

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

A Lesson in Translation

Conservation préventive is not the same as preventive conservation. *Conservation préventive* makes a lot of sense in French (within which language group the concept originated and prospered) but when you throw it into English without thinking about it, it doesn't make a lot of sense. Suddenly, it's like talking about round balls or new innovations. Or even pizza pies. What is conservation if it is not preventive? Those of us who have been in the 'profession' for more than, say, ten minutes know that what we do is differentiated from restoration by exactly this preventive quality. Conservation grew out of restoration by espousing aspects of prevention. In short, conservation is, by its very nature preventive. We also know that 'conservation' in French ain't the same thing at all, at all. Nyahh!

Hugh Janus

Prophylaxis

Preventative is a noun; preventive is the adjective. Preventative conservation is therefore nothing more nor less than the conservation of preventatives. Now, there may well be a conservator in a very small and very specialized museum somewhere who is, indeed, charged with the conservation of preventatives, and perhaps other items that the good 18th century Dr. Condom might have recognized, but permit me to suggest that this marginal occurrence of the term should not encourage us to use it so far from its context.

Sebastian Smithly-Ash

Never Contributed

I wish it to be known that I have never contributed to *Recent Setbacks in Conservation*, and that I will take firm and decisive legal action against anybody who says I have. So, if you want to make something of it, here I am. Come on!

R.L. Barclay