

WORLD

The League of Historical Cities Bulletin

HISTORICAL CITIES

NO. 12: DEC.1997



Each year, Quebec City designs new squares reserved for pedestrians, by recovering space taken directly from the roadway.

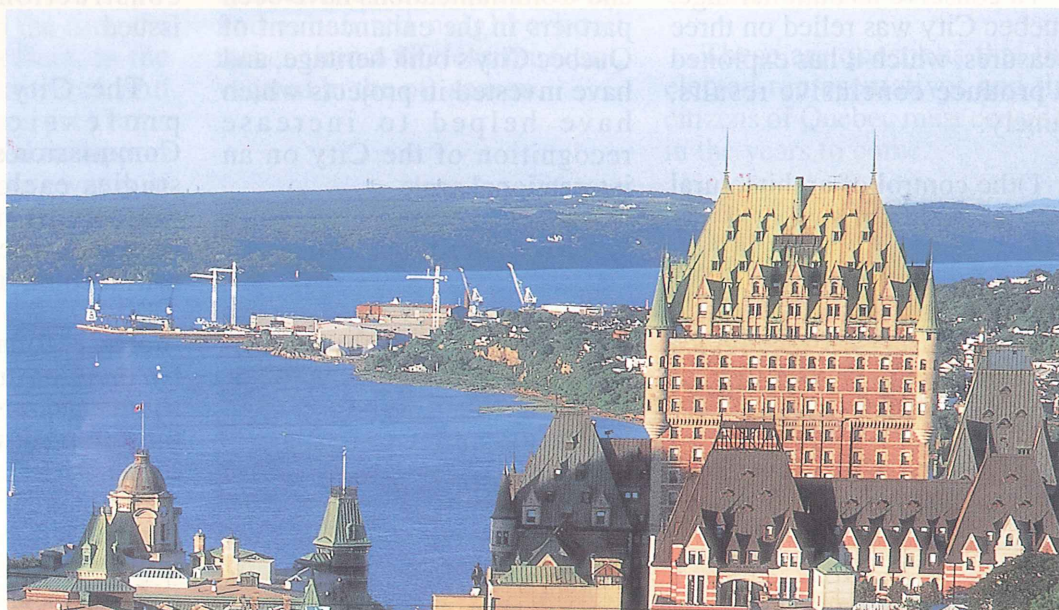
Quebec

Barcelona

Cracow's highlights

Information from Secretariat of the League

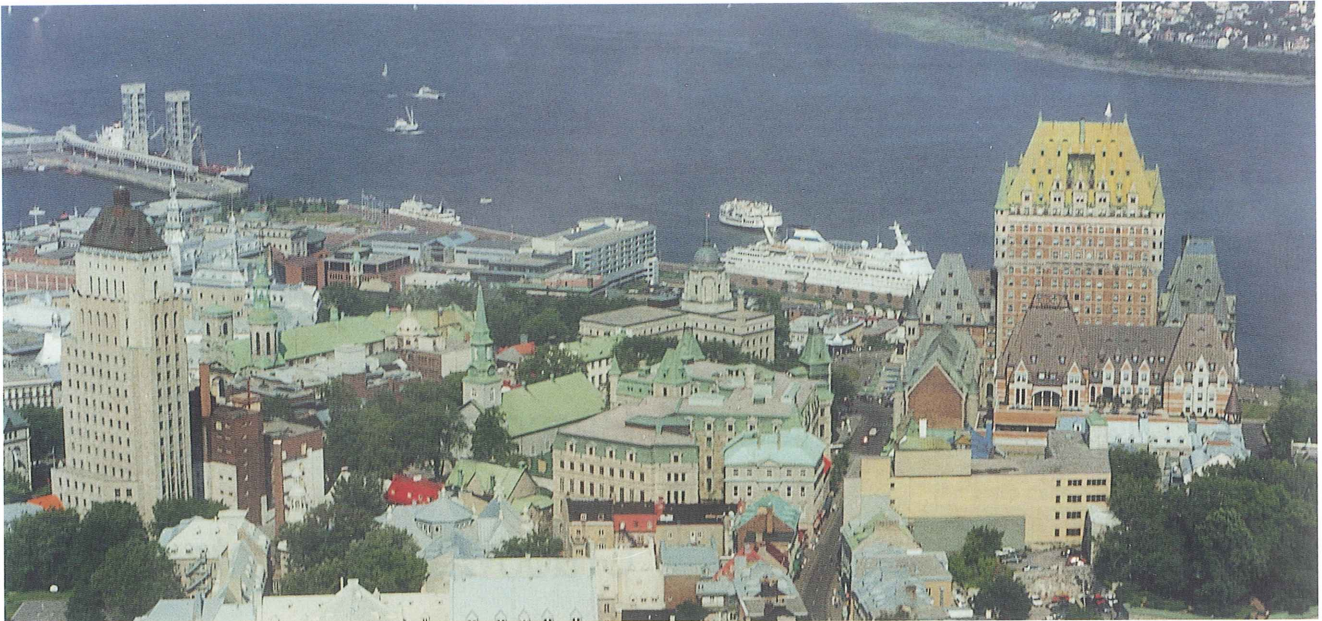
Interview(Cracow)



