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“The Taliban’s edict to destroy all pre-Islamic statues in Afghanistan and their subsequent demolition of the great Buddhas in Bamiyan are shocking and disturbing reminders that cultural destruction can be a potent weapon in campaigns of political oppression and tyranny.”

Bonnie Burnham
President, World Monuments Fund
WMF Offers Assistance to Flood-Threatened Roman Artifacts in Turkey

WMF in 2000 added its voice to an international outpouring of concern over the pending inundation—due to the opening of the Birecik dam along the Euphrates River—of Zeugma, an ancient Roman archaeological site in eastern Turkey. In May, a letter from Bonnie Burnham, WMF’s president, to Turkey’s prime minister and ambassador to the UN, urged that the dam’s completion be delayed so the site could be documented and its extensive valuable mosaics excavated. Archaeological teams from around the world were already laboring diligently. Burnham offered WMF’s assistance in recording and rescuing the mosaics.

In July, WMF Vice President for Programs John Stubbs visited Zeugma and other sites nearby. By then the Turkish government and local planning authorities had suspended further water inflow until the fall. The salvage project, moreover, had received $5 million from the David and Lucille Packard Foundation in California. A portion of this funding supports the mosaics’ conservation, as well as an interpretive center to be constructed at the site.

“Upon my arrival I saw as many as 70 archaeologists, support staff and volunteers at work,” said Stubbs. “Earlier we had noticed dozens of mosaics from Zeugma in the front and side yards of the history museum in Gazientep.” Gazientep, some 35 km to the east, has a well-preserved historic center. Local authorities would like to construct a museum in this neighborhood to house the salvaged mosaics.
Friends of Assisi Restore Earthquake Damaged Treasure

On September 26th 1997, devastating earthquakes shattered the province of Umbria in Central Italy. Collapsing vaults at the renowned Basilica of San Francesco at Assisi killed four, and left frescoes by Cimabue and Giotto’s workshop in fragments. Towns throughout the province were destabilized, and many still remain uninhabitable.

In response, concerned Americans and Italians, ably led by Barbara Gimbel in New York and Shirley Caracciolo in Italy, formed Friends of Assisi. With the help of World Monuments Fund and encouraged by local authorities in Umbria, Friends undertook the restoration of the Pieve di San Gregorio, a small twelfth-century parish church in Castel Ritaldi, south of Assisi near Spoleto. Both roof and façade were dangerously unstable. Protection of the façade carvings, a double band of real and fantastic human and animal figures, Evangelist symbols, and figures of Jeremiah and Ezekial, prominently dated 1141, was a priority.

Friends gathered with Italian and American dignitaries and scholars at a New York dinner in June 1998. Later in October, WMF’s President, Marilyn Perry and a group of the Friends, spent five days visiting damaged sites in Umbria and there examined San Gregorio first hand. Supporting activities in the U.S. included a fundraising reception and dinner in New York accompanied the opening of “The Treasury of Saint Francis of Assisi,” an exhibition of paintings and sacred objects at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in March 1999. In just over two years, Friends has raised close to the full restoration cost—roughly $300,000 dollars, which includes a generous grant of $50,000 that WMF raised from the Homeland Foundation.

Reconstruction began in the summer of 1998. Professional restorers scrupulously cleaned exterior banding of pink-and-white stone. Using modern techniques the team removed dirt and fungus from the marble portal sculptures, and in the interior painting experts brought to light and restored two forgotten eighteenth-century frescoes. The outline of the rose window, which originally held a carved Angus Dei now inserted in the campanile, is now visible. With a new roof of recycled tiles on the exterior, supported inside by handsome chestnut beams, the Pieve’s structure is sound. On August 8, 1999 San Gregorio was reopened with a celebratory Mass. Unused for several decades, the church is now the focus for its parish. Two weddings were celebrated there within a week of the opening.

In the past two years Shirley Caracciolo’s welcome to major donors in Umbria has broadened Americans’ knowledge of Umbrian history and the important classical and early medieval monuments lying between Assisi and Spoleto, many still in need of rebuilding. From the scaffolding in July 1999, we watched the painstaking care taken to match fresco colors, and the time-consuming washing of façade sculptures to remove centuries of mold. Impressed by the conservators’ knowledge and skill, we better understand the wide-ranging costs. In June 2000, it was decided to rebuild the framework for the rose window of the façade. The ambitious scheme, in progress now, is being carried out a local stone mason under the supervision of an Umbrian architect.

