

INTRODUCTION

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Welcome to the First Published Collection of ITES Presentation Papers

The Preservation Trades Network is proud to be able to provide you with this first of its kind publication. While publishing presentation papers is not uncommon, publishing papers that deal specifically with trades education is. PTN formed the concept of the International Trades Education Initiative [ITEI] in 2004 when it became clear that an important part of PTN's educational mandate was to provide an opportunity for networking the people involved in the process of creating and sustaining programs that provide education in the trades worldwide.

Craftspeople involved in the conservation process must be skilled in traditional materials, tools, and techniques and knowledgeable of preservation methodologies and conservation. As part of multidisciplinary teams including architects, conservators, and other professionals, trades practitioners participate in decisions—both philosophical and technical—that impact the long-term preservation of the built heritage. There is a growing awareness in the United States and abroad that contemporary trades education is not providing the learning opportunities needed to prepare individuals for the complex challenges that arise when conserving historic sites.

The first International Trades Education Symposium [ITES] was held in 2005 in St. Clairsville Ohio at Belmont Technical Institute. There papers were presented by leaders in the field of trades education from Scotland, England, Germany, France, Japan and across the United States. In an effort to validate and sustain the truly international nature of the ITES the next symposium was held in Tallberg Sweden. There representatives from over twenty nations presented papers and exchanged information which was again invaluable and pertinent to the state of education in the traditional trades.

In planning the 2009 conference in Leadville Colorado, Robert Ogle, the Director of the Preservation Program at Colorado Mountain College determined to both focus the presentation of papers at the ITES in order to begin to look at how the efforts of the ITEI could be used to contribute to the development and improvement of trades education programs worldwide and to gather and publish those papers as a resource for future reference. It is with great pride that we present this first edition of published papers from the International Trades Education Symposium. It is sincerely our goal to make this volume one of an ongoing and expanding set of reference papers in this very important field of international traditional trades education.