

ICOA916: ANTARCTICA: HUMAN HERITAGE ON THE CONTINENT OF PEACE AND SCIENCE

Subtheme 02: The Role of Cultural Heritage in Building Peace and Reconciliation

Session 1: Heritage as Peace Builder, Tying and Benefitting Community

Location: Silver Oak Hall 1, India Habitat Centre

Time: December 13, 2017, 09:40 – 09:55

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Abstract: Antarctica is governed as a continent of peace and science by the majority of the world's nations through the Antarctic Treaty System. While the presence of humanity in Antarctica's hostile environment has been modest on the historical scale and numbers of people, it has been significant regarding human science, exploration and sacrifice. Today's Antarctic Historic Sites and Monuments (HSMs, 92 in total) range from former expedition and science bases, e.g. Scott's and Shackleton's huts, to memorials for those who have perished in the pursuit of scientific information, including three scientists of the Geological Survey of India (GSI) and a technician from the Indian Navy in 1990.

Prior to the Antarctic Treaty (1959), territorial disputes in Antarctica – between competing claimant nations – resulted in defacing and damage of the remnants of other nations' historic endeavours and bordered on armed conflict but the Treaty established peace in Antarctica. Historic Sites and Monuments were on the agenda of the first meeting of the Antarctic Treaty System, and this subject is an ongoing topic of interest. The presentation and paper will review the broader context in which Antarctic heritage is expressed through historic sites and monuments (outside of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee because Antarctica is not a state) and then consider the role of cultural heritage in preserving peace and avoiding conflict in Antarctica.

In conclusion, a review of the current discussions within the Antarctic Treaty System about how to enhance the system of historic site and monument governance and management will be presented. This situation is a result of changing and multiple discourses regarding heritage values and management, a growing realisation that the current list of HSMs and the system of designation has its limitations, and the realisation that new developments are required to sustain and enhance the role, status and accessibility, especially digital, of Antarctic heritage.

Key words: *Antarctica, peace, international cooperation and challenges*

The Antarctic Treaty System and Historic Sites and Monuments

In 1961, at the inaugural Antarctic Treaty Consultative Meeting (ATCM), the issue of Historic Sites and Monuments (HSMS) was raised by the United Kingdom. Dr B.B. Roberts (UK) recalled that,

<<The debate became a confused argument about the sacred nature of tombs, the sterilisation of sites for all time. How could these sites be defined? What is an “object of historical interest”? What is a “relic”? The translators got into such difficulties over the word “site”...>>¹

A diplomatic solution was reached with a recommendation on <<tombs, building or objects of historic interest>>² and agreement on consultation, information and protection. The recommendation did not establish any mechanism for review and ratification.³

In 1968, approval was given to collate a list of HSMs for the next meeting to consider, while ensuring that all sites suggested, <<in the meantime>> be protected.⁴ At ATCM VI, 1970, a Working Group assisted with the compilation of a provisional list and distributed this to the delegates with a form for details of <<the item: when and where established, locality ..., position, explanation of special interest, if relevant>>.⁵ Governments were requested to ensure that <<A list of historic monuments be prepared by consultation through diplomatic channels...>>⁶ In 1970, discussions regarding criteria for HSMs were held. New Zealand raised the possibility of a 25 year delay period (not accepted), Australia was interested in permanent preservation while the USSR acknowledged that monuments on the Polar Plateau would probably disappear.⁷ ATCM VI recommended that historic sites should have a notice in <<... English, French, Russian and Spanish...>>⁸ In 1972, ATCM VII recommended 43 historic monuments for formal approval while four previously acknowledged HSMs were to be ‘de-listed’ including HSM 31, a graveyard destroyed by a volcano which was reinstated in 2002 when a coffin emerged on the surface.⁹

¹ Roberts, 1961

² ATCM I, 1961

³ Ibid

⁴ ATCM V, 1968

⁵ ATCM VI, Historic Monuments Working Group. 1970

⁶ ATCM VI, 1970

⁷ Roberts, B.B, 1970

⁸ ATCM VI, 1970

⁹ ATCM VII, 1972



Fig.1 – Discovery Hut (HSM 15) on Ross Island, built in 1902, was used by four expeditions led by Captain R.F. Scott RN and Sir Ernest Shackleton. Its final operational usage was as a shelter by the Ross Sea Party; marooned when their ship was swept away by sea ice.



