

PRO PATRIMONIO

Supporter of the Pro Patrimonio Foundation, Romania

www.propatrimonio.org

A UK Registered Charity

Dear Friends,
Dear Members,

At the beginning of 2010, we have a new presidential mandate in Romania, and we hope that the new government will put into effect the more than essential reforms the country needs. The twenty years that have passed since December 1989 have brought little benefit to the national patrimony and the issue of its protection – which is Pro Patrimonio's declared aim. The wilful destruction of the nation's national heritage, and the lack of intervention in such cases, have scandalised public opinion. We count ourselves amongst those who protest against this present state of affairs. Our goal is to increase the volume of our objections and the efficiency of our protests. Bringing these cases to the attention of international opinion is a duty and an action which we will employ again and again, if by so doing we will make ourselves heard by the Romanian authorities.

Many thanks to our supporters, to our sponsors, members, sympathisers, and partners. Without you, our work would not have been possible. We would like to ask you all to continue to support us, and to invite all your friends to join our cause.

We hope that the next decade will be auspicious for us all, and that the ten years of existence which Pro Patrimonio celebrates in 2010 will provide a good opportunity to join together with an even greater love for Romanian patrimony, an integral but sadly lesser known part of European patrimony.

Serban Cantacuzino
President, Pro Patrimonio UK

And
The Board of Trustees of Pro Patrimonio UK,
Nicolae Ratiu, Andrei Ratiu, Moritz Fried,
Richard Ralph.

Membership

By renewing your membership in 2010, or becoming a member of Pro Patrimonio you contribute to our work and give us the means to more and better action!

We should like to remind you that by opting for Gift Aid the value to Pro Patrimonio of your membership fee will increase by 25%. Example:
Annual Membership: £30
PP receives: £37.50
Higher rate taxpayers will get a further tax relief of £7.50 on their £30.00 payment

In appreciation of your loyalty annual membership fees for existing members will remain unchanged.

New members :
Annual : £40
Student/Pensioner : £30
Family (2+2) : £60
Institutions : £500

Bank of Scotland
IBAN
GB95BOFS12110300816088

Thank you for your
generosity!



NEWS ABOUT THE PROJECTS OF PRO PATRIMONIO AND ITS NETWORK OUTSIDE ROMANIA

ARGES



CAMPULUNG MUSCEL: The Golescu Villa has been restored, and is open to all Pro Patrimonio members (it is very easy to become a member - if you are interested contact us) who wish to spend one or several nights in this splendid location. The park, which was cleared and reopened, still requires some work on the repair of the terraces. It also requires the planting of new saplings, in line with the plan made in 2008. Even as it is at this moment, the park offers an impressive panorama of the villa and of the local landscape.

For information, send a message to: propatrimonio.romania@gmail.com or mail@propatrimonio.com
Tel (UK) 0044 207 4860295; Tel (France): 0033 60944626. propatrimonio.romania@gmail.com

During last year, several events were held in Campulung:

May: The local Pro Patrimonio branch, Ratiu Foundation and Diego de Sagredo Foundation organized, in partnership with the local authorities, a Romanian-Spanish workshop for the students in Architecture. This workshop has had a big impact and very interesting results.

June: A conference about the Romanian philosopher [Constantin Noica](http://Constantin) took place, delivered by his daughter **Alexandra Noica-Wilson**. Remembering her father's life, obliged to live in forced domicile in Campulung during the communist regime, the lecturer fascinated the audience. Despite its beauty and charm Campulung was a forced exile destination for the opponents of the communists at the time.

Unfortunately, the Lucca Villa, inhabited by Noica in Campulung has been destroyed in the meantime, due typically to the lack of clear guidelines for the protection of monuments. This series of administrative errors include the construction of an unsightly building in the vicinity of the Golescu Villa, obstructing the view towards the Town Hall and certainly failing to respect the legal restrictions on building in protected historical areas. This is a prime example of how little even existing inadequate laws are known and respected – thus demonstrating the relevance of our activities.

October: 200 children who worked in the gardens during the year received prizes for the drawings they made during this time. The drawings were collected for a calendar for 2010, published for the benefit of the Golescu Villa and Pro Patrimonio. The children received as prizes books donated by the publishing houses Litera and Corint Junior.

TRANSILVANIA

VISCRI.

Saxon Village

Our traditional peasant house will be open starting May 2010, the official opening of the tourist season.



Situated in the village's main street, the house provides comfortable lodgings for anyone who wishes to spend a minimum of 2 nights in the area. In each of its two wings, it can accommodate three people – a couple and one child or other adult. Visiting the fortified churches and monuments in the area is a must, as is discovering the local architecture and culture. You can also find details about the house from the nearby Saschiz information centre (supported by Adept Foundation). For information, please contact Annette and Roman Schorb, administrators of the house: 00 40788086918, viscri@gmx.net.

