



WORLD

The League of Historical Cities Bulletin

HISTORICAL CITIES

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Xuanwu Lake Park in Nanjing, China

Helsingborg

Nanjing

The 7th World Conference of Historical Cities

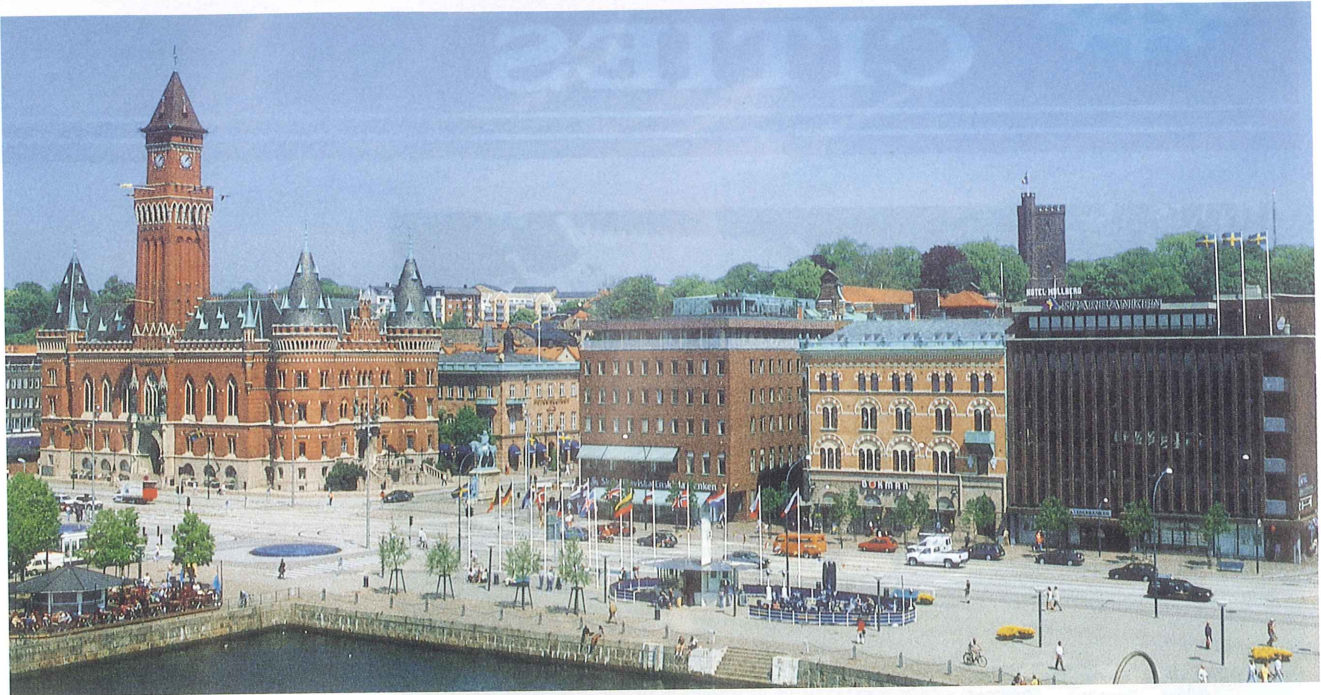
Interview

The Town Hall of Helsingborg, Sweden



Helsingborg

The role of historical buildings in town planning



The view of the center of Helsingborg. This part of the town was built at the end of the 19th century. The building to the left with the high bell tower is the Town Hall.

With less than 120,000 inhabitants, the city of Helsingborg is the smallest member of the League of Historical Cities.

But it is a good example of the truth of the expression "small is beautiful".

It is lovely situated on the eastern shore of Oresund, the narrow straight between Denmark and the southernmost part of Sweden (Scandinavia), and its topography makes its beauty unique in Scandinavia.

The history of Helsingborg goes back to the Viking Age. During that period the country of Scandinavia became a part of Denmark, and as the Danish king was in deed of a stronghold in this region a royal castle was built in Helsingborg during the 12th century.

Two hundred years later a monumental dwelling tower in brick became the most predominant building of the castle.

The castle was destroyed at the end of the 17th century, but the tower called Karnan was too strong to be pulled down.

Today it is the oldest building of the town and the very symbol of Helsingborg.

Due to frequent wars between Sweden and Denmark Helsingborg was almost completely destroyed during the 17th century.

