

Steen Bjarnhof

THE DIPLOMA COURSES OFFERED AT THE
SCHOOL OF CONSERVATION, COPENHAGEN.

Admission to the school

The School of Conservation has three specialized conservation departments, namely the Art Department, the Cultural History Department and the Department of Graphic Restoration. Students are admitted to one of these departments to be trained in the specialized subjects of that department. Normally the General Certificate of Education or the equivalent is required for admission to the School of Conservation, and/or an art or craft qualification. As well as full-time students, the school offers a limited number of extra-mural students the possibility of following some selected courses.

Every other year 20 students are admitted. Names will be put on a mailing list as from January and the school will arrange several orientation meetings early in the year.

The applications are considered by three selection committees, one for each department. The initial selection will be based on the application forms and any supplementary material submitted for consideration. In a few cases applicants might be summoned for interview.

The diplomas

Three diplomas are available at the School of Conservation:

1. Restoration technician: 2 year course for artisans or craftsmen
2. Conservation technician: 3 year course (first part of the Conservator diploma)

3. Conservator: 5 year course (Conservation technician diploma plus 2 years)

At the beginning the three diploma courses are combined where possible. As the school admits students with different academic and practical backgrounds, the first 2 years are aimed to integrate their abilities so that academic students are trained in manual skills and the craftsmen and artists in relevant scientific subjects equivalent to the General Certificate Education (the science side).

During the first two years the school's curriculum is divided into 40% for general subjects and 60% for specialized conservation subjects. The general subjects include organic and inorganic chemistry, mathematics, physics, examination and documentation techniques, museology, archives etc. The remaining 60% of the study time is devoted to the theoretical and practical conservation tuition in the department workshops and laboratories.

The first two years' lessons are drawn up in a timetable.

At the beginning of the third year or earlier the student chooses a topic in which to specialize. The topic can be a group project but the possibility of individual evaluation must be ensured as it forms the final assessment of the Conservation Technician diploma and the first part of the Conservator diploma. During the fourth and fifth years of study of the Conservator diploma course the chosen topic will be studied at greater depth.

There is continual evaluation of the student's work throughout the course of study, each project being documented in such a way that it demonstrates the student's ability to rationalize the conservation of materials both

scientifically and artistically.

Conservation Departments

The three departments of the School of Conservation, namely the Art Department, the Cultural History Department and the Department of Graphic Restoration on the whole train students in the conservation of objects housed in collections of Art Galleries, Museums of Cultural History, Archives and research Libraries. Examples of the special subjects studied in each department follow:

Art Department

Paintings on canvas

Wall paintings

Polychrome wooden sculpture

Stone sculpture

Relevant crafts: Artist, sculptor etc.

Cultural History Department

Objects made of metal, ceramic, glass, wood, leather, bone, amber, textiles etc.

Relevant crafts: Silversmith, cabinetmaker, weaver etc.

Department of Graphic Restoration

Bookbindings

Manuscripts

Graphic material

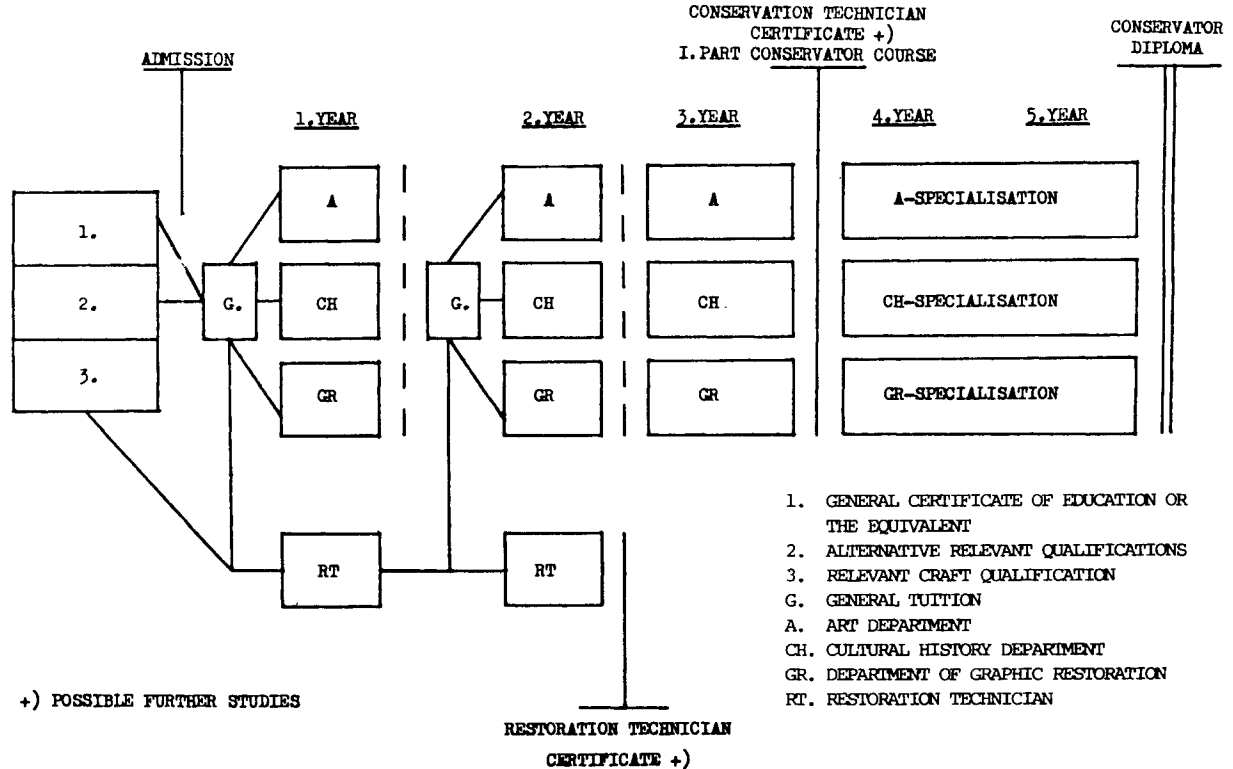
Photographic material

Relevant crafts: Bookbinder, graphic artist, photographer etc.

Curriculum

A study journal is kept by each student in which is stated to which department the student was admitted and for which diploma course: Restoration Technician, Conservation

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Technician or Conservator course. Extra-mural students indicate the general scope of their intended studies. To these journals are added individual projects and summaries of general tuition attended.

During the course of studies a balance is maintained between the general conservation subjects and specialized projects, the projects being structured and supervised individually.

The study reports form a systematic collection of studies at the school and the individual projects illustrate the student's practical and theoretical understanding and thus form a document on which the student's abilities can be evaluated. As to education given by external teachers or at external courses an evaluation is included in the study document. At the end of each term the school writes a collective report which is also included in the study document.

The academic year of the School of Conservation is from the 1st September to the 30th June. The autumn term is from 1st September to 31st January, and the spring term from 1st February to 30th June.

Additional information

The restricted admission (20 students every other year), compared to the great interest shown in the conservation courses since the establishment of the school in 1973, has resulted in the fact that only 5-10% of the applicants in 1973 and 1975 were admitted. With this knowledge it is very difficult to advise those interested on how to prepare for admission. Every day inquiries are made to the School, which, for practical reasons, are impossible to answer individually. However, everyone is welcome to

enrol for one of the orientation meetings where there will be opportunities to ask questions.

At present admission of Scandinavian students to the school is under discussion and this admission will probably be given from 1979.

Teaching is in Danish.