

**Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in
Museums, Archives and Historic Houses -
Proceedings of the International
Conference in Vienna, Austria 2013**

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Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased and honoured that you have all come to the Kunsthistorisches Museum in Vienna for the 2013 IPM conference and that you now hold a copy of the conference proceedings in your hands. Being the General Manager of the KHM-Museums-Group I feel pride that this conference was not only being held in Vienna but in our house. Thanks for that to you, Dr. Querner, and of course to my dear colleagues from the different conservation/restoration departments who made quite an effort to speak and to hear about such an important topic as Integrated Pest Management.

The KHM-Group consists of eight very diverse museum venues from Innsbruck to Vienna, from ethnographic collections to Old Masters and from Earliest Egypt Period up to modern times. As I am in charge of Austria's largest Museum group, I am very well aware that we are in a role model function not only in terms of Customer Journey, education, blockbuster exhibitions or presentation, but also in how we treat and how we preserve our unique collections. I am very proud to say that our museum group lives this role model both in Austria and internationally and has established Integrated Pest Management and preventive conservation in all our collections. It has been a topic for more than twenty years now, us being the very first ones to introduce a nitrogen chamber in the early nineties.

A few years ago we started to build our new deposit; another lighthouse project in terms of providing an ideal environment for our artefacts and objects, and we can prove to have saved money with Integrated Pest Management. Having set new standards, we are proud to see all the experts and architects in charge of new projects come for reference to the KHM-Deposit in the South of Vienna. As we do not only do things but also write them down we are proud to present the new volume of our Technological Studies, devoted to our new deposit together with the lessons learned and scientific findings of this project. Be sure not to leave Vienna without having bought this wonderful book in our book store nor one or other of the previous volumes.

Of course none of this is an achievement of the General Director or the General Manager. It is the restoration departments and their spirited and courageous staff, who do not get tired of convincing us of the needs and necessities for remaining what we want to be: a good, safe and secure home to our collections for the near and farther future. Being the backbone of conservation and the object's advocates, the restoration departments are some kind of good conscience in times where museum management looks far too hastily after the quick success and the return on investment.

I for myself have learned a lot about pest management during my museum years, and buying wasps in an envelope – very costly wasps by the way – in order to get rid of biscuit beetles is only a remarkable detail in this story. Willing to learn more about this topic in the future I am proud to have opened this conference and to present you these proceedings.

Dr. Paul Frey (General Manager KHM)

IPM: past, present and future – Vienna 2013

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Introduction

The international IPM conference in Vienna was an important event to share experiences, information and results for integrated pest management in museums, archives and historic buildings. Conferences like the one in Vienna 2013, Pest Odyssey 2001 and Pest Odyssey 2011 are valuable events, because they cover a wide range of disciplines. Participants in Vienna included: conservation scientists, preventive conservators, entomologists, microbiologists, chemists and technicians, all working in integrated pest management for cultural heritage. As there are no specific journals for IPM in museums, the proceedings of these conferences are important sources of information for scientists and workers (mostly conservators) in this field. Further, at these events, people can speak openly about their problems and infestations in their collections, which is not always the case at other conferences and in conventional research publications. For many museums, admitting the activity of pests in their collections is still very much perceived to be admitting a lack of care. This is especially true for many parts of Europe, where acceptance of IPM seems to lag behind the UK or other English speaking countries. A key objective of our international conference in Austria was to try and raise the awareness of museum staff and heads of collections, not only in Vienna and Austria but also in other European countries.



Fig. 1: Conference delegates on the central stairs of the Kunsthistorische Museum Wien, 7th of June 2013. All photographs by the authors unless stated otherwise.

The conference in Vienna gave a comprehensive overview of the state of the art of integrated pest management in museums and other collections, and leading experts travelled from many countries to Vienna to give presentations. In the first section of these proceedings (Section I) we aim to give an overview on IPM, IPM standards, new results for pest distribution, new methods of analysis and a literature survey.

Detailed descriptions of case studies in Section II are important for people to share their experiences of a wide range of pest problems and to discuss techniques and solutions. It is as important to know what did not work, as it is to know what was successful.

The last part of the proceedings (Section III) is dedicated to treatment methods, as this is still a very important part of IPM; how best to eliminate an active infestation. Assessment of the efficacy of novel methods, such as parasitoid wasps and pheromone disruption, will be increasingly important as in the near future we are likely to lose a number treatment methods based on toxic materials. Communication by use of international web-based interest groups and information sources is an increasingly valuable resource. The conference demonstrated that even remote web-based communication systems benefitted from the stimulus of an interactive meeting such as Vienna 2013.

Proceedings of IPM conferences in the last 20 years:

Agrawa, O.P., Dhawan, S., (eds.) 1991. Proceedings of the International conference on Biodeterioration of cultural property held at Lucknow 1989, New Delhi, India. Published by Macmillan India Ltd.

Toishi, K., Arai, H., Kenjo, T., Yamano, K., (eds.) 1992. Proceedings of the 2nd International Conference on Biodeterioration of Cultural Property. Yokohama, Japan, 5-8 October 1991.

Araynak, C., Singhasiri, C., (eds.) 1995. Proceedings of the 3rd International Conference on Biodeterioration of Cultural Property, Bangkok, Thailand. Published by Conservation Science Division, The Fine Arts Department.

Akerlund, M., Bergh, J. E., Stenmark, A., Wallenborg, I. (eds.) 1998. Proceedings of the 3rd Nordic Symposium on Insect Pest Control in Museums: Stockholm, 24-25 September 1998, PRE-MAL and ICOM (Swedish National National Committee).

Kingsley, H., Pinniger, D., Xavier-Rowe, A., Winsor, P., (eds.) 2001. Integrated Pest Management for Collections: Proceedings of A Pest Odyssey. 1-3 October 2001. London: James and James.

Winsor, P., Pinniger, D., Bacon, L., Child, B., Harris, K., Lauder, D., Phippard, J., Xavier-Rowe, A. (eds.) 2011. Integrated Pest Management for Collections: Proceedings of 2011: A Pest Odyssey, 10 years later. London, 26-28 October 2011. Swindon: English Heritage.

Post-prints of the Meeting on Cultural Heritage Pests, 7-9 June 2011, in Piacenza, Italy. Journal of Entomological and Acarological Research 43(2).

Related conferences that may also have contributions on IPM in museums:

International Conference on Insect Pests in the Urban Environment
<http://www.icup.org.uk/icuphome.asp>

International Working Conference on Stored Product Protection
<http://bru.gmpc.ksu.edu/proj/iwcspp/>

International Biodeterioration and Biodegradation Symposium
<http://ibbsonline.org/>

ICOM-CC's Triennial Conference
<http://www.icom-cc.org>

ICOM General Conferences
<http://icom.museum/events/general-conference/>