For several members, who occupy houses in Umbria for part of the year, the San Gregorio project offers an intimacy with and greater knowledge of Umbrian art and culture. More important, the commitment expresses our concern for this beleaguered area. Friends of Assisi takes great satisfaction in being among the first private organizations to undertake a restoration in the Umbrian earthquake zone. Other Umbrian projects lie ahead.

Bannon McHenry
Art historian and founding member of Friends of Assisi
Countering Cultural Terrorism

The Taliban's edict to destroy all pre-Islamic statues in Afghanistan and their subsequent demolition of the great Buddhas in Bamiyan was a disturbing reminder that cultural destruction can be a potent weapon in campaigns of political oppression and tyranny.

The horrendous loss of cultural property during World War II led to the framing of international standards to protect cultural property deemed to be of universal value. These conventions advanced the notion that protection of heritage should transcend national or local authority and be vested in all mankind. The successful World Heritage Convention, adopted by UNESCO in 1972, stimulated a massive worldwide investment in monuments and sites inscribed on the prestigious World Heritage List. But its poor relation, the 1954 Hague Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, has been a notorious flop.

Experts have been monitoring the situation of Afghanistan's cultural heritage since 1970, when the Bamiyan Buddhas and other cultural sites were observed to be in fragile physical condition and under a relatively unsympathetic regime. In 1997, a representative of the Society for the Preservation of Afghanistan's Heritage conducted a mission to Bamiyan and noted that the paintings surrounding the Buddhas, deemed unique, were deteriorating badly and being looted by local residents, hoping to sell them in Pakistan. But these reports resulted in no official action or censure.

The voice of the United States has been conspicuously absent from the dialogue concerning the protection of cultural property in political and armed conflict. The U.S. never adopted the 1954 Hague Convention, and that abstention has contributed to its lack of authority. At that time, faced with the looming threat of nuclear conflict, the U.S. refused to commit to what it considered an impossible standard: to protect material property in the path of mass destruction. Nearly half a century later, the effects of that decision are still being felt. Not only did the U.S. government fail to join international efforts to monitor escalating threats in Afghanistan, but Washington waited a full week before officially denouncing the Taliban's brutal edict.

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Could the catastrophe in Afghanistan be averted through greater international pressure to protect cultural property since the Taliban took power four years ago? It is time to look at that question carefully. In the future, could a “safe zone” be created around monuments of international significance to prevent their willful destruction? Should peacekeeping forces be authorized to safeguard uniquely important cultural treasures when the museums that house them cannot be protected through normal civil action? Could the international community impose sanctions strong enough to deter atrocities involving the destruction of cultural heritage?

An encouraging precedent was set recently when the U.N. war crimes tribunal indicted the forces that committed atrocities in the destruction of cultural heritage during the Balkan conflict. The recent acts of the Taliban have not only inspired us to hammer out an international protocol that will combat modern cultural terrorism but have also inspired us to rethink our role in the protection of cultural heritage. It should now inspire us to hammer out an international protocol that will combat modern cultural terrorism and that abstention has contributed to its lack of authority. At that time, faced with the looming threat of nuclear conflict, the U.S. refused to commit to what it considered an impossible standard: to protect material property in the path of mass destruction. Nearly half a century later, the effects of that decision are still being felt. Not only did the U.S. government fail to join international efforts to monitor escalating threats in Afghanistan, but Washington waited a full week before officially denouncing the Taliban's brutal edict.

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Cambodia
Dancer "Discovered" at Angkor Trains with New York City Ballet

Last January, those of us visiting Angkor with the World Monuments Fund had the privilege to see the Wat Bo Dance School perform in the Hall of Dancers at Preah Khan. One exceptionally talented boy, Sy (Sohvannara) Sar affected me so greatly that, upon my return, I investigated the possibility of bringing him to New York to study. Traditionally, women dance the male roles in classical Cambodian dance; men only perform folk dances. I thought that perhaps, for someone so gifted, classical ballet might offer a more challenging future.

