which are available for download in PDF format can be found at <https://sites.google.com/site/sc16test/home>

It was announced at the end of the conference that the next conference would be held in Göttingen and Kassel, Germany.

**YOCOCU 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference.** Provided by JoAnn Cassar, Head of Department of Conservation and Built Heritage, University of Malta

Also in September, from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2016, the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference organised by YOCOCU, YOUTH in CONSERVATION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE, in collaboration with the Department of Conservation and Restoration of Museo Reina Sofia and the Geosciences Institute (CSIC-UCM), was held at the Museo Reina Sofia in Madrid, Spain. This conference, aimed primarily at engaging in debate students and younger professionals working in cultural heritage in its widest sense, attracted 360 participants from 38 countries from all over the world.

Some of the sessions which took place, often in parallel due to the large number of papers presented, included Archaeological heritage, Architectural heritage, Materials: Stone and ceramics, Non-destructive techniques and Techniques for characterization, diagnosis and intervention assessment. The young participants showed and explained their work as presentations and posters, and also significantly participated in the discussion sessions held at the end of each working day, aimed at helping established professionals understand the needs of emerging scientists, conservators and researchers, and, very importantly, how communication at the interface between science and hands-on conservation can be improved. Further information on the conference can be obtained at <http://www.museoreinasofia.es/en/activities/yococu-2016> and on the YOCOCU organisation at <http://www.yococu.com/>. The abstract book can be found at <http://www.yococu.com/news/abstract-book/>

It was announced at the end of the conference that the next meeting, in 2018, would be held in Matera, Italy.

Barry Cooper gave a talk on heritage stones at the **Australian Earth Sciences Convention**, held in Adelaide, South Australia, 26-30, June 2016.

### ***Other activities***

**European Project:** European Innovation Partnership on Raw Materials: Building a harmonized European database on natural stones for the use of construction and restoration stakeholders: NATUREUROSTONES

A group of HSS correspondents applied for an European Commitment to build a pan-European database on natural stones. The proposal was approved and it is serving as a foundation to prepare a funded European Project within the H2020 call.

More information can be retrieved at:

<https://ec.europa.eu/growth/tools-databases/eip-raw-materials/en/content/building-harmonized-european-database-natural-stones-use-construction-and-restoration>

## PUBLICATIONS

A special issue was published by the journal Geoscience Canada

- **Heritage Stones of the World**, edited by Lola Pereira and Brian Pratt  
More information at: <https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/GC/index>

This issue was dedicated to our late colleague Anders Wikström, who had a great dedication to the Group during his last years of life.

Several articles on natural stones and heritage were published in Episodes, Geosciences, Canadian Mineralogist, Вестник СПбГУ, etc... by our correspondents as individual collaborations.

A contribution by Pereira and Marker was solicited and published in a special issue of Geosciences: <http://www.mdpi.com/2076-3263/6/1/13> (article available as open access)

Several HSS correspondents participated in a meeting on European Quarry Landscapes in Teruel, Spain, in 2015. From this meeting a volume of contributions was produced under the name: European Quarry Landscapes (2016) Collected essays from the first meeting of the European Quarry Landscapes Network. Edited by James Douet. The complete publication can be downloaded at:

<http://quarrylandscapes.teruel.es/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/European-Quarry-Landscapes.pdf>

The first joined collaboration between both Geoheritage Subcommissions (HSS and HSCS) is now published in the journal Geoheritage:

De Wever, P., Baudin, F., Pereira, D., Cornee, A., Egoroff, G. and Page, K. (2016) The importance of Geosites and Heritage Stones in Cities. A review. Geoheritage DOI: 10.1007/s12371-016-0210-3: <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s12371-016-0210-3>

## THE IGCP 637

In 2016 the HSS got an extension of the IGCP, IUGS-UNESCO project, presented by the whole board, but including correspondents as potential recipients of benefits. This project



aims to firmly establish the first international standard for building and ornamental stones via extensive documentation of those stones that have been significant in human culture. Suitable nominations will be sought worldwide in an initiative that will aim to record the different characteristics for each stone type. The IGCP funding has served to pay the participation of early researchers, female researchers and researchers coming from developing and emerging countries to the sessions organized by the working group in the various locations. The HSS has applied for an extension for 2017 that will help to cover the expenses of legible researchers to attend our sessions.

#### **4. Activities for the near future**

Several activities are planned for 2017. One major event will occur at the **EGU in Vienna** (23-28 of April) where our HSS will have its fifth edition on Natural Stones. We will also hold a Splinter Meeting to update our contributors and public in general on the new perspectives of the HSS, as well as on possible workshops and publications.

More information: <http://meetingorganizer.copernicus.org/EGU2017/session/22855>

A special issue is being prepared with contributions from EGU 2016, IGC 2016 and EGU 2017. The proposal has been approved by the editor of the journal *Geoheritage* (Springer) and hopefully will be published by the end of this year.

In the medium term, two additional Special Publications of the Geological Society of London are being planned. The proposal for the second GSSP volume is already approved by GSL editorial committee.

Many activities are being prepared for 2018, with sessions on stones and heritage:

- Earth Sciences for Society. El Jadida, Marrakech, Morocco, 20-24 March 2018
- EGU, Vienna, April 2018
- Global Stone Congress, Ilhéus, Brazil, 6-9 May 2018
- Resourcing Future Generations, Vancouver, June 2018
- I Heritage Stones Conference, Salamanca, October 2018

All these activities and more will be properly advertised in our web page:

<http://www.globalheritagestone.com>

#### **6. Calendar**

Please, visit regularly the calendar at our web page. Information will be updated periodically, with important meetings and interesting activities for the HSS



Sculptures in stone, for sale in Cape Town (picture by Lola Pereira)



At the airport of Cape Town. (Picture by Lola Pereira)