Heritage Interpretation
Towards a European perspective
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Interpret Europe
European Network for Heritage
Interpretation
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<th>Heritage</th>
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<td><strong>Bacone, Del Viaggiare (Saggio XVIII-1906)</strong></td>
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<td>Cose che vanno viste e osservate: le corti dei principi, specialmente quando concedono udienza agli ambasciatori; le corti di giustizia mentre svolgono il loro lavoro di audizione, e lo stesso per i concili ecclesiastici; le chiese e i monasteri e i monumenti ad essi attigui; le mura e le fortificazioni di città e villaggi, e pure golfi e porti; antichità e rovine; librerie; collegi e luoghi ove visano assemleee e lezioni; flotte e imbarcazioni; case e giardini di abitazione e di svago poste vicino alle grandi città; armature; arsenali; magazzini; luoghi di commercio e di scambio, depositi; luoghi ove si insegnino le arti equestri, la difesa e l’istruzione dei soldati; teatri ove il meglio delle persone si ritrova per divertirsi; collezioni di gioielli e di abiti; gabinetti scientifici e rarità; e, per concludere, tutto ciò che è memorabile di quei luoghi visitati. (...)</td>
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<td>As for triumphs, masques, feasts, weddings, funerals, capital executions, and such shews, men need not to be put in mind of them; yet are they not to be neglected.</td>
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<th><strong>Bacone, Of Travel (Essay XVIII-1906)</strong></th>
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<td>The things to be seen and observed are: the courts of princes, specially when they give audience to ambassadors; the courts of justice, while they sit and hear causes, and so of consistories ecclesiastic; the churches and monasteries, with the monuments which are therein extant; the walls and fortifications of cities and towns, and so the havens and harbours; antiquities and ruins; libraries; colleges, disputations, and lectures, where any are; shipping and navies; houses and gardens of state and pleasure, near great cities; armories; exercises of horsemanship, fencing, training of soldiers, and the like; comedies, such whereunto the better sort of persons do resort; treasuries of jewels and robes; cabinets and rarities; and, to conclude, whatsoever is memorable in the places where they go. (...)</td>
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Heritage: the word

**HERITAGE**

**etymology:** heritage (ME., OFr. Heritage, F. heriter, L. hereditare)

“That which has been or may be inherited” (O.E.D. 1983)

“Things such as works of art, cultural achievement and customs that have been passed on from earlier generation (O.A.L. 1995)

“That which a past generation has preserved and handed on to the present and which a significant group of population wishes to hand on to the future” (The National Heritage Conference, 1983-Hewison 1989)

“This definition indicated culture choice; its focus is on preservation and the fact that some people will adopt a conservationist view of heritage. In many ways this was the traditional role of heritage places: historic sites, usually unmodified ruins were visited by relatively few people, only by those who had a genuine sense of the past and sufficient education to understand their significance. Such heritage sites were often relatively inaccessible and those who came expected no facilities. As heritage places have become part of the range of visitor attractions, much has changed and the basic conflict between preservation and access has emerged as the dominant issue.” (Herbert, 1995)

**HERITAGE ATTRACTIONS**

“Essentially in tourism, the term ‘heritage’ has come to mean not only landscapes, natural history, buildings, artefacts, cultural traditions and the like which are literally or metaphorically ‘passes on from one generation to the other’, but those among these things which can be portrayed for promotion as tourism products.” (Prentice, 1993)

Prentice’s typology of heritage attractions comprises 23 subject-types of heritage attractions, such as natural history, transport, socio-cultural, theme parks, galleries, seaside resorts.

**HERITAGE INDUSTRY**

Legislation such as the Malraux act of 1962 in France, seeks to improve all the built environment and bring them into modern use: it recognizes the potential of economic development of heritage sites, and is at times prepared to ignore the precepts of preservation and conservation. It is upon this thrust to exploitation that much of the modern ‘heritage industry’ is founded.
English Heritage

OUR CONSERVATION WORK

English Heritage is probably best known for the historic sites in our care which are open to the public. Less well known is our wider role in looking after the historic environment as a whole, including historic buildings, monuments and areas, and archaeological remains. We aim not only to ensure the preservation of our historic surroundings for the future, but also to encourage people to appreciate and enjoy this heritage today.

Main areas of our conservation work:

**Scheduling Monuments**

We advise the Secretary of State for National Heritage on scheduling proposals and all applications for Scheduled Monument Consent, and give grants for major repairs to monuments.

**Archaeology**

We are the main source of funding for rescue archaeology and give expert advice on all aspects of archaeological projects.

**Listing Building**

We advise the Secretary of State for National Heritage on listing proposals.