I invited Sy to visit New York to observe classes at the School of American Ballet and attend performances of its parent company, the New York City Ballet. Sy and his parents responded enthusiastically and in May, Sy and his teacher, Mme Kim Boran, arrived for what was meant to be a two-week visit. With the help of Khmer translators from the local Cambodian community, a daily schedule of viewing ballet lessons and company performances began. It soon became clear that Sy was mad about ballet but, almost 17, he was already old for beginning ballet training. Fortunately, one marvellous Russian teacher recognized his potential and agreed to coach him privately and let him attend her classes at Saratoga, where the ballet company has its summer residency, and at the Rock School in Philadelphia. If he made enough progress, Sy would merit admission to SAB in the fall.

At Saratoga, the other students voted Sy "most improved," but he learned only midway through his course in Philadelphia that his impressive and rapid mastery of technique had secured him a place at SAB. Sy is now a boarding student at SAB and pursuing his academic studies at the Professional Children's School. He speaks excellent English and loves algebra, world history, computer science... and ping pong and soccer. His progress in ballet has exceeded expectations. In a few years, I hope you will be able to see him perform and understand what a great gift Cambodia has sent us.

Anne H. Bass
Anne Bass participated in WMF's tour to Angkor in January 2000. She is a trustee of the New York City Ballet. For information about WMF trips to Angkor and elsewhere, please contact Travel Manager Holly Hawkins, at (646) 424-9594, hhawkins@wmf.org.

Italy
The Marignoli Foundation in London, a donor to the Friends of Assisi, will sponsor, through World Monuments Fund, its own project in Umbria, the Pieve di San Bri2;io, near Spoleto. Because of its significance, the Italian government stabilized the structure after it was damaged in the 1997 earthquake. But important medieval and renaissance frescoes on the interior are in urgent need of repair. The project also includes restoration of two important paleochristian marble altar fronts, now encased in modern cement constructions. More on FRIENDS OF ASSISI, PAGE 3.

Poland, Gdansk -
Yazdaniya Fortess
Today local industry around the busy modern port surrounds the Yazdaniya Fortress, a unique monument to sixteenth-century seafortification architecture. In June 1999, a $50,000 American Express World Travel Grant supported a structural survey. A Headley Trust grant of £15,000, to be matched by the Wilson Challenge, will support a comprehensive conservation plan and has helped sustain local momentum by encouraging the Museum of the City of Gdansk, which owns the site, and enlisting the financial participation of municipal authorities.

For further information about the activities of World Monuments Fund in Britain, please see the profile of Chairman John Julius Norwich on page 9, and the affiliates' section on page 11.

Headley Trust in the UK Joins Wilson Challenge Partnership in Conserving Watch Sites

The World Monuments Fund in Britain has secured grants totaling £68,500 from the Headley Trust for three World Monuments Watch sites in Central Europe. WMF's Wilson Challenge program, established to encourage such private non-U.S. sponsorship for international heritage conservation projects, has matched each grant 1:1. These grants will be administered through WMF's office in New York.

Bulgaria, Roudne Region -
Bouzova Rock Chapel
Medieval wall paintings inside a remarkable rock-hewn monastery complex built from the thirteenth through the fourteenth century face natural threats—moisture infiltration, seismic activity, wind-blown sand, microbiota—as well as air and ground water pollution by industry. Recent site monitoring detected an increasing rate of deterioration. The Headley Trust awarded £25,000 towards stabilization of the chapels and wall paintings. Listed in 1998 and 1999.

Croatia, Dubrovnik -
Franciscan monastery Library
With urgent structural repairs to extensive war damage now completed, the Franciscan Order will update the infrastructure at the most important historic library in the Balkans. Through the Watch program, WMF supported the first stage of work with grants of £35,000 from American Express and £80,000 from the Reuild Dubrovnik Foundation. The monastery has functioned continuously since its founding in 1255; its library is renowned the world over for its 70,000 manuscripts and books, 200 medieval manuscripts, and large music archive. For the final phase—installation of building systems, an elevator, and reconstruction of a newly-reconfigured main stairway—the Headley Trust awarded a grant of £25,000.