In the middle of century Scandinavia became a part of Sweden, and so Helsingborg became a Swedish town.

During the 18th century Helsingborg was one of the smallest towns of Sweden, an idyllic place, more like a village than a town.

It was inhabited by merchants, artisans, seaman and fishermen, living in small half-timbered houses.

At the end of the century the number of inhabitants was less than 1,800.

During the 19th century Helsingborg was immensely vitalized by new harbors, the arrival of two railways and the industrial revolution.

The half-timbered buildings of the previous century were replaced by higher and much bigger buildings, built in brick and

originally decorated with plaster in a classical style.

At the end of the century the plaster decoration was out of fashion, there are many good representatives of pure brick architecture in Helsingborg.

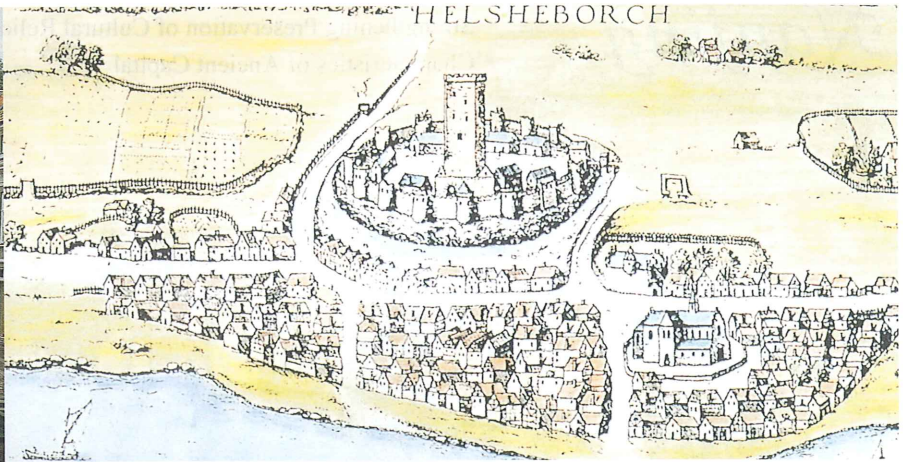
A typical example of that is the monumental Town Hall in the middle of the town. It was built in 1892- 96 in neo - Gothic style.

Thus, the main buildings of Helsingborg are not very old, however as in all of Scandinavian buildings dating from the 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century are now regarded as valuable part of a modern town.

Such buildings are not built any more, and together they form an important part of the identity of the town.

The problem is that many of them are in a bad state of preservation or have been rebuilt to such a degree that very little of their original character remains.

In such cases their value to the historical area is somewhat diminished.



above : Landscape of Helsingborg 900 years ago.

left : The view of an old part of Helsingborg. In earlier days the steep street was the main road to and from the town. The green globe in the foreground is a memory in honour of the Danish astronomer Tycho Brahe(1546-1601), who grew up in the town. The preservation of the environment is warranted through a municipal decision.

In order to make clear which historical buildings are too valuable to be lost and to restrain destructive forces from buying and pulling them down. **Plans for the preservation of buildings are now carried out.**

This planning is carried out by a committee consisting of antiquarians from the local museum and authorities from the municipal board of works.

The planning started in 1980 and dealt with the center of the town.

Since then, plans for many other parts of the town have been carried

out.

In the meantime the appraisal has changed, and today buildings in the early functionalist style of the 20th century are also regarded as valuable memories from the past.

The best example of that is the Concert Hall, built 1930-32 and famous all over the world.

Consequently, Helsingborg is well prepared for what concerns the preservation of historical buildings to meet the challenge of the future.



The Helsingborg coat-of-arms

The oldest preserved coat-of-arms is found on a seal from the year 1468. It shows a medieval castle built around a cylindrical tower. In 1946 the coat-of-arms in its present form was established.

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The Concert Hall of Helsingborg (1930-32), a famous example of functionalist architecture.

Nanjing

Strengthening Preservation of Cultural Relics and Displaying Characteristics of Ancient Capital



The landscape of Nanjing city with Jimingsi-temple.

Nanjing, known as the famous ancient capital of six dynasties, has become one of the first groups of well-known historical and cultural cities in China.

The attractiveness of Nanjing has been attributed to various cultural relics from Song, Liang, Southern Tang, Ming, the Taiping Heavenly Kingdom and the Republic of China.