Fig.2– 'A' Hut (HSM 75) on Ross Island, built in 1957 by an expedition led by Sir Edmund Hillary, was New Zealand's first building in Antarctica, used to support exploration and science.

The Environmental Protocol

In 1991, The Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty and Annexes I–V were approved, declaring Antarctica a <<*natural reserve, devoted to peace and science.*>>¹⁰ The Protocol mandates the prevention of environmental damage by removing waste and redundant structures except those <<designated as a historic site or monument>>¹¹ unless the removal would cause environmental harm.¹² In the context of Captain Scott's hut (HSM 16) one quandary is a small century-old fuel spill; should it 'remediated' or left for scientific investigation on the long-term effects of hydrocarbons on the Antarctic environment?¹³

In 1992, a Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research/ International Union for the Conservation of Nature (SCAR/IUCN) workshop on 'Antarctic Protected Areas' discussed the option to <<... to evolve parallel machinery for designation of sites within the Treaty Area, using comparable criteria [to UNESCO] and procedures applying a title such as *Antarctic Heritage Landscapes...*>>.¹⁴ <<If such monuments are included in a proposed Heritage Site, then ICOMOS should be asked to advise on their global status in parallel with IUCN's evaluation of the natural elements>>¹⁵ The ATS Committee for Environmental Protection (CEP) has acknowledged the ICOMOS International Polar Heritage Committee (IPHC) as the international expert group on Antarctic heritage.

In 1995, New Zealand's working paper on 'New Historic Sites and Monuments: Suggested Guidelines for the designation of Historic Sites', stated that <<Parties would have access to a list based on international criteria which could be of assistance in the designation of historic sites and/or monuments>> was subsequently accepted:¹⁶

<<A particular event of importance in the history of science or exploration of Antarctica occurred at the place;

A particular association with a person who played an important role in the history of science or exploration of Antarctica;

A particular association with a notable feat of endurance or achievement;

Representative of, or forms part of, some wide-ranging activity that has been important in the development of knowledge of Antarctica;

Particular technical or architectural value in its materials, design or method of construction;

The potential, through study, to reveal information or has the potential to educate people about significant human activities in Antarctica;

Symbolic or commemorative value for people of many nations.>>¹⁷

¹⁰ Antarctic Treaty Parties. A, 1991

¹¹ Antarctic Treaty Parties. B, 1991

¹² *Ibid*

¹³ Blanchette, R.A., et al., 2004

¹⁴ Lewis Smith, R.I., Walton, D.W.H., Dingwell, P.R., 1992

¹⁵ Holdgate, 1992

¹⁶ ATCM XIX, New Zealand. 1995

¹⁷ *Ibid*

A comparison of the values and their comparative significances informing HSM criteria prior to 1995 and post-1995 reveals a shift away from exploration and leadership to science, collaborative endeavours and research potential.