World Monuments Watch
Timely Progress at Endangered Sites

Czech Republic, Koks -
Koks Forest Sculptures
Water poses the primary peril at the eighteenth-century Koks Forest Sculptures, an unusual and intriguing ensemble of Central European baroque sculpture by Matthias Bernard Braun. Religious scenes and individual figures appear to be emerging from the living rock into which they have been carved. "The preservation of the complex calls for steps based on an exact knowledge of all factors contributing to the rapid erosion of the stone," said John Stubbs, WMF's vice president for programs. "A scientific, interdisciplinary approach is essential to the success of this endeavor."
ITALY, VENICE - Bartolomeo Colleoni Monument

Inclusion of the Belltower Colleoni Monument on the 1996 World Monuments Watch List of 100 recognized that environmental effects had caused considerable decay, compounded by decades of neglect, and threatening the very survival of Andrea del Verrocchio's celebrated bronze portrait in the Campo San Giovanni Paolo in Venice. The Colleoni Monument, erected in 1496, is one of the most celebrated sculptures of the Italian Renaissance. It, and Donatello's earlier Gattamelata (1425) in nearby Padua, were the first large "modern" bronzes inspired by Imperial Roman equestrian portraits. The threat to Verrocchio's work also exemplified those facing all outdoor bronze sculptures in urban environments.

The WMF (American Friends of Italian Art) then sponsored conservation studies carried out by the Istituto Centrale per il Restauro. The restoration experts concluded that, in the absence of any maintenance program since the end of World War I, significant corrosion had occurred and recommended removing both the horse and rider in order to conserve and reuse them (each is comprised of seven elements).

WMF and the Soprintendenza per i Beni Ambientali e Architettonici in Venice earlier this year concluded an inspirational agreement and established a funding partnership, marking the first partnership between them in all the years that WMF has worked in Venice. The project will be carried out at and near the site, enabling public viewing of the work in progress. A temporary structure will be built outside the church of San Giovanni e Paolo, against a protected area essentially facing the monument, with a window allowing people to watch the sculpture of the rider being restored. At the same time, the horse will be carefully and, if its condition is as good as has been supposed, it will then be restored in situ in a second phase. (No rust has been observed on around the hooves, indicating probably that no water has leaked inside and the iron rods inside should be in decent condition.)

The Soprintendenza is providing half the project's $612,000 cost. WMF is raising the remaining funds and has received contributions to date from the Samuel H. Kress Foundation, and the Robert W. Wilson Challenge. Listed in 1996

MEXICO, TAXCO DE ALARCON - Santa Prisca Parish Church

On October 5, 2000, the city of Taxco de Alarcon declared a municipal holiday to celebrate a grant presented by American Express to the Santa Prisca church. The local citizenry turned out in force, as church bells pealed and fireworks punctuated the sky.

WMF's President Bonnie Burnham has traveled widely in Mexico, yet called Santa Prisca "the most beautiful baroque church I have ever seen in the country." José de Borda, a mine owner on the verge of bankruptcy, was so grasping after striking it rich overnight that he spared no expense in building the lavish church directly atop his silver mine. Completed in only seven years, it expresses a purely baroque style emblematic of its time and place. The paintings inside include a magnificent cycle by Juan de Cabrera, eighteenth-century colonial Mexico's greatest native artist.

Santa Prisca's renouncers kept it from destruction during civil unrest in the late nineteenth century. But earthquakes and the still-active mine directly beneath it ultimately brought the church to a perilous state of deterioration. From the 1980s, stopgap efforts had been implemented to repair the structure. Finally, after the most recent earthquake, towns authorities realized that only a comprehensive campaign would save the church. By the time Santa Prisca was nominated to the Watch list, its dome had separated from the existing structure. WMF first learned about the site when Mexico's ambassador to Ireland, the Honorable Daniel Dultzin, contacted Burnham at the suggestion of the Irish Georgian Society. After learning of WMF's longstanding involvement in Mexico (in 1985 WMF collected, at the initiative of a group of prominent New York art patrons, an emergency appeal to save the social realism murals damaged by the earthquake in Mexico City), he revealed that he had a special interest in Taxco, and helped the Amigos de Santa Prisca prepare its successful application to the 2000 List of 100.

Santa Prisca demonstrates WMF's success as a catalyst to local support for saving an important endangered site. The local community has rallied behind the project. "Watching firing came in after a grassroots effort was already in place," Burnham said. "The announcement of our grant from American Express helped us secure a commitment from the Guerrero state government." At the American Express grant presentation, Burnham announced a further challenge through the Wilson Challenge Program to match any money the local organization can raise over the next year. "If they are successful," Burnham said, "They will have all the funds needed to complete the work."