Quebec City and Saint Lawrence River

Quebec

The management and enhancement of built heritage



Set on a promontory overlooking the St. Lawrence River, Quebec City has inherited an interesting and varied heritage over the last four centuries.

Quebec city was founded in 1608 on an exceptional site overlooking the St. Lawrence River. Concerned for several decades with preserving its heritage, the city was registered as a world heritage by UNESCO in 1987.

To conserve its built heritage, Quebec City was relied on three measures, which it has exploited to produce conclusive results, namely:

1) the control of architectural work on buildings:

2) the introduction of programs providing technical and financial assistance to support the renovation and restoration of historic buildings:

3) the creation of a network of public places realized by means of large scale public works.

Before elaborating further on the measures used for the enhancement of this architectural heritage, it is important to point out that these improvements were

made possible due to an agreement reached between two levels of government, namely the City of Quebec and the Province of Quebec, in the early 1980s.

Since that time, Quebec City and the provincial government, through its Ministry of Culture and Communications have been partners in the enhancement of Quebec City's built heritage, and have invested in projects which have helped to increase recognition of the City on an international scale.

The architectural control

Since 1928, Quebec City has controlled the architectural quality of work on the buildings. In fact, the Quebec Urban Planning and Conservation Commission, a unique organization of its kind in Canada, was set up at that time with the mandate of preserving the particular architectural character of Quebec City.

It can withhold its approval for any permit request for

construction, repairs or demolition on the grounds of architectural appearance and symmetry of building designs.

All permit requests must first receive the Commission's endorsement with regards to architectural quality, before a construction permit can be issued.

The City puts a team of professionals at the Commission's disposal, which studies each of requests and presents its recommendations based on the analysis of the architectural characteristics.

The recommendations made by the Commission are much stricter and more elaborate within the historic district of the fortified city. In this sector, the recommendations are based on criteria defined in the Guide for the Conservation and Enhancement of the architecture of old Quebec, produced in 1982.

Although such rigorous architectural control creates some

dissatisfaction, there have been undeniable benefits. First, the urban landscape of the district has been greatly enhanced in the last 15 years. Continuity in the work done is clearly visible and several buildings have undergone a veritable rebirth.

The financial support

The rigorous application of the Guide for the Conservation and Enhancement of the Architecture of Old Quebec creates some problems, primarily a substantial increase in maintenance and renovation costs for buildings inside the historic district.

The repairing according to the old techniques are expensive, often twice or even three times the cost of contemporary substitutes.

It soon became clear that the objective of conserving the traditional elements of the buildings in the historic district constituted a burden, difficult to impose on individual building owners if no assistance was provided.

Therefore, from the time the guide came in to effect, in the early 1980s, technical and financial assistance programs have been developed to support the efforts of private owners in the historic district.

