Delegates, Officers and Volunteer Staff
First World Congress, Banff 1985

Compiled from the U of A Extension Department’s Participant List, each entry includes the 1985 country of residence, except in the case of Canada for which the reference is by Province (or Ottawa), and the USA which is by State (or Washington DC). The Editor apologises for the necessary abbreviations and for the inevitable errors.

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Michelle Dondo-Tardiiff Ottawa
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Siu Heard Alberta
Cheryl Heming Manitoba
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Kevin Reeves Oregon
Ted Ritzer Alberta
John Robertson Ontario
Elaine Robillard Alberta
Terry Robinson England
THE BANFF DECLARATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

When the Society to Promote the First World Congress on Heritage Presentation and Interpretation began its work in 1983, it established, as one of the most important standing committees of its Board, a Futures and Resolutions Committee.

Ken Erdman, Rob Keip and Ted Ritzer were the key players, and under their leadership the Committee consolidated existing information, polled Interpreters world-wide and produced some extremely useful discussion papers. After several meetings at the Congress itself, the Committee presented the results of their deliberations at the final Plenary Session of the First World Congress, which was attended by over 90% of the delegates. After vigorous debate and the adoption of some important amendments from the floor, the Banff Declaration and its supporting Recommendations received the unanimous approval of those present.

Following the establishment of Heritage Interpretation International by majority vote of the Steering Committee endorsed by the Banff Declaration, and after further fine-tuning by that Steering Committee, the Banff Declaration and Recommendations were distributed world-wide by HII in early 1987. Their importance to the international future of Interpretation, and their interest to the First World Congress delegates who unanimously adopted them, are such as to warrant their reproduction below:-

The Banff Declaration

We, the participants in the First (1985) World Congress, believe that Heritage Presentation and Interpretation are indispensable elements in the conservation and management of the world's natural and cultural resources. We affirm that protected areas, sites, and objects serve the physical, cultural and spiritual needs of humanity and provide a link from the past to the present and to our future. We believe that expanded awareness and the creation of opportunities to understand, appreciate and enjoy these resources are essential to the creation and long-term protection, conservation and wise use of this heritage.
To these ends, we declare the need for action on the recommendations adopted by this Congress. We call upon all nations to endorse these recommendations with despatch and accountability.

We resolve to establish and maintain a World Society of those individuals concerned with Heritage Presentation and Interpretation. Toward this end, we endorse, at this time, a Steering Committee with global representation and a working secretariat.

(Adopted by unanimous acclamation at the concluding meeting of the First World Congress on Heritage Presentation and Interpretation, Banff, Alberta, Canada on October 4th 1985.)

**The Banff Recommendations**

(These Recommendations are based upon: (a) the input received from delegates to the First World Congress on Heritage Presentation and Interpretation; (b) an advance questionnaire; (c) an open session; and (d) numerous meetings and discussions of the Congress Futures and Resolutions Committee. It is from this participation and advice that the following Recommendations are presented. They stress a wider and fuller appreciation of Heritage Presentation and Interpretation, and are designed to be both achievable and global in impact. The Recommendations, moreover, serve as the basis for the Banff Declaration.)

Recognizing that there is a need to identify, protect and present the cultural and natural heritage of the world, the First World Congress on Heritage Presentation and Interpretation:

1) Stresses the importance of Interpretation as an occupation deserving professional status, essential to international, national, regional and local institutions and organizations, both public and private, inclusive of governments, agencies of governments, museums and galleries, protected areas and sites, voluntary groups and individuals.

2) Calls for a more cooperative approach to Interpretation on the part of associations, agencies and individuals active in the broad undertaking of Heritage Presentation and Interpretation, and recommends global recognition of their essential unity of purpose.

In view of the constrained economic environment world-wide, and recognizing the significant efforts made by governments to establish systems of protecting sites and displaying heritage material, this Congress:

3) Recommends that Agencies involved in the establishment, maintenance and wise use of heritage resources create and present effective interpretive programmes that increase public awareness of the value of heritage, and encourage members of the public to enrich themselves thereby.

Whereas natural and cultural resources belong to the people of a given country and contribute to that country's sense of national identity, and whereas such resources are often fragile, and subject to potential political, economic and social pressures, this Congress:

4) Believes that in addition to their recognized indigenous significance, these natural and cultural resources have a value that extends beyond the boundaries of individual states, and that therefore every country should accept responsibility to the global community for the resources in their care.

5) Urges governments protecting World Heritage Sites to recognize their value, and recommends that the World Society evolving from this Congress develop standard on-site, and possibly off-site means of presentation, and sponsorship for the funding of plaques, publications and similar means of standard record, to celebrate such sites.

Recognizing that Heritage Presentation and Interpretation builds support for the ethics of conservation and has fundamental economic value, and noting further that presentation and interpretation techniques provide assistance to a sustainable supply of renewable and non-renewable resources, protection for endangered or rare species, living and archaeological laboratories, and pools of genetic resources, together with recreational and tourist opportunities, and pride in the stewardship of our past and future, this Congress therefore:

6) Underlines the importance of measures to reduce external threats to protected resources of all kinds, and recommends that the World Society evolving from this Congress draft a document entitled “World Heritage Presentation Strategy” for
discussion at the next World Congress. This would include a generally applicable definition of Interpretation and would serve as a management tool to complement the existing “World Conservation Strategy” document and the “World Heritage Convention.”

Whereas the participants in the First World Congress recognize the need for increased international cooperation to preserve, present and interpret natural and cultural resources, and mindful of the exemplary action already taken in this regard by a number of countries, this Congress:

7) Resolves to urge all involved in heritage conservation to collaborate in international joint conferences, training efforts, granting of scholarships and the interchange of expertise and personnel on a bilateral and multicultural basis.

8) Recommends that future World Congresses on Heritage Presentation and Interpretation be convened every three years, if possible in a bio-geographical realm different from that immediately preceding, and further resolves that all actions possible be taken to ensure adequate financial support to guarantee the broadest possible international participation in future Congresses.

(Drafted by the Futures and Resolutions Committee of the First World Congress on Heritage Presentation and Interpretation and edited by the International Steering Committee of Heritage Interpretation International).

J.L.

Heritage Interpretation International

This organization is a registered, non-profit society developed at the unanimous request of delegates to the First World Congress on Heritage Presentation and Interpretation, held in Banff, Alberta, Canada in 1985. Known to its members as HII, Heritage Interpretation International exists to bring global perspectives to the support of national and regional interpretive organizations, to convene an international forum every third year at which interpretive initiatives may be presented and ideas exchanged, and to provide information on all members to all members, so that when they travel, or wish to exchange information, or need interpretive assistance, there are members with like interests to contact. HII is governed by an International Committee, drawn from its membership world-wide. Its Offices and Executive Board are located in Canada at the following address:- Heritage Interpretation International, P.O. Box 6116, Station “C”, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5B 4K5. Telephone (403) 452-3168