Listed in 2000

VENEZUELA, CORO - San Francisco Church

La Niña storms that brought floods and mudslides to northeastern Venezuela in December 1999 devastated Coro, the country's only World Heritage site. In conjunction with its generous contribution towards humanitarian relief, American Express awarded a "watch grant of $50,000 to the Corporación Mariano Talavera to support emergency restoration at the San Francisco Church through development of appropriate conservation methodologies. The donation received substantial publicity in Caracas as well as locally. Listed in 1998 and 2000
Lord Norwich Leads

The Blair government’s tax code change in the tax rewards for charitable giving have greatly benefited the affiliate’s work. This development “has nearly brought us up to U.S. tax standards and is making a lot of difference in giving to projects in Great Britain,” Lord Norwich said.

Lord Norwich’s ability to speak Russian has led WMF in Britain to Russian projects, making it the first affiliate to work internationally. To date, WMF in Britain has funded conditions surveys of the Flag Pavilion at Yelagin Palace Island, a nineteenth-century neoclassic pavilion designed by Carlo Rossi on an island in St. Petersburg, and the rococo-style Chinese Palace that Catherine the Great commissioned from Antonio Rinaldi at Oranienbaum, near St. Petersburg. Both projects are World Monuments Watch sites, listed in 1998 and 2000 respectively.

John Julius Norwich took degrees in Russian and French at New College, Oxford, before launching a 12-year career with the British Foreign Service. He came to diplomacy naturally since his father, Duff Cooper, the first Viscount Norwich, was ambassador to France from 1944 to 1947 after having served successively as Secretary of State for War and First Lord of the Admiralty just prior to World War II and wartime Minister of Information.

Lord Norwich was evacuated to the United States and then to Canada as a youth during the war and studied at Upper Canada College in Toronto and then at Etobicoke upon returning to England. After serving in the British Navy, receiving degrees at the University of Strasbourg and Oxford, and occupying British embassy posts in Belgrade and Beirut, he took up a polymath career as a writer, historian, radio personality, television documentary writer and presenter, museum exhibition curator, art gallery executive, and international lecturer on art history and architectural subjects, music and opera.

As an author, John Julius Norwich is justifiably most famous for his three-volume history of Byzantium, which took 10 years to research and write and which was condensed into a popular single volume: “Byzantium came into my life when I was in the Foreign Service and finally got a long-delayed vacation with my wife after dealing with Iraq’s first attempt to move into Kuwait in 1961.” Lord Norwich recalled, “We went to Sicily and I was absolutely staggered by the mix of Byzantine Greek, Arab and Western European cultures that I encountered there. So staggered that I left the service to write a book about Norman Sicily on which there was no previous literature. That led to Venice with its ties to Byzantium, and then to Byzantium itself—Turkey.”

Lord Norwich has become something of an expert on Turkey and accompanied a group of WMF major donors there on an archaeologically trip in 1999. “I know of no country in the world with such incredible remains of all the past civilizations that have been extant there,” he commented, adding that he was grateful for the WMF’s efforts to preserve some of Turkey’s treasures.

Lord Norwich’s career on British radio blossomed in the 1970s and 80s when he was emcee of the popular BBC panel show, “My Word,” and a regular contestant on the “Round Britain Quiz” show.

In a more serious vein, he simultaneously produced some 30 historical documentaries for television, on subjects including Napoleon’s 100 Days, Maximilian in Mexico, the Knights of Malta, and Toussaint l’Ouverture. For PBS in America he produced a three-part series, “Treasure Houses of Britain” as an accompaniment to an exhibition at the National Gallery of Art in Washington in 1985.

Lord Norwich first became acquainted with WMF, then known as the International Fund for Monuments, about the time he helped found the Venice in Peril Fund, one of the many private international groups created to restore damaged cultural heritage after the disastrous flood of 1966. He became a friend of Dr. Marilyn Perry, who would later chair WMF’s and was then living in Venice. This led inevitably to his association with WMF 15 years later as honorary chairman.

For many years he chaired the Venice in Peril Fund and was for several years chairman of the art dealer Colnaghi’s in London. He also is a former board member of the English National Opera, Vice-President of the National Association of Decorative and Fine Arts Societies, and a member of the executive committee of the National Trust, and member of several learned societies in Britain. He is particularly proud of having curated “Sovereign,” The Victoria & Albert Museum’s exhibition honoring the fortieth anniversary in 1992 of Queen Elizabeth II’s accession to the throne.

Lord Norwich even has had time for a hobby, listed in his entry in Debrett’s Peerage as “nightclub piano.” “That means that if I’m asked to at a party, I can sit down at the piano and play Cole Porter, Jerome Kern, Noël Coward, things like that,” he said. “I’m really not good enough to play professionally. But I enjoy it very much.”

