Preface

The 1st Historical Mortars Conference which took place in Lisbon, 2008, chaired by Dr. Rosario Veiga from LNEC was a very successful meeting and it gave rise to an idea that such a specialised event on historic mortars should be repeated. During the conference it became clear that sharing knowledge, creating new contacts and interdisciplinary collaborations are very much required in this topic. Mortars are not seen as a single discipline, but attract attention from a wide range of professions. This was confirmed by the number and variety of research projects on mortars which were presented.

Research has been focusing on historic mortars for some time. Demand for an improved scientific and technical guidance for conservation field led to the formation of the RILEM Technical Committee TC 167-COM on ‘Characterisation of old mortars with respect to their repair’ and its follow-up TC 203-RHM ‘Repair mortars for historic masonry’. The later committee is now in its final stage. The final workshop of the TC 203-RHM will be incorporated as part of the conference and the resulting documents promise interesting material for discussions during the conference.

An objective of the 2nd Historic Mortars Conference is to bring together scientists, technicians and professionals involved in research and studies of historic mortars to present and discuss advances in this topic. The main theme of the conference is the conservation of historic buildings and works of art, i.e. studying mortars with respect to repair. This is a unifying field where a truly interdisciplinary collaboration is needed and where contributions of archaeologist, architects, civil and structural engineers, geologists, material scientists, chemists, conservation scientists and art restorers interested in mortars should have their place. The special focus of the conference will be on the application of research and technical knowledge to conservation practice and vice versa in its reflection on such recommendations.

A number of contributions, representing the whole world have been collected under the following four main conference themes:

I Characterisation of historic mortars
   (architectural, material, archaeological, construction and technological aspects)
II Assessment of mortars and masonry
   (diagnostics and testing methods, complex evaluation of masonry and mortars, structural issues, damage and deterioration)
III Conservation and restoration issues
IV Repair mortars for historic masonry

design and requirements for repair mortars, testing and evaluation of repair mortars, emerging materials and technologies.

The conference was organised by the Institute of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic (ITAM AV ČR) in cooperation with the International Union of Laboratories and Experts in Construction Materials (RILEM). The conference administration was managed by Congress Business Travel, ltd. The Organising Committee greatly appreciate the financial support of Vicat from France and VAS v.o.s. building restoration and property management company from the Czech Republic. The prize for the best student presentation was supported and awarded by Lafarge, France. The conference was organised under the auspice of Mr. Ondřej Pecha, Member of the Committee of Prague City Council for Monument Care and Tourism.

The organisation was a team effort of the staff of the Institute of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics of the Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, with special thanks going to Dr. Claire Moreau who made the key contribution to the efficient organisation of the event and all the members of the Organising Committee. The papers were reviewed and edited by the members of the Scientific Committee and their great effort was greatly appreciated and in particular I wish to thank Dr. John Hughes of University of the West of Scotland and Dr. Caspar Groot of TU Delft. The full papers were proof read and edited by Jennifer Wehby, Dorn Carran and Dr. John Hughes. I also wish to thank Mr. Martin Pavala, Dr. Eva Čechová, Mr. Jiří Novotný, Mr. Josef Jiroušek for leading the excursions following the conference.

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