**Looking after Listed Buildings**

We advise local authorities and, where necessary, the Department of the Environment, on applications for listed building consent relating to Grade I or II buildings or the demolition of any listed building; give grants for repairs to outstanding buildings; and give advice to owners of historic properties on how to maintain them.

**Looking after Churches & Cathedrals**

We work in partnership with individuals denominations to protect listed churches, and operate grant schemes for repairs to important churches and cathedrals.

**Looking after Conservation Areas**

We advise local authorities on the management of conservation areas and offer grants for the regeneration of conservation areas in need.

**The Register of Parks and Gardens**

We maintain a Register of Parks and Gardens of special historic interest which now contains some 1350 sites. The main purpose of the Register is to help ensure that these landscapes of national importance can be safeguarded.
Heritage: **natural, cultural and built environment**

Movable and intangible heritage:

The notion ‘heritage’ includes not only the immovable heritage, ie the environment, sites and landscapes or objects d’art, and movable heritage, but also the non material heritage such as ethical or spiritual values, ethnical traditions, social customs, knowledge and know-how. (Council of Europe)

A distinction can be made between **natural heritage, drawing its qualities from nature**, and **places which become heritage sites because of their association with people or events**. Heritage places include historic buildings or monuments which bear the distinctive imprint of human history. Their interest may derive from architecture or design, from historical significance, or from combinations of these attributes. Heritage places in this sense are linked with people, events, activities and, in a wider sense, with cultures, societies and economies. (Herbert, 1995)
Europe and Heritage
our common property

✓ way of knowledge and mutual recognition, of tolerance and comprehension
✓ prevention role in conflicts
✓ useful tool in a creative management of cultural diversities

The European Heritage forms both the collective memory and the inheritance of the European continent. As an integral part of our history, it is essential to tolerance and understanding between peoples. It is the prime instrument for fostering knowledge and mutual recognition among European communities.

This heritage, which reflects creativity and is the fruit of exchanges between cultures, provides a setting of informal contact and social interaction. It also provides a wealth of knowledge to humankind, fosters social cohesion through community projects, and contributes towards economic expansion and regeneration.

The natural heritage, which is based on biological and landscape diversity, constitutes a range of irreplaceable assets for the balance of living conditions, the quality of the environment and the leisure activities of Europeans.
European Heritage
unity through diversity

‘The cultural heritage does not divide us- on the contrary it is a means to make us aware of the complexity of our relationships. Cultural heritage, whether in the context of material objects or in the context of intellectual, ethical or spiritual values, must not be abused as a justification to glorify particular identities or to promote nationalist views. It should enhance mutual knowledge and understanding between communities.’

‘Our heritage is not restricted to the man-made part of our environment. The natural heritage, with an emphasis on biological and landscape diversity, constitutes a range of irreplaceable assets for the balance of living conditions, the quality of the environment and leisure activities in Europe.

Walter Schwimmer

(Secretary General of the Council of Europe)

Contribution of ‘a common cultural heritage enriched by its diversity’ in the construction ‘of a vast area of democratic security in Europe’ (Final Declaration of the Vienna Summit, 9 October 1993)

Importance attached to ‘the protection of our European cultural and natural heritage and to the promotion of awareness of this heritage ‘ (Final Declaration of the Strasbourg Summit, 11 October 1997)
Europe, a Common Heritage Campaign
1999-2000

- 41 States members of the Council of Europe, 6 other signatory States of the European Cultural Convention, European Union, NGOs;
- launched in September 1999 and officially closed in December 2000
- projects: transnational and transregional projects - local and regional projects

The Campaign "Europe, a common heritage" promoted:
✓ a sense of a common belonging
✓ an aspiration to cultural exchanges
✓ an incentive to the discovery of the other.
The projects under the Campaign, by protecting the heritage:
✓ helped to generate a sense of shared commitment to the values championed by the Council of Europe
✓ encouraged young people to take part in cultural exchanges
✓ discovered other communities and countries

The Heads of State and Government strongly felt that cultural and natural heritage is part of education for democratic citizenship, by making people aware of their past shared with others and their environment also shared with neighbours, as well as showing the need for a common, European reading of history and for joint responsibility towards nature preservation.
European Heritage Days

An opportunity to show the diversity of European heritage

Officially launched in 1991 by the Council of Europe with the support of the European Union, now a joint activity of our two European Institutions.

The aims:

- allow citizens of Europe to have free access to monuments and sites, including those usually closed to the public.
- promoting Europe’s common cultural and natural heritage,
- creating a concrete link between citizens in Europe and bringing them closer through the discovery of their common roots,
- enhancing reciprocal knowledge and deepening mutual understanding.

They provide the opportunity to consider and discuss the place and the role of heritage in our society, and its role in European construction. The European dimension of the activity is very important and is represented by the campaign slogan “Europe: a common heritage”.