Just as he enjoys everything else he does.
Harvey Golub
American Express CEO, Honored at WMF Annual Benefit

Harvey Golub received the Hadrian Award 2000 at a luncheon benefit at New York’s Pierre Hotel on October 27, 2000. Beth Rudin DeWoody, Mrs. Henry Grunwald, a WMF trustee, and Robert W. Miller co-chaired the event.

Beverly Sills, chairman of Lincoln Center, delivered remarks for Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, who was unable to attend due to illness. Miss Sills, an American Express board member serving on the Public Responsibility Committee, commended Mr. Golub’s commitment to WMF’s efforts to preserve endangered art and architecture worldwide through the largest contribution in the company’s history—$10 million over 10 years.

To present the award to Harvey Golub, WMF Chairman Dr. Marilyn Perry introduced Lord Sainsbury of Preston Candover K.G. who, with his brothers, received last year’s award. Mr. Golub’s remarks are excerpted below:

Since this award is named after the Emperor Hadrian, I did a bit of research [and] discovered he was by some reckoning an important Emperor—as emperors go, though he certainly engaged in his share of intrigue, mayhem, massacres and arbitrary behavior. However, he was also an enthusiastic builder and restorer of the treasures of the past like the Pantheon, which by his day was already a historic monument. Hadrian was an inveterate traveler, having visited 38 of the 48 Roman provinces in his lifetime—without the benefit of telephones or a G4. I share with him the travel bug, and a deep conviction that we must save our historic heritage—although I do draw the line at mayhem and massacres to accomplish that objective.

One of the reasons that American Express embraced the idea of the Watch in the mid ‘90s was that we had worked with World Monuments Fund over the previous 10 years. We knew how good they were at stretching their dollars and delivering on their promises. Frankly, we liked them and we trusted them and were seduced by their mission.

Nonetheless, even with that history, the Watch was a leap of faith for both of us. It was American Express’s largest single philanthropic commitment to date, and a quantum jump for the World Monuments Fund. Sometimes you have to go with your instincts, as we both did in this case. I think we both believe our instincts served us well.

For my part, I would just like to say that the World Monuments Fund has been wonderful to work with, and the two of us have done great things together. Since 1996 American Express has directed $5 million in funding through the Watch to 80 sites in 46 countries. As you know we have now committed $5 million more. So the relationship will continue for some time.

But, the Watch is more than money. It is also about awareness, consciousness raising, getting others involved, and other warm and fuzzy stuff. For example, I am delighted that American Express employees have adopted the Watch as their own—encouraging site nominations, lobbying for grants for listed sites, organizing press events, and championing the cause.

For the past four years our sister publication Travel & Leisure has run an ad insert on the Watch that raises both awareness and money. During an annual travel convention, an impressive array of travel industry partners joins us in a golf tournament to benefit the Watch. Behind this buy-in from the industry, there is the deep conviction that historic sites are a prime motivator of travel; that these sites are irreplaceable; and that the danger of losing them is real.

The fact that American Express funds have leveraged $10 million more for sites on the Most Endangered Lists is proof of the resonance of the Watch. It really matters to people. It really matters to me. Yes, I have really enjoyed traveling to see these monuments when I could. It’s been a great education. Again and again it has convinced me of the importance of this work, not only for our industry, but also for our communities, and generations to come.

My deepest satisfaction is that through the Watch and our partnership with the World Monuments Fund, we have been able to make a difference. Thank you again for this honor given to me, but which I accept on behalf of over 90,000 colleagues at American Express. To me it will always be a reminder of the privilege of working with you on this great cause.
World Monuments Fund in Britain

On June 13, 2000, WMF in Britain hosted a gala at the new Arthur Gilbe't Collection at the refurbished Somerset House in London. Guests included such dignitaries as HRH Prince Michael of Kent (a patron of the British affiliate), the American, Russian, and Czech ambassadors, and 1997 Hadrian Award recipient Lord Rothschild. Christie's hosted a benefit dinner afterwards, with HRH Prince Michael as guest of honor.

Andrew Solomon Joins Board


Kirstin Sechler, Director, World Monuments Watch and Jon Calame, Partnership Manager, left to form a new venture, Minerva Partners, which will develop and interpret heritage conservation projects with an emphasis on disadvantaged sites.