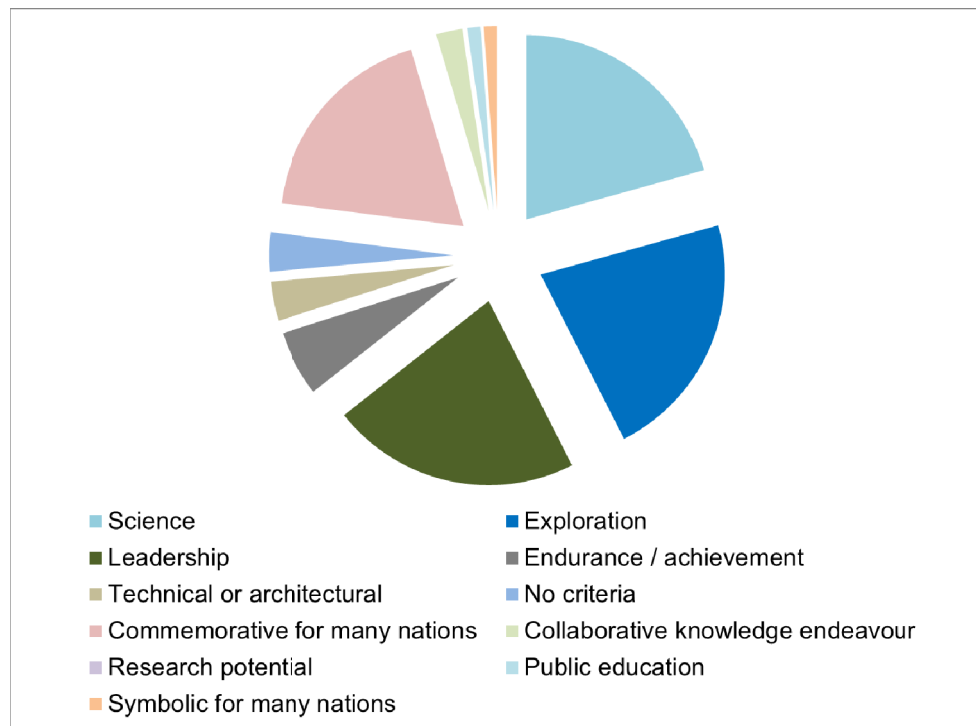


Fig.3– Values for Historic Sites and Monuments prior to and including 1995.

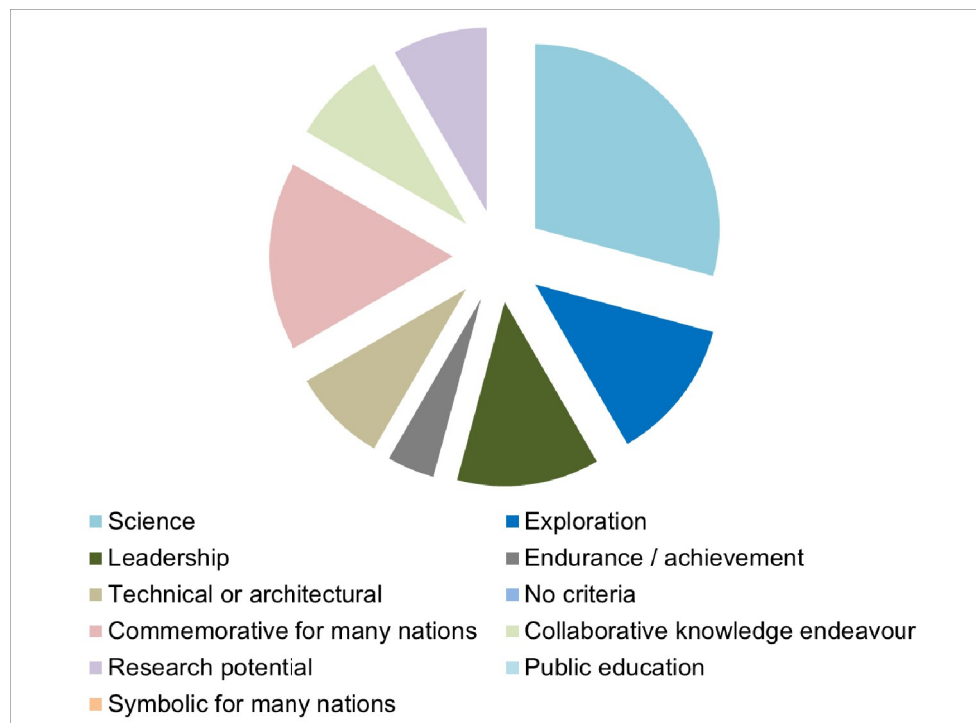


Fig.4– Values for Historic Sites and Monuments post-1995.