Approximately 800 cultural relics are designated for preservation.

The discovery of anthropological ruins and skull bones of *Pithecanthropus* indicates that as early as 6000 years ago, Nanjing had been a region where human beings lived in compact communities and where those primitive villages had come into being.

Since the 3rd century, a total of 10 dynasties or regimes had made it their respective capitals one after another.

As a place of commercial importance, Nanjing has a longer

history of traditions in the development of commodity economy.

For the present, Nanjing has developed into a multipurpose industrial base in East China, a vital communications centre as well as one of the four key cities in scientific researches and education, playing an important role in the development of the entire national economy.

The preservation of cultural relics has met with new opportunities and challenges with the rapid development of the economy and the urban construction.

Nanjing City has put forward the strategic development objectives of rebuilding the riverside city combining characteristics of ancient capital with modern society.

These plans have been approved by the State Council.

Therefore a number of measures have already been taken.

Regulations designated for preservation of cultural relics have been enacted. And other regulations on preservation of underground cultural relics are being enacted.

Gradually, the legal system for preservation of cultural relic has come into being.

The Bureau of Cultural Relics is responsible for the management of municipal cultural relics.

It is implementing the policy in accordance with economic and social development plan, financial budget, urban construction plan.

By way of signing responsibility certificates with district and county governments, governments at various levels are held responsible for preservation of cultural relics.

In addition, areas for preservation and construction control have been planned.

And special preservation planning for some major preservation places like Zhongshan



LEFT : The Mochou Lake Park in Nanjing. RIGHT : Dr. Sun Yatsen's mausoleum in Nanjing.

Mausoleum have been made.

Publicity activities and monitoring of preservation areas have been effected and the preservation network of government and private sector has been formed and improved.

The commemorative Garden for the Restoration of Ming City Wall and Crescent Lake Park have been built, and the municipal museum and

Ming City Wall Museum have been renovated.

More efforts have been made to preserve historical relics in order to promote economic development and to satisfy the cultural needs of people and to display beautiful characteristics and potentials of Nanjing.

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The entrance path to the Ming Xiaoling with a pair of stone-carved guardian dogs.

World Conference of

An outline of Previous and Upcoming World Conference of Historical Cities

The 2nd Conference

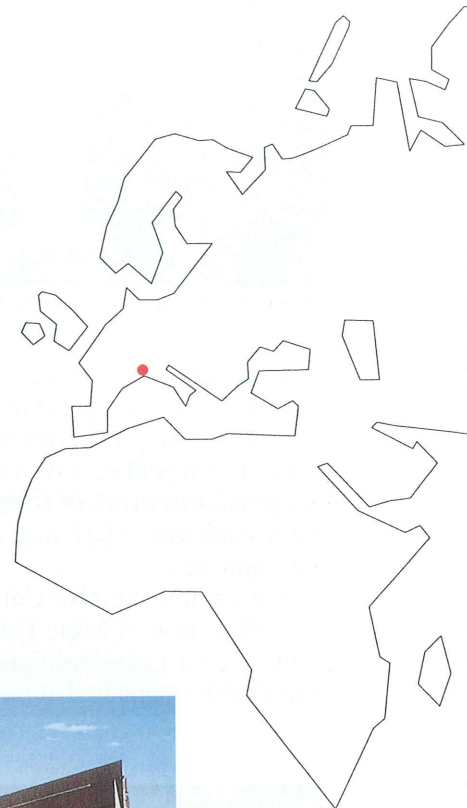
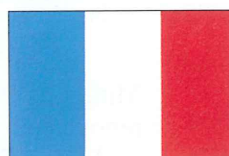
Venue: **Florence** (Republic of Italy)
 Date: Jun. 18 to 21, 1988
 Theme: Historical Cities for the Future of Mankind
 Number of participating cities: 33 (27 countries)

The 3rd Conference

Venue: **Barcelona** (Spain)
 Date: Oct. 28 to 31, 1991
 Theme: The Memories of and Futures of Cities
 Number of participating cities: 40 (23 countries)

The 6th Conference

Venue: **Cracow** (Republic of Poland)
 Date: May 25 to 28 1998
 Theme: Heritage and Development of Historical Cities
 Number of participating cities: 30 (22 countries / 1 area)



NEXT

The 7th Conference in 2000

Montpellier (French Republic)



Next World Conference of Historical Cities in Montpellier

Schedule : July 5th (Wed.) - 8th (Sat.) 2000
Main venue : Le Corum, Einstein Hall (used for both opera theater and international conference)

Official languages : English and French

Theme of the conference : History and Value

Themes of the working session:

1. Architectural coherence and urban integration in a historical city
2. Historical city and Mediterranean harmonization of cultures
3. Integration of a historical city in a modern economy
4. Tourism and Historical cities

The new principal officers will be elected at the General Assembly and a meeting of the board of directors by the new principal officers will be held on July 7th.