Pro Patrimonio supported a workshop on the traditional buildings in Mesendorf, Brasov County, 17 – 25 September 2009

This project, initiated by Silvia Demeter Lowe, a Romanian architect who studied restoration techniques for ancient dwellings in England, was aimed at students specialising in this field. Traditional techniques, still present in abundance in Romania, are often ignored and undervalued, despite the fact that they have all the attributes necessary to render buildings economical, pleasant to live in, and simultaneously protecting patrimony. Authenticity and reduced costs go hand in hand, and raising architectural students' awareness of this aspect is very important.

RESTORING THE OLD GATES OF BRASOV



Pro Patrimonio started, through Silvia Demeter Lowe and with the support of Mr. Serban Cantacuzino and Mrs. Marina Sturdza, a programme to encourage the owners of old buildings to restore their traditional gates instead of replacing them with modern ones. The first successful restoration can now be admired in Brasov, at 16 Constantin Brancoveanu Street. This program intends to show the importance of architectural details, and their role in the overall balance and beauty of a building.



TRAINING PROGRAMMES IN TRADITIONAL CRAFT SKILLS

Assisted by the Compagnons du Devoir, the Romanian Order of the Architects, the Maria Association, Pro Patrimonio France.

The **BAIA MARE** project is aimed at training a master stonemason. The teaching will be done by a Compagnon from France, commencing in Spring 2010 at the CMC stonemasonry company www.cmc.ro.



MOLDOVA

TIBANESTI

Our project for the training and production of ironmongery has entered its second year at Tibanesti, near Iasi in the far north-east of Romania. A second compagnon replaced the first master who finished his work there in July. The production of ironmongery for historical monuments, as well as the private commissioning of quality products, has started in full. The training workshop in the village is more and more successful. At the same time, we are taking the appropriate steps with the Ministry of Labour in order to obtain official recognition for these training courses, and for the job of blacksmith to be included once again in the official list of professions.

Towards the end of June, at the end of the first year of the project, a forum on ironmongery was held. The audience, consisting of local authorities, architectural students and people of the village, were shown the quality of the work and the values promoted by the Compagnons du Devoir. Those present had the opportunity to operate the forge themselves: men, women, children, and even the village priest. Several members of the Order came from France specifically for this event, and upon their return home started a generous campaign: activating the Compagnons network and already identifying five pieces of machinery to be donated to the new project started in Romania in January 2010. The machinery, worth €6000, will result in a significant increase in production capacity.

The experience of the Tibanesti project is now widely known by all Compagnons in France, being the subject of an article published in their Compagnons October bulletin.

Our present success is the result of the investment made by the first Compagnon in Tibanesti and his partner, who wrote the article. His successor has already taken over the project and makes the most of the efforts put into the project. Our thanks to all involved.

Pro Patrimonio will organise a trip to France in May 2010, to the French International School of Ironmongery. The beneficiaries of this excursion are young men from Tibanesti. They will be accompanied by the director of the Romanian project, a Pro Patrimonio Board member, their teacher at Tibanesti high school, as well as architectural students from Sibiu, specialising in the restoration of patrimony, and their teacher. The cost of the trip is 4500 euro, for which we are seeking financing. Your help is important!



CENTER OF THE COUNTRY

PRO PATRIMONIO SUPPORTS DALA FOUNDATION "60 WOODEN CHURCHES"

CHURCHES IN DANGER !

In the counties of Sibiu, Hunedoara, Alba, Mures, Gorj, Valcea.

Dala Foundation / Romanian Order of Architects / Pro Patrimonio

Once a symbol of peasant ingenuity, today they are in a seriously endangered state, their neglect is a sad feature of contemporary history. Neglected by the peasants and the relevant authorities who should be protecting them, these churches are part of a unique – albeit less known – European patrimony. Monuments of small dimensions, remarkable in the unique individuality of their building design and the beauty of their internal paintings, these churches are now in danger.

The poor state of these monuments, their structural instability, as well as the attacks to which they have been subjected, are factors that have led to these churches being abandoned in the last two decades.

Classified as objects of national patrimony, the wooden peasant churches of the 18th and 19th centuries have been studied only in part. Nine of the Maramures churches are entered in the lists of UNESCO World Patrimony, but other areas are not as well documented, and are endangered.

An inventory of these churches has begun a necessary and important campaign of restoration – and especially emergency repair – started in June, with little financial support, but its effects are already felt by six of the churches. The priority is to develop a study that will determine which are the churches in most need of emergency interventions. We seek financial help for this study to cover an approximate cost of €10,000. Donations urgently required!

Numerous volunteers took part in the inventory started in 2007, as well as in the works that took place in 2009. In Summer 2010 other volunteer work sites will be opened.

For the locations of the churches and the calendar of works, please consult the following blog:

http://60-project.blogspot.com/2009_06_16_archive.html



Damaged frescoes on wood



Temporary protection



Project of Pojogeni Church



The Church of Pojogeni

Destined to become an abandoned ruin, the church was restored by a team of carpenters from Maramures.

The abandoning of such churches coincides with the disappearance and exodus of competent craftsmen, which has become a social and cultural issue.

The project was presented in November, in Paris, at the International Salon of Cultural Patrimony, as part of the Europa Nostra stand. It was also presented at a round table discussion organised by the Association of Patrimony Journalists.