Every year since 1980, an average of some \$700,000 Canadian dollars has been distributed to the owners of buildings in the district to help them improve their property in accordance with the legislated criteria.

As for technical assistance, an architect specialized in the treatment of heritage buildings, employed by the City, is at the disposal of district owners.

The government's financial contribution has permitted the realization of works of a quality which would have been difficult for the city to achieve if it had been solely dependent on its own revenue sources.

Thus, since 1980, all of the overhead wires from the electrical, telephone have been completely buried inside the district. The sector's lighting has also been completely redone and appropriate lamps have been installed.

Historic squares such as Place Royale, Place d'Armes were completely redesigned. In some sectors, old paving stone were recovered.

Conclusion

The results of these combined efforts have certainly been fruitful. In 15 years, Quebec has raised itself to the rank of a world heritage city and the tourist industry is becoming one of the main economic activities of the region.

The populations wanted Old Quebec to continue to be a lively and inhabited neighborhood rather than a lifeless museum, vacated in the off-season.

After these years, and despite the difficult choices that the City had to make in applying its bylaw, the wishes of the population have been realized.

Old Quebec is now in great demand as a place to live,

Quebec City must take up several challenges in the next few years. Several questions are currently under discussion.

Should the architectural requirements in the district continue to be as strict? The architects and building professionals working in the city disapprove of these requirements, claiming they curb their creativity.

How can the city continue to finance assistance programs in the context of the reduction of the government's financial resources?

Religious heritage is a highly treasured feature of the Quebec landscape. With the abandonment of religion, which presently characterizes Quebec society, what will happen to all of these monuments?

These are questions that the elected representatives and the citizens of Quebec must consider in the years to come.



For several decades, Quebec City has exercised control over work done on all of the buildings on its territory, which partially explains the high quality of its built environment.

Barcelona

The action to safeguard the architectural heritage of the city.

The city of Barcelona was founded in the first century with the settlement of a Roman colony.

Thus, we are considering a city with virtually two thousand years of history.

From the standpoint of the architectural heritage, we have been fortunate, for despite the many transformations, numerous examples of the various styles still survive today.

In the mid-nineteenth century, a radical change occurred in the city.

The military authorities permitted the demolition of the medieval walls within which the city had been growing increasingly overcrowded since the fourteenth century.

The city virtually exploded, covering almost all of the surrounding terrain with a highly homogeneous grid layout.

From the nineteenth century, the practitioners of modernism, one of Barcelona's original architectural styles, produced some of the buildings for which the city is famous all over the world.

This fact is clearly reflected in the Eixample; many buildings are unexceptional but among them are outstanding constructions that were essential for European architecture at the turn of the century.

Buildings like the Casa Milá and the Casas Batlló, Amatller and Lleó Morera are fundamental to an understanding of the standard achieved in modernist housing, but their value is more finely appreciated when they are viewed together with the other buildings along the Passeig de Gràcia and in the Eixample as a whole.

The existence of a government with progressive ideas gave impetus to the construction of public buildings based on the models of this new architecture.

The results of the Civil War caused a halt in the development of Barcelona architecture, but from the fifties on, the buildings constructed were once again linked with the local architectural tradition and with the modern movement.

In 1962 the City Council passed the Catalog of Buildings and Monuments of Historical, Archaeological and Stylistic, or Traditional Interest.