Membership fee of the League of Historical Cities will be discussed.

It was decided that the articles on the membership fees of the League in the Covenant will be suspended for 2 years of 1998 and 1999 at the meeting of Board of Directors in Cracow, Poland in May 1998.

Historical Cities



Principal Officers	
Chairperson	Kyoto
Vice Chairperson	Paris
	Xian
Directors	Alexandria
	Cracow
	Katmandu
	Rio de Janeiro
	Zurich
Auditor	Kyongju

The 1st Conference

Venue: **Kyoto** (Japan)
 Date: Nov. 18 to 20, 1987
 Theme: Historical Cities in the 21st Century
 Tradition and Creativity
 Number of participating cities: 26 (25 countries)

The 5th Conference

Venue: **Xian**
 (People's Republic of China)
 Date: Sep. 9 to 13, 1996
 Theme: Revival of Historical Cities
 Number of participating cities:
 39 (51 countries)

The 4th Conference

Venue: **Kyoto** (Japan)
 Date: April 25 to 28, 1994
 Theme: In Quest of the Wisdom of
 Historical Cities
 Number of participating cities: 45 (40 countries)



The 8th Conference in 2002

Rio de Janeiro
(Federative Republic of Brazil)

The League of Historical Cities List (60 cities from 48 countries)

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

INTERVIEW

Feng Xuchu

Mayor of Xian, People's Republic of China

What do you expect of the 7th Conference of Historical Cities in Montpellier in 2000?

The old century is about to be over when turmoils were mixed with peace and development. The 7th Conference will be held at the inception of the new century.

I hope that more major cities will join the League and **all the member cities will attend this conference.**

We will take responsibilities to protect human civilization and sit together to discuss the problems confronting us in the new century. We will promote mutual understanding so that historical cities, common wealth of the whole mankind, will be valued and protected in the best possible way.

What kind of activities or projects do you have in your city regarding the aims of League of Historical Cities?

For years we have adhered, in city planning, to the principle of combining modern construction with heritage protection.

We make an overall plan and take a comprehensive view in urban planning, taking into consideration such things as the development strategy, the city's general layout and the urban construction.

In the transformation of the old city we preserved some typical streets and regions and some traditional houses of local flavor.

We have also constructed building complexes of historical appearance and value.

The height of the buildings in the preserved region is strictly controlled so as to keep their height,



size, style and color in harmony with the general environment of the region.

How to combine and coordinate modern construction with the protection of historical capitals is a common challenge for all historical cities.

The ultimate way is **to seek protection through development and to promote development by protection.**

Therefore, Xian has opted to develop tourism as its leading industry in the future and to combine relics protection, restoration of old buildings.

What do you expect of the League when each member city of the League deals with the common theme of conservation and development ?

The League of Historical Cities has played a positive role in protecting heritage and promoting the exchange and cooperation between its member cities.

I wish the League to be a link between the member cities for

interchange and mutual understanding.

I wish to have more international cooperation in the field of relics protection and to have more cultural and economic exchange.

Let's strive for the common goal of "protection of ancient capitals and development".

Will you give a message to the members of the League of Historical Cities?

An urbanization will be accelerated in the next century and the contradiction between protection and development will get more serious and more difficulties will arise. The economic development of the country or region is the major guarantee of its protection.

The harmony between traditional civilization and modern civilization depends not only on consensus and rational planning but also on powerful economy and technological strength.

We earnestly appeal to the world to stop war, to protect our environment and to strengthen cooperation. On the threshold of the 21st century we should remember the destruction and disasters have fallen us as a result of wars, natural calamities and environmental pollutions in the past century.

Let's make the civilization of ancient capitals in the world more brilliant in the new century.

Access to Secretariat.
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The League of Historical Cities Secretariat

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