



# Conservation in Danish Politics - lobbying for conservation in Denmark

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Conservators found it difficult to address the lack of awareness and care for the preservation of cultural heritage collections – so....

1)If you want something - ask for it!

2)If you want to be sure that things are changed - don't wait for others to do it.



In Denmark there are laws for museums, archives and libraries

Could we address the heads of conservation at the state institutions and influence the administration that way around?

Well – it was not the obvious choice!



Who constitutes the profession in Denmark?

Who will represent our interests in the public?

Yourself!

In casu:

NKF-Dk - Nordisk Konservatorfund – Danmark  
(Nordic Association of Conservators – Denmark)



The conservators role – should we just restore objects or engage ourselves?

The main issue became:

The fight against improper storage facilities and the lack of interest in preservation in general lead to a wish for speaking up



# The 5 main tasks of the museums

- 1) Collection
- 2) Registration
- 3) Preservation
- 4) Research
- 5) Education

But how.....?



There was a need for specification on how to preserve museum collections

And obligations to follow those requirements



## Actions taken

- Official hearing partner when bills were proposed with regard to museums or conservators
- Addressing the parliamentary committee for culture
- Appearance for the committee





## Organizations

NKF-Dk - Nordisk Konservatorfund – Danmark  
(Nordic Association of Conservators – Denmark)  
Around 300 individual members

Organisationen Danske Museer  
(The Danish Museums Association)  
169 museums and Conservation Centres  
member of the board



## Addressing civil servants?

- A good idea – doesn't always work due to different agendas

### Successes:

- A set of guidelines for best practice in handling and caring for heritage objects
- A national survey on the quality of museums stores followed by public debate



## Addressing politicians

- Close contact can lead to direct negotiations or important progress
- If you don't get any results – move on to other persons or: “If there is an obstacle on your way, **by pass it.**”



# Addressing the press

- There must be a press strategy
- You must have a clear case where something is at risk
- In general: Always refer to a case rather than the general situation



# The personal meeting

- Make personal political contacts
- Draw up a strategy for whom you want to influence
- Use the opportunities given at informal meetings –
- “Carpe Diem!”



# What is influence?

- Get connected
- Network rather than the rational argument
- Context related information strategy
- Know your tools: friends, alliances, the media, the political system etc.
- Analyze the situation - continuously



## From seed to plant

- Sometimes we are lucky that some of our initiatives takes root
- The Danish National Audit Office wants to make a follow up report of the 2006 survey
- There is a long way from "just" conserving objects to improving your job situation



“It takes a stubborn willingness to do something  
for your profession”

Thanks for your attention