

## On Preservation of the Cultural Heritage IV, 2014

People usually think that the cultural heritage is a discipline that is somewhat outdated- in the terms of the modernity. They believe that the cultural heritage is a thing of the past, discipline that exists in the adventure and detective movies, or showing the snobbish site of the colonial past- is widely spread. Nobody believes that there is any use in the archaeological researches, such as digging in the ancient sidewalks and houses, in preserving the ancient buildings and temples. Certainly there is no use in researching the analysis of the ancient manuscripts, data basing the ancient science and medicine etc. What is the use of all this except in providing some attraction for the tourists? Even this is becoming outdated as everything is beginning to be available on Internet. Another proof that nobody believes that the preserving of the cultural heritage is somehow useful is the fact that it is beginning to be almost impossible to find any funding for this researches. The rare investments that are arriving in this sector are usually indirect and coming from the unrelated source, that has some interest in it. For example, some private TV network that plans to make a prime time documentary from the excavation. People that do this kind of researches, according to their colleagues [the colleagues that are holding a descent, respectful position (such as a guide in the museum, a tourist guide etc.) and by the members of the modern consumerist societies] are considered as suspicious, the "invisible ones", diggers in the dust; even as unprofessional pretenders, people that easily slide in some dishonest activities, like the money laundering! Actually they are considered as people that use (for example) archaeology as a cover for some other activity. If we look at our more recent cultural heritage, at the new media (film, video, electronic etc.), and at the out-coming new disciplines (such as for example: the Internet archaeology) - the culture for the preservation of cultural heritage is telling us the same. There is no need for researching the public opinion about this. Everybody thinks this is a waste of money and time for something that will be seen by 2 people out of 200 million. So the negatives of some of the best films and footage are devastating. As everybody thinks that what was destined to disappear it will.

In order to explain how this drastic devastation of our cultural consciousness did happen, I will try to explain it with the following examples from history and science.

The bare fact is that each civilization or civilized society reached its progress by somewhat looking in the past. For example the Western European civilization reached its renaissance and restoration by rediscovering the works of the antiquity.

Nowadays everybody will ask us: What is the use of researching the past, that is inaccurate; the modern technology is superior to any knowledge from the past? But still it seems that: (I)there is no better computer than the human brain; (II)there is no better chemist than the mother nature. To illustrate this two I will give few examples; as I believe the reason for the poor results in the contemporary scientific researches is the believe that the machine can do everything better than the human being. But that is not so as modern scientists have forgotten the dichotomy of the nature. Like in the painting of Raffaello “The school of Athens” (or popularly called: philosophy- materialism and idea). Undoubtedly for every scientific effort we need a material *proof*, but it seems that the contemporary science is telling us we don't need the *idea* anymore to render it. Just put all the data in the computer and let it develop the **outcome**.



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Examples: Everybody thinks that, for example, there is nothing new we can find in the ancient medicine, or we can learn nothing from it. Contemporary technology is superb. Let us not forget that in ancient Egypt they had antibiotics (from the crocodile droppings); aspirin from the leaves of willow; conception control (contraception) from the lemon peeling. They knew that it is risky for the health of the baby if its parents were close relatives. In ancient Egypt they also knew that stocking and surveying ones privacy is health hazardous. Many of their walls (for this reason) were with space inside, or with secret corridors and halls. They knew this is damaging ones` psychic health, causing some cases of epilepsy. According to some most resent researches they knew how to construct a battery (which is presented in one Swiss museum); and with extracting the solar energy (using

blue filter cloths) to light their interiors. But how did they achieve these amazing discoveries as they had no technology for that? They knew nothing of molecular biology and didn't have its sophisticated technology; for e.g. Scientists in the 20<sup>th</sup> century find out that with the blue color we can directly extract the solar energy into electricity. At the ancient time this was discovered by using the oldest and most popular at that time method- the observing. By observing the nature they noticed that everything that has life has energy, and everything that extracts energy from the sun and has life has blue color, like the sky and the water. By observing the seaside many ancient cultures knew that the earth is a ball. By simply watching the sky and the stars they find out that the earth is round (because during the nights when the sky is clear we can see that the sky is round) and that we are living in a heliocentric system.

Many scientists and artists, even some big leaders, believed that looking in the past is useful for enriching ones` intellect, and they also believed that learning from and preserving the cultural heritage is a duty, civilized obligation of the civil society. I noticed that they also believed that the eastern culture is the one that is really enriching the civilization. We don't know for sure why it is so. Maybe because all of the prevailing religions arrived from the East, or maybe because the ancient transcripts came in the West first through their Arab translations. As I was reading the article of Aleksandra Konstantinova about Leonardo Da Vincis` influence from the culture of the Ancient Egypt and his believe that androgyny hides the divinity (at this time almost all artists were usually painting the saints with feminine fingers, and with androgynous beauty; the angels too), I perceived in his works the mentioned tendency. As that ancient Egyptian god(dess) was androgynous, and as the bird<sup>1</sup> [for the god(dess) had its head] is hidden in the painting St. Ana; in the scarf. For this bird it was believed that had only one gender.