We will miss all four colleagues who have our affection and best wishes for their new endeavors.

Norma Barbacci joins our staff as Director of Programs. In addition to assuming responsibility for the World Monuments Watch, she will work on all active projects. She has over a decade of experience as an associate at Beyer Blinder Belle, Architects & Planners.

Britt Densmore, Capital Campaign Manager, WMF, was the Director of Development and Public Affairs for the Mid-Atlantic office of the Trust for Public Land. Prior to that he was the Executive Director of Friends of the Upper East Side Historic Districts.

Jose Garda, Development Assistant, previously worked with Smartmail Inc, a bulk mail company.

Holly MacCammon is our new Grants Manager. She has an M.S. in library science and previously managed the Documentary Heritage Program at the Metropolitan New Library Council.

Archivist Keith Porteus is a Princeton University graduate. Her thesis on city planning in Renaissance Venice was selected for the Princeton Thesis Review.

Program Assistant Anne-Sophie Roure attended the University of Human Sciences of Strasbourg, France, received an M.S. in historic preservation from Columbia University, and worked last with preservation architect Joseph Pell Lombardi.

Annik Rozwadowska is the Administrative Coordinator for WMF's European offices. For five years she directed reception operations at Christie's France.

Program Assistant Olivia Stinson graduated from Carleton College in June 2000 with a degree in art history. She attended high school in Jakarta, Indonesia, and during college studied in India and France.

WMF Moves Headquarters and Opens Gallery

The inaugural exhibit, The Restoration of Brancusi's Endless Column will be open to the public May 2nd to June 29th, 2001, Monday – Friday, 10am to 5pm. Look for more information on WMF's expanded programming for our new headquarters in the next newsletter.
Restructured WMF Jewish Heritage to Provide Emergency Funding

Following the conclusion earlier this year of its landmark $1 million, six-year project at the Tempel Synagogue in Cracow, WMF’s Jewish Heritage Program and the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation have announced $250,000 in grants to help endangered Jewish cultural heritage sites around the world. The grant program has been modeled after WMF’s hugely successful Kress Foundation European Preservation Program (see the Spring 2000 issue of Milestones, page 11).

Initially, seven grants have been awarded for projects at six synagogues in Eastern Europe, and an archaeological site in Suriname. The grants are:

- Belarus, Slonim $10,000
- Czech Republic, Boskovice $70,000
- Hungary, Mad $40,000
- Poland, Pinczow $30,000
- Suriname, Jodensavanne $10,000
- Ukraine, Zhovkva $25,000
- Yugoslavia, Subotica $65,000

These new grants introduce an expanded program, with a new commitment from the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation of $500,000 over the next five years. The projects were selected from sites WMF previously identified as priorities. Beyond lead funding from the Ronald S. Lauder Foundation, the projects received support from the Richard & Rhoda Goldman Fund, The Blanche & Irving Laurie Foundation, Mr. and Mrs. Michel David-Weill, The Malkin Fund, The Kekst Family Foundation, The Liman Foundation, The Cahman Foundation, and other contributors who responded generously throughout the year.

Beginning in 2001, grants will be awarded on a competitive basis and will target the development of conservation studies or master plans, discrete phases of restoration work, or—in special cases—emergency stabilization. NGOs, Jewish communities, and other organizations interested in the preservation of Jewish cultural heritage—with special attention to threatened synagogues in Central and Eastern Europe—will be encouraged to submit proposals. As with all its projects, WMF will seek counterpart funding from local governments, sources within site communities, and other individuals and foundations concerned about the preservation of Jewish cultural heritage. Some localities have already pledged matching funds.

Chaired by the Honorable Ronald S. Lauder, a vice chairman of the WMF board of trustees, the Jewish Heritage Program unites communities worldwide with public and private agencies committed to the protection and preservation of Jewish heritage. The Ronald S. Lauder Foundation is dedicated to nurturing the rebirth of Jewish life throughout Central and Eastern Europe.
The historic Tree Studios and Medinah Temple in Chicago, listed on the World Monuments Watch List of 100 Most Endangered Sites, came very close to being totally demolished last year over the strong objections of local community members and concerned preservationists all over the country. Since then a new proposal—intended to preserve the artists' studios, the exterior and the most important interior elements of the temple—was accepted by the owner, the developers, and the city in 2000. WMF hopes for a successful outcome and continues to monitor the situation.