

itable and the area already has a number of windmills. A foundation loses its credibility if its investment activities contradict its aims. I consider this a question of foundation ethics; it seems to me to be a first principle which should be respected by all foundations.

In contrast to the area of natural conservation and the mentioned investments of the foundation the Alfred Toepfer Stiftung F.V. S. has up until now not become directly involved in the preservation of monuments or regional identities. Such activity would consume its capital very quickly.

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.

His report is correct in that the federal structure of the German state on the one hand and the reduction in the number of buildings worthy of listed status in Germany and in other European countries on the other hand makes the creation of a National Trust fundamentally problematic. The National Trust acquires and administers its properties in such a way that they are able to finance themselves, whereas here it will be much more difficult to find a sufficient number of properties which fulfil these criteria.

And yet it seems to me that this is not impossible. For this reason, I am of the opinion that one could start to construct on a very small scale a European National Trust to which every country and every citizen could contribute buildings and objects provided that the costs of maintenance can be covered. The necessary management skills can be learnt from the British National Trust. It might be able and possibly willing to take on the administering tasks at first for this Trust.

The legal conditions to allow such a project to proceed must be provided by a European Law drawn up in Brussels which would create those legal and tax possibilities which are at the moment only provided for in Great Britain. It is for this that I have pleaded and I do hope it may find your agreement and support.



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 idea of monument preservation in the public. The foundation’s starting capital of 500,000 German Marks (DM) was donated by 23 renowned German companies.

With the opening of the Eastern border in 1989 the Foundation’s mission gained a new dimension. The commitment of many citizens was necessary in order not to lose landmarks in towns and villages built in earlier centuries, irretrievable testimonies of what generations before us had created. The frightening pictures of endangered buildings and ruined (worn out) old towns in former East Germany led to an unparalleled relief action.

The total funds spent by the Foundation went up from 640,000 DM in 1989 to 3,100,000 DM in 1991. The great

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 administrative 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 citizens visited more than 5,500 monuments not usually open to the public on the second Sunday in September. These visitors prove the continually rising public interest in maintenance of monuments since the European Year of Monument Preservation in 1975. Every year an impressive alliance is formed between experts and citizens which has to be reckoned with in today's cultural-political debate.

The Foundation conveys information about its activities through a wide public relations network. Only those people can be won for active cooperation who know about the necessity and the problems of monument preservation. Here the magazine *Monuments* has become an important device. Six times a year it reports on the projects the Foundation promotes. As the "magazine for monument culture in Germany" *Monuments* at the same time offers a forum

for topical questions, discussions and problems of monument maintenance. The strong interest in the long-hidden cultural scene in the east of Germany is being reflected by the great demand for the art-historical trips organized by the magazine.

The notion of monument preservation is carried to a wide audience with the help of the media. Since setting up the Foundation, reports and free advertisements have been published about it in 12,804 editions of newspapers and magazines with 7253 million copies.

By founding the "Centre of Training Courses for Crafts and Monument Maintenance" in Görlitz the Foundation supports the training of qualified craftsmen in techniques relevant for monument maintenance. Here the participants are informed about historical techniques as well as the latest results in research on restoration methods. The exchange of experiences between craftsmen, architects and curators of monuments is particularly important.

Protection of historical monuments has become an important economic factor, not only for tourism but also for medium-sized artisan's workshops in the building trade. The Foundation, together with the Central Association of German Crafts, donated the "Federal Prize for Crafts in Maintaining Monuments" to assure that private monument owners use qualified workshops for suitable restoration works. The monument owners as well as the artisan's workshops involved are honoured with this prize in two federal states per year.

Another example for public-private partnership is the establishment in 1992 of the "Brandenburg Castles Ltd." by the Foundation and the federal state of Brandenburg, an organization which tries to maintain monuments after basic restoration by putting them to suitable use. The Foundation also offers another possibility by holding in trust personalized donations for individual projects. Regular maintenance can be secured permanently with the interest earned on foundation capital provided by individuals or companies.

500,000 individual monuments in the old federal states and more than 350,000 individual monuments and around 180 communities with historic old towns in the new federal states need restoration and maintenance.

Only if citizens and public institutions dedicate themselves to this task will future generations have a chance to use these testimonies of the past as a source for understanding the present and shaping the future. May those help save the past who are willing and able.