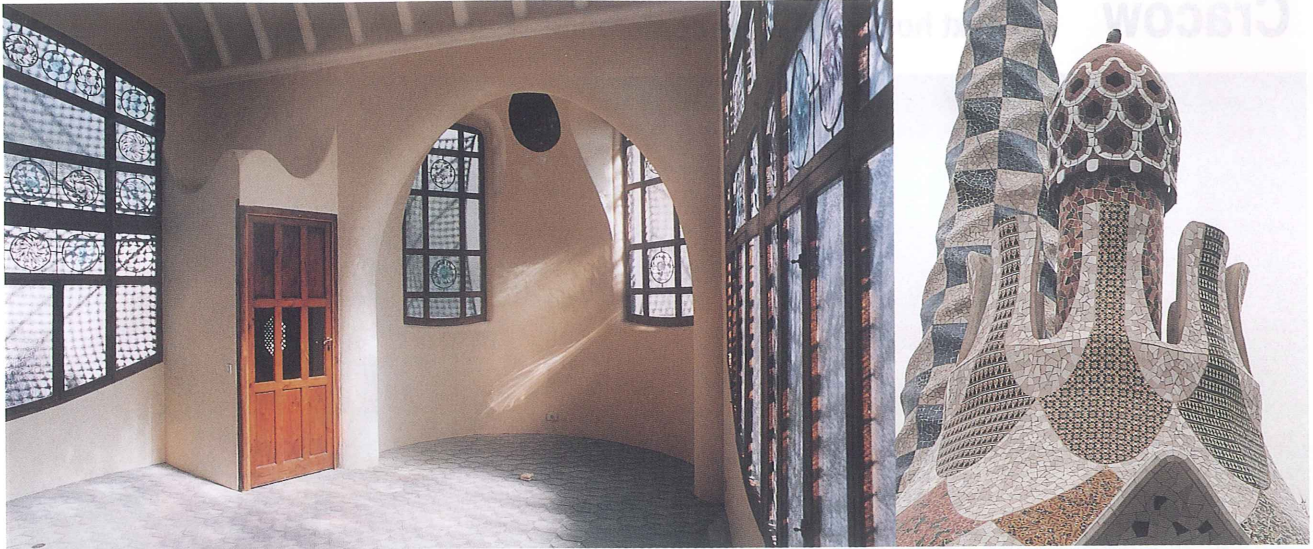
This first Catalog was replaced by a second, passed in 1979, which is still in force.

Both of these Catalogues, drafted during periods of rapid growth in the city when exceptional buildings had been torn down, reflect the intention to preserve the most significant values of Barcelona's historical architecture principally in the districts of the Old City and the Eixample.

As for the rest of the city, the towns incorporated in 1897, the



The Gothic Hall of the municipality of Barcelona, built in the 14th century and enlarged in the 19th century. The decoration is of Neo-Gothic inspiration, and was done in 1925, although part of it was dismantled ten years later. The Hall has been recently restored, and many of the elements that were removed in the 1930's have been put back in place after a careful restoration



Antoni Gaudi
Exterior view of the pavillion recently restored, the roof is covered with pieces of broken tiles glued to the surface with mortar. Gaudi obtained very special results with this technique, by playing with the color and size of the pieces. Interior view of the building, looking to the entrance.

code basically covers farmhouses and old churches; the architecture reflecting the most traditional attributes of these neighborhoods.

Chronologically speaking, the preservation code includes modernism and several of works representing rationalist architecture.

The Catalog in force since 1979 is accompanied by a building code that accentuates the preventive and highly restricted nature of any alterations.

The City Council published a book with descriptive records of the buildings, photographs, original plans, etc, in order to disseminate the content of the Catalog among the citizens in 1987.

On the one hand, the new catalog lists the structures and elements that give each district of the city its own unique character, while on the other hand, it provides guidelines for alterations in each of these buildings.

