

Plastics Heritage European Association Newsletter

Editor: Sofia Rodrigues and Maria Elvira Callapez

Plastics Heritage European Association

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PHEA



Red slipper with white heart in polyethylene. Detail of its state of preservation in 2018: presence of white efflorescence. Private collection of Isabel Florentino. Photo: Inês Soares.



EDITORIAL: FESTIVE NOTE

Dear Colleagues,

It is with great pleasure that we address you once again. Over this past year, PHEA has released three quarterly newsletters to promote and captivate our readers' attention to the importance of plastics in our contemporary society. The forth issue of the PHEA newsletter will be this year's last.

The time for celebration is once again upon us. In the spirit of the festive season, we hope you spend the best of holidays, in the company of your loved ones. On behalf of the Editorial Team, we wish you a Very Happy New Year. But with the New Year come new challenges. Thus, we urge you to celebrate responsibly, bearing in mind the potential environmental impact of our waste.

We warmly thank our Readers and all who have been kindly contributing to the development of the PHEA project. The PHEA Newsletter will be back next year, with better and improved content.

Kind regards,

Maria Elvira Callapez
Sofia Rodrigues

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We would like your contribution

If you have any suggestion or recommendation, do not hesitate to contact us at mariaelvira.callapez@gmail.com (Maria Elvira Callapez) and sofia.pinto.rod@gmail.com (Sofia Rodrigues)

To all PHEA members:

- 1) During our first meeting in Brussels, we have decided to publish the PHEA-Newsletter.
- 2) In a future PHEA web page we would like to publish e.g. photos of the formation meeting in Brussels and of e.g. future Plastics Heritage Conferences.

If you do not explicitly contradict, you agree that you want to be in the PHEA mailing list, to obtain the PHEA-information and to publish from PHEA events photos including your person.

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS ON PLASTICS

Third International Seminar on the Material Culture of Physics

18.02.2019 – 22.02.2018

Munich, Germany

[See more](#)

ERC Healthy Self as Body Capital & Centre for History in Public Health London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine International Conference

27.02.2019 – 01.03.2019

London, UK

[See more](#)

Conference 'Collections in Circulation'

09.05.2019 – 10.05.2019

London, UK

[See more](#)

International Conference on Simplicities and Complexities

22.05.2019 – 24.05.2019

Bonn, Germany

[See more](#)

Sixth Annual Conference on the History of Recent Social Science (HISRESS)

13.06.2019- 14.06.2019

Berlin, Germany

[See more](#)

EURO 2019 - 30th European Conference on Operational Research (EURO 30th)

23.06.2019 – 26.06.2019

Dublin, Ireland

[See more](#)

9th Tensions of Europe Conference "Decoding Europe: Technological Pasts in the Digital Age"

27.06.2019 – 30.06.2019

Esch-sur-Alzette, Luxembourg

[See more](#)

IUPAC 2019

05.07.2019– 12.07.2019

Paris, France

[See more](#)

SCIENCE IN PUBLIC 2019

10.07.2019 – 12.07.2019

Manchester, UK

[See more](#)

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS ON PLASTICS

12th International Conference on the History of Chemistry

29.07.2019-02.08.2019

Maastricht, The Netherlands

[See more](#)

16th International Congress on Logic, Methodology and Philosophy of Science and Technology (CLMPST 2019)

05.08.2019-10.08.2019

Prague, Czech Republic

[See more](#)

EXHIBITIONS AND FAIRS

EXHIBITIONS AND FAIRS ON PLASTICS

Bruno Munari. *I colori della luce*

29.11.2018 – 20.03.2019

Fondazione Plart, Naples, Italy

[See more](#)

Tadashi Kawamata. *Over Flow*

05.10.2018- 10.04.2019

MAAT, Lisbon, Portugal

[See more](#)

NEWS

NEWS ON PLASTICS

WHY PLASTIC HAS BEEN NAMED MATERIAL OF THE YEAR AT LONDON DESIGN FESTIVAL 2018

Plastic is one of the most controversial products of the modern world, but a host of designers are hoping to change the way we use it, explains Roddy Clarke

Source: [see more](#)

PLASTICS PIONEERS ASSOCIATION SUPPORTS PRESERVATION OF PLASTICS HISTORY AT SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Knowing the history of plastics is important to the future of the industry. The Plastics Artifacts Collection was accumulated originally by the National Plastics Center & Museum (NPCM) in Leominster, MA. In 2008, the collection of artifacts, histories and biographies, books and magazines that was formerly housed at the NPCM was moved to the Special Collections Research Center (SCRC) at Syracuse University.

Source: [see more](#)

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT APPROVES SWEEPING BAN ON SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

The European parliament has overwhelmingly backed a wide-ranging ban on single-use plastics in an effort to tackle pollution in seas, fields and waterways.

Source: [see more](#)

HUMANS REALLY ARE INTERACTING WITH MICROPLASTICS. WHAT NOW?

O teste foi realizado apenas em oito pessoas (todas de países diferentes), mas os resultados são alarmantes: em todas as amostras foram encontradas partículas microscópicas de plástico nas fezes. Que consequências terão para a saúde? A resposta não é conclusiva.