In 2005, Norway's proposal for listing Roald Amundsen's tent as an HSM raised the issue of intangible cultural heritage associated with Amundsen's conquest of the South Pole and the national significance of the tent that he left at the Pole,

<<The tent as a material object is thus heritage of national value for Norwegians. Of equal importance is the intangible heritage value that lies in the image and the symbolism of the tent with its small flags waving in the wind at the Pole.>>¹⁸

Previously, a precautionary mechanism, <<Guidelines for handling of pre-1958 historic remains whose existence or present location is not known>>, was adopted by the ATS in 2001 as a proactive means of hindering unauthorised Antarctic "adventure archaeology", and to deal with the discovery of historic material like the tent.¹⁹ However, in 2005 Norway proposed that Amundsen's Tent be listed as an HSM, as the 2001 Guidelines could not legally stop excavation of the site provided the tent be left *in situ*.²⁰ Annex V of the Environmental Protocol states that <<'Listed Historic Sites and Monuments shall not be damaged, removed or destroyed>>²¹ and allows designation of areas where entry is prohibited without a permit, Antarctic Specially Protected Areas (ASPAs), or without a permit but subject to associated conditions, Antarctic Specially Managed Areas (ASMAs). Numerous designated scientific sites and several historical sites have been incorporated into this system of area protection. All ASPAs and ASMAs require a Management Plan, the content of which ranges from the values to be protected to environmental control of waste. The Protocol requires that ASPAs and ASMAs have management plans that include: the <<values>> to be protected, <<aims and objectives>> of the plan, <<management activities>>²² related to the plan, the geographical boundaries of the area and its relationship to other features, and related approved, restricted or prohibited activities and, in the case of ASPAs, permit conditions.

The Management Plan for ASMA 5, <<Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, South Pole>> is an integrated plan that aims <<to ensure that the scientific, environmental, and historical values of the Area are conserved.>>²³ The plan includes three forms of cultural heritage designation: the 'Historic Area' (but not as an HSM) centred around the Ceremonial South Pole, which, combined with the circle of Antarctic nation flags has aspects of intangible heritage practice; two geographically undefined HSMs, the Argentine Flagpole and Amundsen's Tent; and the original South Pole Base from 1957 (presumably 'historic', now abandoned under snow and ice) as a restricted and hazardous zone.

Recent developments

In 2009, the ATS produced <<Guidelines for the Designation and Protection of Historic Sites and Monuments>> that included a reiteration of the 1995 criteria.²⁴ In 2010, Argentina submitted a working paper that responded to the guidelines: challenging the <<...traditional conception of history, based on reverence for the deeds of "great men"...>>, advocating that <<a more holistic view taken with respect to the current definition of the concept of history>> be adopted, and that an Intersessional Contact Group

¹⁸ ATCM XXVIII, Norway, 2005

¹⁹ ATCM XXIV, 2001

²⁰ ATCM XXVIII, 2005

²¹ Antarctic Treaty Parties. C, 1991

²² Antarctic Treaty Parties. D, 1991

²³ ATCM XXX, 2007

²⁴ ATCM XXXII, 2009

(ICG) be established to <<discuss points raised.>>²⁵ Argentina utilised developments in critical histories and geographies related to a broadening of the categories which can be ascribed with the formal status of heritage. An additional Information Paper discussed Antarctic archaeological research on 19th century sealing sites.²⁶ This research provided a framework for the argument that these sites are not represented among HSMs in contrast with an, <<over-representation of the sites related to the explorations taking place during the “Heroic Age>>...’²⁷ The proposal resulted in two sessions that <<... led to a clear progress in the understanding of this issue, and allowed for raising likely alternative views...>> and that <<...this issue has potential to be revisited in the future...>>.²⁸ Externally, R. Roura argued that weaknesses in the way that the ATS deals with HSMs could have a negative effect on the status of all Antarctic heritage,

<<...assigning protected status to material remains that actually lack in significance – could result in the erosion of the wilderness, historic, and other values of Antarctica. Clarity of purpose in the designation of Antarctic historic sites and monuments will enhance the significance of those that are left...>>²⁹

In 2016, the United Kingdom produced a working paper <<Encouraging Parties to undertake assessments of the heritage value of HSMs and to develop management plans, particularly for new HSM designations, including consideration of long-term management and maintenance, as well as any plans for public engagement on the importance of the site >>³⁰ Norway’s paper on <<Consideration of protection approaches for historic heritage in Antarctica>> raised the issues of in-situ versus ex-situ locations for artefacts and digital engagement.³¹

Antarctic Heritage in 2017

In 2017, a CEP Intersessional Contact Group was considering a range of issues related to Antarctic heritage. In response, the ICOMOS International Polar Heritage Committee (ICOMOS: IPHC) identified the following issues with the current system of HSMs:

- The ATS needs to incorporate diverse heritage perspectives within an overarching concept of Antarctic heritage based on the 1995 criteria;
- HSM proposals should include a Conservation and Management Plan, including statements of significance that relate to the 1995 criteria and a comprehensive education and outreach plan. In addition, a Comprehensive Environmental Evaluation (CEE) should be provided – ensuring a Culture-Nature perspective;
- External review of proposed HSMs by ICOMOS is needed to enhance the credibility of the ATS.