The governing theory is that,

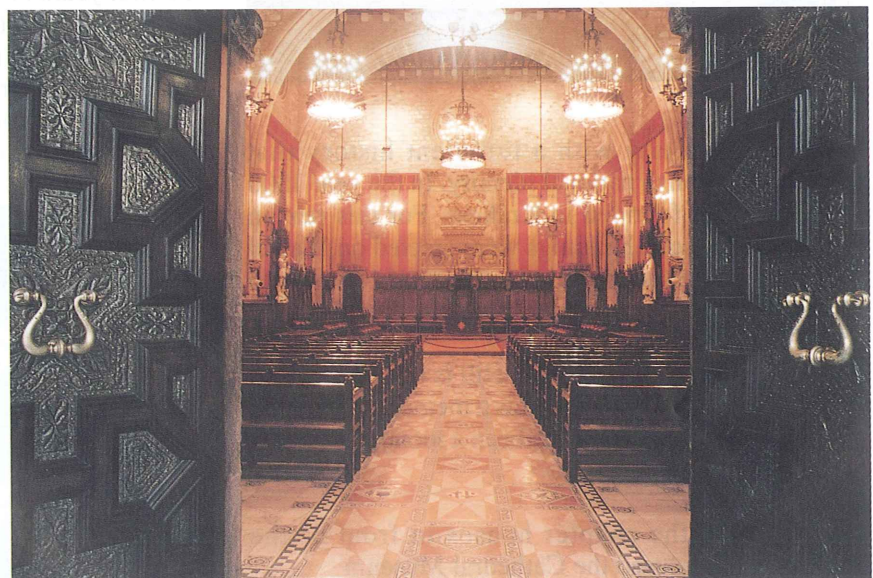
in order to ensure the permanence of a building, alterations must be permitted that contribute new values, that enable new uses, and that give the edifice renewed life, while retaining its fundamental values.

The same team that is preparing the Revised Catalog is also responsible for the administrative work of tracking the projects that individuals undertake in cataloged buildings and groups.

Their task commences with consultations with the owners and the professionals who execute the projects.

Once agreement is reached on the scope of the project and the appropriate permit is granted, the works are tracked.

The Barcelona City has an Office of Action on the Artistic Heritage, Buildings of different periods and styles are maintained by city employees specializing in the architectural heritage.



The Gothic Hall of the municipality of Barcelona

Cracow the next host city of the conference - European City of Culture



Zamek Krolewski na Wawelu (Wawelu castle)

Scores of tourists from all over the world come to Cracow, wishing to get to know the town of the Pope and Nicolaus Copernicus, the ancient capital of the Poland, the town that conceals priceless art treasures within its walls. This unusual and exceptional wealth was honoured in 1978 when the UNESCO included Krakow in the list of the world's cultural heritage, which bears witness to the high cultural standard of this city.



Kracow is a city with a turbulent history that represents the Polish national identity. In the year 1000 a bishopric was founded in Krakow. For this reason several Romanesque buildings were erected on Wawel Hill, which from the mid-eleventh century on was to become the seat of government for many centuries.

The Cathedral on the Wawel Hill is one of the most venerable churches in Poland. It is a memorial of artistic and patriotic character and has been a monument of the history of the Polish people.

Since 1978 the chapter houses in front of the Cathedral have housed the Cathedral Museum.

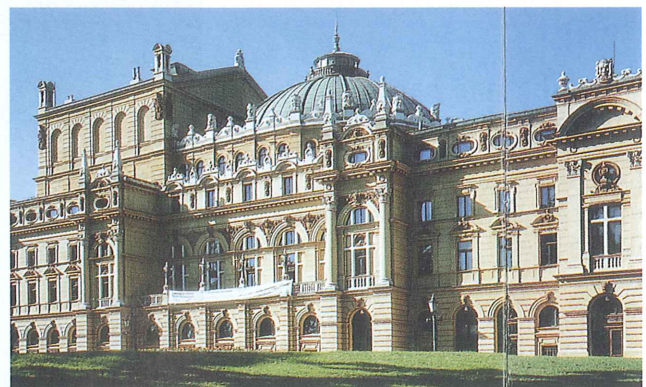
On the south side of the Cathedral Museum you can find the Royal Palace, a centre of cultural, political and artistic life. The original building on the site was a Romanesque palace, which was replaced in the 14th century by a Gothic castle and finally, in the 16th century, by the current Renaissance palace.

One of the most valuable collections of classical and medieval art as well as paintings by Italian, Flemish and Dutch masters, for example Leonardo da Vinci's "Lady with Ermine" you can find at the Czartoryskich Museum which was founded at the beginning of the nineteenth century.

Kracow's main church - Church of Our Lady is a monument to the honour and fame of the citizens of Krakow. The beginnings of this church date back to the first years of the thirteenth century.