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1 Different birds are mentioned in the different approaches, as for all it was believed they had one gender; mostly mentioned is the hawk. It was believed that the absence of the gender difference was a step towards perfection. The contemporary botanists show that the plants that have one gender, look perfect compared to their ordinary relatives. The ones that are with one gender look as a geometrical design, and are far more resistant to climate changes, diseases etc. This is what biologists say, though I have to say that many exceptions to this rule do exist.



In the renaissance time intellectual elite in Western Europe believed that the Eastern culture was more progressive as it was not so isolated, as the Western one.

There are some articles, more or less controversial, about Michelangelo too. His design of the façade of St. Peter according to some resembles the temple in Petra (they say they used equines for this- Peter, Petra); or the library Laurenziana for which they claim was inspired by the architecture in the ancient Persia, with the wall/window/pilasters [another example for similar sounding perhaps- as Lorain (similar to Laurenziana, Laurentiana) is the ancient name for Tehran]. Napoleon also believed in the antiquity: that “glory is in the East.”

By watching and preserving the old films we can learn how much devastation has been done to our taste for arts and entertainment, as some of the old films artistically surpass their contemporary rivals. Looking at the box office we can see that in some past decades audiences were far better educated and demanding for more serious approach in movie making. As for the documentary footage: All the students from the social sciences think they can learn a lot from the "oldies"(the old films) and their culture of speech; this somewhat opposes the fact that all history students believe that history will teach us nothing. Considering the second issue, isn't that important too? Not just to find out what things are (were) but also what they are (were) not.

As from the materialism we can learn what things are; and from the idea- how things should be. Aren't both important?



*Plato and Aristotle in the painting of Raffaello “The School of Athens.” The idea and the materialism, isn't both important?*

In order to let you know how I imagine the world participating in the preservation of the cultural heritage, I must define what cultural heritage is. To make it simple-

for me the cultural heritage is something that is useful for our civilization.

In order to be better organized for this I could suggest an idea for a project with a working title: Tree. The body of the tree can be built from an electronic database that contains all the necessary fields of expertise in our contemporary and past body of knowledge. Many will say: We don't need this. We are well educated. We already have all the necessary data in our gray sells. But this self-conceit strikes us as outdated as the researchers and their demands progress interdisciplinary. That is the main objective for which I think this kind of search engine is necessary. Because when the researcher clicks the necessary demand, the database can show information from the most diverse scientific fields (in classical terms) of expertise ranging from the empirical to some really experimental ones. Anyway why all of a sudden everybody is so exact? Isn't the experiment one of the main scientific approaches?

Referring to this and everything else in this exposé of mine which I named “On Preservation of the Cultural Heritage”, I would like to mention the example that can be useful for the contemporary medicine too. I consider this approach as an experimental one, as usually researchers constrain themselves in finding solutions for the certain contemporary issues in the past. Some ancient medical texts point that people that were living in some less hygienic circumstances were healthier than the opposite. The same was written for the animals. They were never growing a wild flesh/meat, which can be interpreted as a cancer. Some resent researches indeed prove that the reason for appearing of some cancers and tumors can be the too hygienic living-circumstances. In the dusts and in the dirt are living some kind of bacteria that feed themselves with the cancer cells. There are bacteria that are eating other bacteria and viruses (or inhibit them) and vice-versa. Dogs, for example, that live in the dirt rarely develop cancer; while as pets that happens more often. Consequently I will mention the article of one American hospital (from its doctor) that noticed that his patients liver cancer was becoming smaller while he was having a flew. Hence the microorganisms of the flew are from the same group of microorganisms<sup>2</sup> as the before mentioned: cancer-cells-eating ones. Besides some noticed that some of the longest living human were smokers or the ones that were living in the high mountains in freezing conditions. Maybe it is because they were having reduced immunity all the time. If they take Vitamin C all the time and do everything to increase their immunity, than they will kill the “useful”

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<sup>2</sup> I didn't mention here the name of this microorganism since I don't want to argue with anybody how they should be called. The defining of their name/terminology is still going on.

microorganisms too, the ones` that feed themselves with cancer cells and deadly viruses. So maybe the ones that are coughing a little all the time due to cigarettes, and freezing environment can keep the useful little microorganisms in their organism. I realize that with this I am giving examples from some of the latest SF bestsellers. Well why not? Jules Verne inspired with his novels so many scientists. To support this I can give you some other idea-examples: some people in the ancient times were eating gold and were very healthy (somebody can research this); the people that were wearing hills, not sandals, were living twice longer. Was it because they were wealthier (the ones with the hills) than the others with the sandals (the ones sandals can mean commoners), or because the hills can improve some metabolic processes in the human organism?

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