Many thanks to Europa Nostra, an organisation to which Pro Patrimonio belongs, for their hospitality.

In the summer of 2009 the Black Book of Patrimony

was launched by the Romanian Order of Architects.

Commissioned by the Ministry of Culture and National Heritage, this material represents an inventory of the disastrous state in which Romanian patrimony finds itself. Abandonment, theft, destruction, and covert strategies designed to hide the disappearance of architectural treasures – this is what's happening to our patrimony. These factors, described in the report, are exacerbated by uncontrolled property speculation. The law offers insufficient protection, is derogatory; the concept of protected zones is not active, and the Ministry lacks sufficient personnel to apply the law. It is clear that if there were any respect for the law, imperfect as it is, enormous progress would be made.

This document ascertains the damages and proposes improvements to the law, but this is not enough: the national heritage must be always the subject of a legislative policy to dignify it.

BUCHAREST

Historia X: An exhibition - 60 Wooden Churches

23 April – 7 May 2009, Central House of the Army

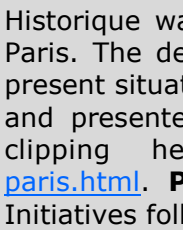
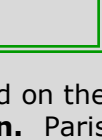
Debate - Conference "Do we still have a City?" May 2009

ICR, The French Institute of Bucharest, The Paris Historique Association, The National Institute for Patrimony, The Romanian Order of Architects, Pro Domo, Freedom House, Pro Patrimonio.

With the support of the above mentioned Romanian organisations, a conference was organised on the occasion of the visit to Bucharest by the President of the Paris Historique Association. Paris Historique was created 40 years ago to react to the planned destruction of the Marais quarter in Paris. The debates elaborated on the experience gained by this association, the connection to the present situation in Bucharest, and what lessons can be learned. A legislative initiative was addressed and presented to the attending Minister for Culture at the conclusion of the debate. One press clipping here: <http://www.romanianjournal.ro/a156971/francezii-ne-arata-cum-sa-salvam-micul-paris.html>. Please sign on the petition because **DESTRUCTION IS OCCURRING DAILY!** Initiatives following the conference are active and we will keep you updated.

The Exhibition "60 Wooden Churches"

11 September – 7 October 2009, Romanian Peasant's Museum

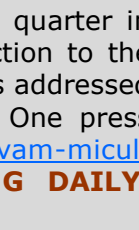


Mantuleasa Quarter

November 2009

"Mantuleasa, a Study in Bucharest's Mythical Geography"

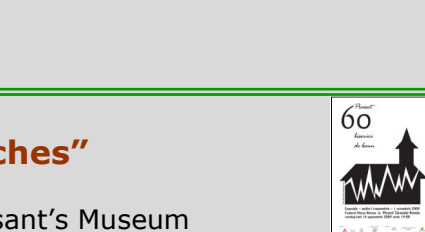
Pro Patrimonio, Architects' Union, Bucharest Sector 2 Council, TVR 2



The aim of this project was to increase the level of public awareness on the subject of the preservation of public patrimony, and to increase local inhabitants' consciousness of what public and private interest mean. Civil society and public authorities must realise that the irreversible destruction of the city's patrimony is detrimental to themselves. The architectural, historic and cultural value of this patrimony is a key element of Bucharest's identity, as well of the identity of its citizens.

The disappearance of patrimony leads to the disappearance of history, of the "memory of the place".

Destruction has reached a critical level, and this study, which has raised major interest since publication, contributes to an increase in public pressure – we must stop unchecked destruction whose only aim is to make a quick profit. The mayor of the relevant sector of Bucharest asked for Pro Patrimonio's help in putting together a European project that would allow the extension of the scheme to other neighbourhoods of the city.



A fine example of Bucharest architecture at risk of demolition.

The publication of The Crafts Agenda 2010

For the third year, an agenda produced by Arhiteria Association, supported by the Romanian Order of Architects, The Ratiu Foundation, Pro Patrimonio and Lafarge Romcim was published. It contains reliable listings of craftsmen from all over Romania. It is also a highly collectable item that beautifully and properly respects traditional crafts and skills and their practical application in the present world.

Become a member! Renew your membership!
Do you have any questions or comments?
Would you like to purchase historical maps of the
Lipscani neighbourhood in Bucharest or The Crafts
Agenda 2010?

Do you have any suggestions?
Do you have any free time to volunteer for us?
Would you like to become a patron of a
project?

Send us a message at mail@propatrimonio.com
or call us on 0044 207 486 0295 ext. 108

PARIS - Museum of the Legion d'Honneur

An impassioned exhibit on the [Berthelot Mission](http://Berthelot) to Romania has restored the prestige of the general who is considered by Romanians to be a national hero. In the display are images of the general's house granted to him by King Carol I, and the plan for its restoration by the Romanian Academy. After years of neglect, the house will be transformed into a centre for Biodiversity. In this way, the general's last wishes will be accomplished: he wanted the property to be used for the public good.