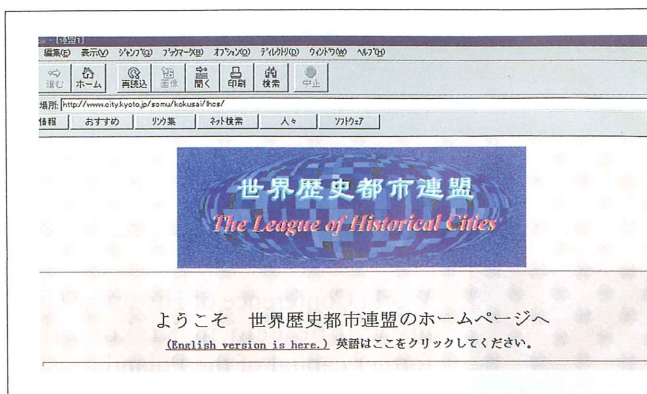
Behind the altar you can see the priceless medieval stained-glass windows dating from the end of the fourteenth century.

We can encounter modernity and well deserved heritage in Cracow.



Stwacki Theater

Home Page of the League of Historical Cities



Now the Internet homepage of our League of Historical Cities has just been opened.

The articles about preservation and development published in the previous newsletter and brief information of each member city are available. Please make an access to this homepage.

The URL address is
<http://www.city.kyoto.jp/somu/kokusai/lhcs/>

We would like to link to the homepage of each member city and organization which activity is related to us, Please tell your URL address.

International Competition will be held for the Symbol Mark of the League of Historical Cities.

We would like to hold the world competition for the symbol mark of the League of Historical Cities in order to make the League more familiar and well-known organization.

Eligibility

There is no restriction on the applicants' qualification or nationality.

Entries

There is no restriction on the quantity of application.

There is no restriction on color, but it is required to be visible in a single color.

One application should be on the white or Kent paper A4 (210*297mm, 8.27*11.69inch) size.

Brief introduction and address, name, telephone number in Japanese or English should be written on the back side of each application.

Awards

1 excellence prize of 500,000 yen and 4 fine work prizes of 50,000 yen are scheduled. However, the distribution of prizes and prize amount is at the judgments of the jury's discretion.

Schedule

Deadline: March 10, 1998
 First judgment: in Mid-April, 1998
 Final judgment (the General Assembly at the next Conference): May 28, 1998

For further information, refer to the "General Information and Application Guidelines" which will be published next January or contact the Secretariat of LHC.

The League of Historical Cities List

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| Accra (Republic of Ghana) | Fez (Kingdom of Morocco) | Montreal (Canada) |
| Alexandria (Arab Republic of Egypt) | Florence (Republic of Italy) | Montpellier (France) |
| Algiers (Algeria) | Guadalajara (United Mexican States) | Nanjing (People's Republic of China) |
| Amsterdam (Kingdom of the Netherlands) | Hanoi (Socialist Republic of Viet Nam) | Nara (Japan) |
| Athens (Hellenic Republic) | Helsingborg (Sweden) | Paris (French Republic) |
| Baghdad (Iraq) | Iasi (Romania) | Prague (Czech Republic) |
| Barcelona (Spain) | Isfahan (Islamic Republic of Iran) | Quebec (Canada) |
| Bordeaux (French Republic) | Istanbul (Republic of Turkey) | Rio de Janeiro (Federative Republic of Brazil) |
| Boston (United States of America) | Jerusalem (State of Israel) | Rome (Republic of Italy) |
| Bratislava (Slovak Republic) | Kaeson (Democratic People's Republic of Korea) | Santiago de Compostela (Spain) |
| Brussels (Kingdom of Belgium) | Katmandu (Kingdom of Nepal) | Tashkent (Republic of Uzbekistan) |
| Budapest (Republic of Hungary) | Kiev (Ukraine) | Tunis (Republic of Tunisia) |
| Chiang Mai (Kingdom of Thailand) | Konya (Turkey) | Ulan Bator (Mongolia) |
| Cologne (Federal Republic of Germany) | Kyongju (Republic of Korea) | Varanasi (India) |
| Cordoba (Spain) | Kyoto (Japan) | Vienna (Republic of Austria) |
| Cracow (Republic of Poland) | Lahore (Islamic Republic of Pakistan) | Xian (People's Republic of China) |
| Cusco (Republic of Peru) | Lisbon (Portuguese Republic) | Yangon (Myanmar) |
| Dublin (Ireland) | Melbourne (Australia) | Yogyakarta (Republic of Indonesia) |
| Edinburgh (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) | Mexico City (United Mexican States) | Zagreb (Republic of Croatia) |
| | | Zurich (Swiss Confederation) |