The Antarctic Treaty System has shown over the decades that it can develop the ways and means of ensuring that Antarctica remains a continent of peace and science. Central to this success is seeking expert advice, the precautionary principle and the reaching of consensus through both informal discussions and formal decisions.

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ICOA916: L'ANTARCTIQUE: PATRIMOINE HUMAIN SUR LE CONTINENT DE LA PAIX ET DE LA SCIENCE

Sous-thème 02: Le rôle du patrimoine culturel dans la construction de la paix et de la réconciliation

Session 1: Le Patrimoine En Tant Que Constructeur De Paix, Communautaire De Types Et De Bénéfices

Lieu: Silver Oak Hall 1, India Habitat Centre

Date et heure: 13 Décembre, 2017, 09:40 – 09:55

Auteur: Bryan Lintott

Bryan Lintott travaille à l'institut de recherches polaires Scott de l'Université de Cambridge. Ses spécialités sont l'histoire de l'Antarctique et son patrimoine. Ses recherches s'étendent au-delà de l'Antarctique et comprennent le patrimoine spatial. C'est un expert membre du comité scientifique international de l'ICOMOS pour le patrimoine polaire (IPHC) et pour le comité de la prévention des risques (ICORP). C'est un ancien conservateur du patrimoine et directeur de musée. Il est actuellement l'animateur du groupe de travail d'archéologie polaire de l'IPHC.

Résumé: L'Antarctique est régi comme un continent de paix et de sciences par la majorité des nations du monde au travers du Traité de l'Antarctique. La présence humaine dans l'environnement hostile de l'Antarctique a été modeste à l'échelle de l'histoire et de la démographie, elle a été significative au regard de la science, des explorations et des sacrifices. Actuellement, les sites et les monuments historiques de l'Antarctique (HSM, 92 au total) vont d'anciennes bases scientifiques ou bases d'expédition, comme les huttes de Scott et Shackleton, à des monuments à la mémoire de ceux qui sont morts à la recherche d'informations scientifiques, y compris trois chercheurs du service d'études géologique de l'Inde (GSI) et un technicien de la marine indienne en 1990.

Avant le traité de l'Antarctique (1959), des conflits territoriaux entre nations concurrentes, dans l'Antarctique, ont eu pour effet de mutiler ou endommager les traces historiques des efforts des autres pays et ont frôlé le conflit armé, mais le Traité a établi la paix. Les sites et monuments historiques étaient à l'ordre du jour de la première réunion du Système du Traité de l'Antarctique et ce sujet est demeuré un thème d'intérêt. La présentation et le papier examineront le large contexte, dans lequel s'exprime le patrimoine de l'Antarctique à travers ses sites et ses monuments historiques (à l'extérieur du Comité du patrimoine mondial puisque l'Antarctique n'est pas un Etat) ; ils examineront ensuite le rôle du patrimoine culturel pour préserver la paix et éviter les conflits dans l'Antarctique.

En conclusion, on présentera les discussions en cours au sein du Système du Traité de l'Antarctique pour renforcer le dispositif d'administration et de gestion des sites et monuments historiques. Cette situation est le résultat de discours multiples et changeants sur la valeur du patrimoine et sa gestion, la prise de conscience croissante que la liste actuelle des sites et monuments historiques et le dispositif de classement ont leurs limites, et la prise de conscience que de nouveaux développements sont nécessaires pour

soutenir et promouvoir le rôle, le statut et l'accessibilité, essentiellement par l'informatique, du patrimoine de l'Antarctique.

Mots-clefs: *Antarctique, paix, coopération et défis internationaux*