Foreword

The idea of a written commemorative tribute to celebrate the 65th birthday and retirement of Friedrich Dahm came from Wolfgang H. Salcher, then Deputy Vienna State Conservator and now Vienna State Conservator. He succeeded in bringing together numerous of Friedrich Dahm’s associates and fellow professionals to contribute to this impressive issue of the Österreichische Zeitschrift für Kunst und Denkmalpflege (Austrian Periodical for Art and Cultural Heritage) for the outgoing State Conservator with the title “Responsibility – Consensus – Solutions. Monument preservation. The art of inspiring people to value their cultural heritage”. The resulting publication contains a wide range of articles, organised thematically and chronologically, with a clear geographical emphasis on Vienna as well as a strong focus on current issues in conservation and restoration and recent research findings.

Bettina Neubauer-Pregl’s pictorial contribution on cultural heritage conservation projects from the Dahm era introduces the collection. This is followed by a number of general articles, beginning with the history of the Austrian Cultural Heritage Protection Act by Sylvia Preinsperger, followed by Manfred Koller’s article on the history of the award of the state-recognised title of Restorer/Conservator. Boris Podrecca reflects on the complexity of reconstruction, Manuela Legen-Preissl describes the contribution of Vienna’s cultural heritage conservation to climate protection, and Ivo Hammer argues in favour of using lime as a building material.

Following these general texts are a number of articles on archaeology and construction research: Dimitrios Boulasikis takes an archaeological foray through Postgasse 8-12 in Vienna, and Günther Buchinger and Wolfgang H. Salcher describe research on the Theseus Temple, the gatehouse in the Augarten Park, the cellar of the Barnabite College and the castle on the Leopoldsberg hill. There are then contributions by Michael Grabner and Elisabeth Wächter on dendrochronology, and Hanna A. Liebich on the roof structures of Vienna.

Articles on the Middle Ages follow, with Anton Pech and Simone Donaubauer exploring historical lightweight construction taking as an example the domed roof of the Maria am Gestade church, Barbara Schedl on metallurgy in the Middle Ages with reference to the ancient Himmelpforte convent and Haupthütte Wien (Vienna Grand Lodge of Masons), Christoph Blesl on medieval finds from the Vienna Hofburg, and Franz Kirchweger on the setting of the St Andrew’s cross relic and other donations to the collection of relics at St Stephen’s Cathedral in 15th century Vienna.

Werner Telesko leads us into the Early Modern and Baroque periods with the scenic heraldry of the Habsburgs, while Christian Brugger takes us to Styria and reports on aspects of the conservation of the Minoritenaal hall in Graz.

Of course, no work of this nature could leave out Schönbrunn. Brigitte Mang writes about the preservation of historic gardens using Schönbrunn Palace and two Jewish cemeteries as examples, and Dagmar Schratter describes the conservation of cultural heritage and modern animal husbandry at Schönbrunn Zoo. Georg Töpfer provides detailed insights into “sideshow” conservation at Schönbrunn and Palais Epstein, while Elisabeth Krebs reports on the restoration of the eternal sanctuary lamps in the Chapel of the Presidential Chancellery, the Chinese porcelain objects and lighting fixtures in the Chinese Cabinets in Schönbrunn Palace, the wrought iron lamps in the Dominican Church and the horse-drawn chariots and chimneys on the roof of the Austrian parliament building.

Richard Miklin, Silvia Miklin-Kniefacz and Hannah Jäckel write about Empress Elisabeth Christine and the Chinese Room in Hetzdorfer Palace, Florian Leitner discusses
ceiling paintings in the Jesuit theatre hall in the Old University and the copy of the Beethoven frieze by Gustav Klimt, and Katharina Fuchs and Gabriela Krist report on conservation research into stucco marble decorations in Viennese palaces.

Irene Humenberger investigates sites of global medical history in Vienna and describes the restorations in the Narrenturm asylum, the Josephinum Medical History Museum and the Sigmund Freud Museum. Michael Rainer writes about the neo-classical tomb of Emperor Franz II (I), and Bernhard Hebert's article takes as its starting point the major archaeological site at Vienna Central Station and leads us back to the Matzleinsdorf Cemetery in the Romantic period.

We now move forward to the 19th and early 20th century, which has already been touched on in several of the other articles. Eva Blimlinger offers insights into the general refurbishment of the Academy of Fine Arts Vienna, Mario Schwarz writes about Camillo Sitte and the Mechtarist Church as a Gesamtkunstwerk, and Manfred Wehdorn reports on the expansion of the Sisi Museum in the Vienna Hofburg.

Due attention is given to movable cultural heritage objects in Ulrike Emberger-Gaisbauer's article on Viktor Tilgner's mourning figure from the Liebieg-Radetzky tomb, and in the piece by Karin Fischer-Ausserer and Christoph Öllerer on the preservation of two processional flags from Ober St. Veit that date from the 1910s. Alexandra Sagmeister and Susanne Wutzig conclude this section with their article on Robert Örley's cross-material design concept for the home of Berta Tugendhat.

The Wien Museum forms a separate section. Ferdinand Čertov, Roland Winkler and Klaudia Ruck explain the reconstruction measures and Elisabeth Graff describes the process from the museum's perspective. The section continues with reports from Martin Pliessnig on the assessment and restoration of the stonework and artificial stonework, from Christoph Melichar on the metalwork and from Michael Formanek on the wooden furnishings.

This is followed by two articles: The first by Susanne Willen is on art in architecture in 1960s Leopoldstadt and also looks at Berlin and the current engagement of the cultural heritage movement in Germany with this subject; a second article by Barbara Keiler takes the Heuberg settlement in Vienna designed by Adolf Loos as her starting point as she looks at post-war housing estates in Vorarlberg.

The last section of the volume consists of articles by Paul Mahringer on Hans Hollein's tobacconist's shop and Michaelerplatz, and Wolfgang H. Salcher on the chronology of the rescue of the tobacconist's shop.

Finally, András Pálfy has written a tribute to Friedrich Dahm.

I would like to thank the authors for their patience in producing this impressive publication, as well as the editorial team of Wolfgang H. Salcher, Manuela Legen-Preissl and Michael Rainer and the departmental team of Johannes Thaler, Tayyip Köklü, Michael Schiebinger, Stefan Weber, Sabine Weigl, Bettina Withalm and Harald Zinner-Wögerbauer. I trust that Friedrich Dahm and all other readers find this collection as interesting and enjoyable as I have.

Paul Mahringer