INTERVIEW

Józef Lassota

Mayor of Krakow, Republic of Poland

Your city has been selected as a Director, what are your aspirations as one of the principal officers ?

Krakow was interested in establishing contacts and cooperation with other member cities.

We would like all member cities to exchange common experiences and cooperate with each other so as to preserve their heritages.

Krakow is one of the leading centres of European culture and can assist with its considerable experience in promoting culture and monuments' protection.

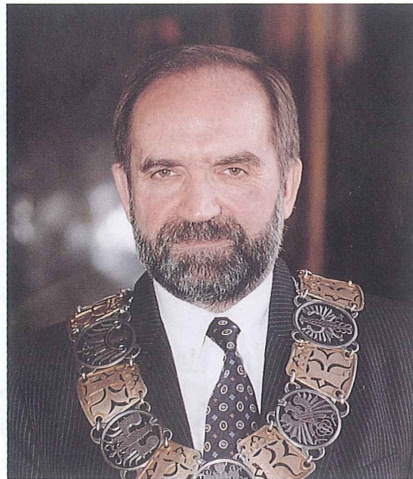
What is the current activity or project that your city is engaged in for the League ?

Our city was appointed at the 4th Conference to host the 6th Conference in 1998.

We hope that it will be an excellent opportunity for all participants to experience our city and our culture, and that it will bring many new values for cultural heritage preservation.

What are your expectations of the League, especially regarding its member cities dealing with common themes of conservation and development ?

I think that the League should be a kind of a "contact box" and a source of information presented by its members.



Many experiences and solutions can be used by others. The League makes it possible to compare different projects concerning similar issues and enables its members to cooperate in solving specific problems.

Do you have any difficulties in preparing for the Conference ?

The initial arrangements for the Conference have been already made in 1996 and intensive work has started in July this year.

It is fortunate for us that it will already be the 6th Conference and that we can work upon the experiences of previous organizers.

We have already hosted similar events, so we have proven methods for preparing events of this kind.

Do you have a message to the members of the League of Historical Cities ?

I am very pleased that the 6th

World Conference of Historical Cities will be held in Krakow, the former capital of the Poland.

The role of Krakow has not changed through the centuries.

Exploring the past you will find that Old Krakow was the center of education and culture emanating at that time all over the world.

They were attracted by the magnetic power of the city's creative atmosphere.

Krakow was also an economic centre, a bridge in the economic and commercial contacts between East and West. The religious aspects of the ancient capital of Poland should also be emphasised.

The Jagiellonian University, the City Cloth Hall and numerous historical churches and synagogues are an example of the city's universalism.

The whiff of the ancient epoches can be felt in almost every place in this medieval city.

The dynamic cultural life and the development of technical sciences create an excellent base for discussions for the Conference of Historical Cities, which is to be held here, in Krakow, where the past working for the future presents its best results.

*Secretariat has now e-mail access.
e-mail address:lhcs@city.kyoto.jp
URL address:http://www.city.kyoto.jp/somu/kokusai/lhcs/*

The League of Historical Cities Secretariat

International Relations Office, City of Kyoto, Teramachi Oike, Nakagyo-ku, Kyoto 604, Japan/Phone +81-75-222-3072 Fax +81-75-222-3055