

France and Lighthouse Preservation : achievements in the last 5 years

Vincent Guigueno
 Conservateur en chef du patrimoine
 Maritime Administration, Ministry of Ecology

This paper is a survey a recent actions involving the LH Heritage Mission created by the Ministry of Ecology in 2009. The field of LH heritage is obviously broader :

œ Questions of « real » LH property, preservation and use are addressed in collaboration with the LH administration, including the transfer to other public bodies or local government. This is a very complicated topic which is not mature.

œ Technical issues (as the implementation of new technologies in traditionnal AtoN) are under the responsibility of the CEREMA (public body dedicated to science and technology under control of the Ministry of Culture)

My contribution mainly focus on cultural initiatives, often in relation with the French Ministry of Culture, which acknowledged the value of LH as a major coastal heritage of France.

1. Listed buildings and ships program (with the French Ministry of Culture)

More than 90 buildings listed in the last 3 years
 Lightship *Havre III* to be listed soon
 Inventory of LH service historical fleet (in progress)

A book published by the 2 ministries, Ecology and Culture, in november 2013 (see published material section)

2. French Lighthouse Museum

A public body (« groupement d'intérêt public ») will be created in early 2015 to manage the actual museum (Lighthouse of Créach, Ouessant Island) and to create a new facility on the mainland to protect historical artefacts and launch projects. The museum is to be seen on coastlight.net in a short film produced between France and Norway : <http://www.coastlight.net/detaljer/?req=3349>

3. Network

Creation in 2010 of a « Lighthouse Seminar » bringing together LH service people, local government, NGO. 50 to 80 people, 3 days of seminar, including conferences, technical tours...
 Creation of a collaborative website: www.pharesdefrance.fr to promote LH opened to the public

4. Digital projects

Website dedicated to the history of Cordouan (www.cordouan.culture.fr, english version) with 3D reconstruction in partnership with Dassault System

Digitalization of the Lighthouse Commission archives (1811) in partnership with French National Archives (see the 2 days seminar 6th and 7th of november

Creation of a digital Lighthouse Library, in partnership with the Ecole des Ponts (www.bibliothequedesphares.fr), including english materials

5. Exhibitions (as guest curator)

Phares, Musée de la Marine, mars-novembre 2012 (100 000 visitors) (650 artefacts, 1000 m2) (guest curator)

Phares d'Algérie, Institut Français d'Algérie, 2012 (contemporary pictures and archives)

Phares de Norvège, Musée des Phares d'Ouessant, 17 juillet-30 septembre 2012 (contemporary pictures by Rune Nylund Larsen), exhibition cosponsored by the FyrMuseum of Norway

Cap Spartel, le paysage d'un phare, Institut Français du Maroc (Tanger), 15-30 octobre 2014 (contemporary photographs by Frank Guillaume)

6. Published material

Books

« La Commission des phares : 200 ans au service de la sécurité de la navigation », Hors série de la revue *Pour Mémoire*, Comité d'Histoire du Ministère de l'Écologie/CGEDD, 2011 (direction de la publication)

Les Phares, Gallimard (Collection Découvertes), 2012

Phares. Monuments historiques des côtes de France, Editions du Patrimoine, 2013 (with François Goven)

Les Phares, patrimoine des côtes de France, Ministère de l'Écologie, du Développement Durable et de l'Énergie, 2014

Articles

« Cordouan. Le phare des Lumières », *Le Chasse-Marée*, mai 2011, n° 232, p. 42-51

« Phares d'Ecosse : les lumières du Nord », *Le Chasse-Marée*, mars 2012, n° 239, p. 40-49

« La part d'ombre des lumières d'Irlande », *Le Chasse-Marée*, décembre 2013, n°255, p. 56-65

« Mémoire des bateaux-feux », *Le Chasse-Marée*, décembre 2014, n°264, p. 26-35

A statement... and a question

LH Heritage projects could be effective outside « real lighthouses » : Digital projects, archives centers, libraries, museums...

Do we, members of the IALA Heritage Forum, want to go on these tracks, on a international level ?
If the answer is yes, how ?