It has, however, considered whether the preservation of cultivated landscapes might not be improved by adopting in Germany and Europe the British model of the National Trust, whose significance extends to the entire Commonwealth. In his report commissioned by the foundation Graf Strachwitz of Maecenata Management GmbH in Munich advised against such a solution for Germany. He argued that, since there are such a number of institutions charged with the preservation of monuments here, a National Trust would be in competition with these from its inception. Furthermore, he argued, such a solution would be neither practicable nor desirable. Instead, he suggested that tasks of crucial importance, such as further training of technical personnel and the clarification of fundamental positions, should be organised centrally, and in this way the individual functions of a National Trust taken over.

KARL WILHELM POHL

The German Foundation for the Protection of Monuments

"A future for our past" was the motto when the German Foundation for the Protection of Monuments was founded in 1985 at Schloß Gracht near Bonn. The former President of the German Federal Republic Dr. Richard von Weizsäcker became patron of this private trust. Its task is to support the preservation and restoration of important cultural monuments in Germany. Another aim of this trust is to foster the public interest in saving endangered monuments, especially in the new federal states, led in 1991 to the Foundation's admission into the circle of recipients of the funds raised by the "GlücksSpirale" lottery run by German public television. Since 1991 the sum of 277 million DM could be made available for 857 endangered monuments, through a combination of lottery funds, temporary government grants and many private donations. 735 of these monuments are located in the eastern part of the Republic.

Both public and private money for monument preservation is however declining.

Despite the proud number of projects only one application out of four could be accepted for a grant by the Foundation in 1996. Among the projects supported in 1996 were 122 town and village churches, 14 monasteries, 28 castles, 68 town residences, six technical monuments, two parks, 12 public buildings, nine archaeological sites and two town gates. In many cases only through the Foundation’s private funds could additional public funds be claimed for such endangered monuments. The Foundation’s financial contribu-
tions then supplement the Government's fund. But the former should not and cannot replace the latter.

For the selection of objects for support the Foundation works closely with both local and federal authorities for the protection of historical monuments. In addition the Foundation is being advised by a Scientific Commission which consists of architects, art historians, conservators and historians, who suggest projects for assistance to the board. Assistance by the Foundation includes funds, organizational and administrational consultancy, temporary or final takeover of especially endangered objects, or help in finding new and suitable use as well as supporters. The members of the Scientific Commission as well as the board members and the curators work in an honorary capacity.

Today more than 70,000 private supporters assist the German Foundation. Altogether about 3 million DM have been made available for the preservation of historical monuments by private donors. This figure gives proof of the public's great esteem for its entrusted environment. Cultural and developed landscapes have been formed throughout the centuries by means of mighty citadels and castles, magnificent town residences, town gates and town halls, technical monuments, various historical parks or by richly equipped monasteries and village churches. They constitute quality of life and create the identity of man. They convey familiarity and security. In them history itself becomes perceptible both by the senses and the spirit. The responsibility gladly accepted by the citizens for their mutual cultural heritage after the fall of the Berlin wall has become an example for joining the people after the German reunification.

The Foundation has been supporting the European Heritage Days since 1993 and coordinates in Germany the "Day of the Open Monument", as a means of lobbying for the protection of historical monuments. In 1996 three million DM have been made available for the preservation of historical monuments by private donors. This figure gives proof of the public's great esteem for its entrusted environment. Cultural and developed landscapes have been formed throughout the centuries by means of mighty citadels and castles, magnificent town residences, town gates and town halls, technical monuments, various historical parks or by richly equipped monasteries and village churches. They constitute quality of life and create the identity of man. They convey familiarity and security. In them history itself becomes perceptible both by the senses and the spirit. The responsibility gladly accepted by the citizens for their mutual cultural heritage after the fall of the Berlin wall has become an example for joining the people after the German reunification.

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