

EMBRACING THE FUTURE OF HERITAGE PRESERVATION – A SYMPOSIUM ORGANISED BY THE SOUTH AFRICAN PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION GROUP (SAPCON)

VENUE: THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF SOUTH AFRICA – PRETORIA

DATE: 22 – 23 SEPTEMBER 2008

TIME: 08H30 – 17H00

The South African Preservation and Conservation Group (SAPCON) is organising a strategic symposium to guide the group's positioning in the heritage sector as a contributor to the preservation of the national heritage of South Africa. The Symposium will be followed by the Conservation Excursion to Pilgrims Rest museum in Mpumalanga where members will be undertaking professional conservation and preservation work on the museum's collections.

SAPCON is a group of professionals who are practitioners in various disciplines of heritage preservation and conservation and also includes institutions. The group was formed in the 1980s after a symposium organised by the South African Library (now National Library of South Africa) and held at Stellenbosch University. The initial focus for the group was paper and book conservation and the scope has broadened ever since to include heritage preservation.

The purpose for the symposium is to get guidance from the heritage sector as to how the group can move forward and play a more meaningful role to fulfil the needs of the sector. Speakers at the Symposium will range from heritage managers and practitioners, conservators and founder members of SAPCON.

The symposium will start on the 22nd of September and will continue on the morning of the 23rd, followed by the group's annual general meeting in the

afternoon. It is befitting that the symposium coincides with the launch of the exhibition “Timbuktu Scripts and Scholarship” which is an exhibition of 40 manuscripts from the Ahmed Baba Institute which are travelling to several venues in South Africa. The exhibition was officially opened at the Castle of Good Hope in Cape Town by President Mbeki. South Africa has been assisting Mali in preserving this precious heritage and the conservation work on this project is led Mr SAPCON national Chairperson Alexio Motsi.

For further information on the Symposium please contact Alexio Motsi on 0828014984 or send e-mail to Alexio.Motsi@dac.gov.za