Source: [see more](#)

"PLASTIC ISLAND" IMAGINES THE POSSIBILITIES OF REUSING OCEANIC WASTE IN ARCHITECTURE

With rising sea levels and incessant consumption of plastic, the state of the earth's oceans is rapidly deteriorating. Instead of discarding or burning this plastic, architects Erik Goksøyr and Emily-Claire Goksøyr questioned whether any architectural potential exists in this neglected material. By conducting an extensive material study, the duo designed three prototypes to postulate this theory.

Source: [see more](#)

"TO TACKLE PLASTICS THERE NEEDS TO BE A POLITICAL REVOLUTION ON A GLOBAL SCALE"

Nos anos 90, Charles Moore descobriu a grande acumulação de lixo no Pacífico Norte. Desde então, tem viajado pelo mundo para nos alertar sobre os seus possíveis impactos. Veio a Portugal para avisar que estamos longe de estar preparados para vencer a batalha contra os plásticos.

Source: [see more](#)

ARTICLES

ARTICLES ON PLASTICS

HOW POLYETHENE CAME ABOUT

Michels, T. (2018). How polyethene came about. *Europhysics News*, 49(4), 19–22.

[See more](#)

CLASSIFYING DEGRADED MODERN POLYMERIC MUSEUM ARTEFACTS BY THEIR SMELL

Curran, K., Underhill, M., Grau-Bové, J., Fearn, T., Gibson, L. T., & Štrlič, M. (2018). Classifying Degraded Modern Polymeric Museum Artefacts by Their Smell. *Angewandte Chemie - International Edition*, 57(25), 7336–7340.

[See more](#)

CHEMISTS' RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE HEALTH IMPACTS OF CHEMICALS: GREEN CHEMISTRY AND ITS RELATION TO TOXICOLOGY

Maxim, L. (2017). Chemists' responsibility for the health impacts of chemicals: Green chemistry and its relation to toxicology. *HYLE – International Journal for Philosophy of Chemistry*, 23(1), 61–80.

[See more](#)

UNDOING CHEMICAL INDUSTRY LOCK-INS: POLYVINYL CHLORIDE AND GREEN CHEMISTRY

Iles, A., Martin, A., & Rosen, C. M. (2017). Undoing chemical industry lock-ins: Polyvinyl chloride and green chemistry. *HYLE – International Journal for Philosophy of Chemistry*, 23(1), 29–60.

[See more](#)

BOOKS

BOOKS ON PLASTICS

Fk Plastic - 101 Ways To Free Yourself From Plastic And Save The World (2018)**

Is the thought of the 51 trillion pieces of plastic in our oceans keeping you up at night? Don't panic! The war on plastic has begun and you are a key component in it. In this book you'll find 101 little things you as an individual can do to avoid single-use plastics and help save the world.

Governments, brands and corporations around the globe are on the case to solve the plastic epidemic, but whilst we wait for the effects of those initiatives to trickle through and alternatives to plastic to be found, let's hit the ground running. In this proactive illustrated book, you'll find 101 simple ways to cut plastic from:

- *FOOD AND DRINK* e.g. freeze fresh veg rather than buying frozen, and buy beeswax wrap over clingfilm.
 - *AROUND THE HOUSE* e.g. buy bars of soap instead of hand dispensers and swap scourers for natural cloths.
 - *YOUR LIFESTYLE* e.g. how to have a plastic-free party and find good plastic-free make-up.
- Together we can save our oceans - and we will!*

Source: [see more](#)

Museum Activism (2019)

Only a decade ago, the notion that museums, galleries and heritage organisations might engage in activist practice, with explicit intent to act upon inequalities, injustices and environmental crises, was met with scepticism and often derision. Seeking to purposefully bring about social change was viewed by many within and beyond the museum community as inappropriately political and antithetical to fundamental professional values. Today, although the idea remains controversial, the way we think about the roles and responsibilities of museums as knowledge based, social institutions is changing. Museum Activism examines the increasing significance of this activist trend in thinking and practice.

At this crucial time in the evolution of museum thinking and practice, this ground-breaking volume brings together more than fifty contributors working across six continents to explore, analyse and critically reflect upon the museum's relationship to activism. Including contributions from practitioners, artists, activists and researchers, this wide-ranging examination of new and divergent expressions of the inherent power of museums as forces for good, and as activists in civil society, aims to encourage further experimentation and enrich the debate in this nascent and uncertain field of museum practice.

Museum Activism elucidates the largely untapped potential for museums as key intellectual and civic resources to address inequalities, injustice and environmental challenges. This makes the book essential reading for scholars and students of museum and

heritage studies, gallery studies, arts and heritage management, and politics. It will be a source of inspiration to museum practitioners and museum leaders around the globe.

James, R. J., & Sandell, R. (Eds.)

Source: [see more](#)

OTHER INITIATIVES

Narrative Science

We are a group of historians and philosophers of science funded by the ERC under the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme (grant agreement No. 694732). We are based in London, UK.

Here you will find an introduction to the project, its motivations, and objectives. In addition, we are developing a library of case studies demonstrating the functions of narrative in science and also resources for pursuing your own questions about narrative.

[See more](#)

Leonardo Network Newsletter

The Leonardo Network Newsletter (LNN) is sent out via email twice a month and includes news, information about upcoming events, calls for papers, announcements about projects, opportunity listings and more.

[See more](#)

4Cs – From Conflict to Conviviality through Creativity and Culture

4Cs: *From Conflict to Conviviality through Creativity and Culture* is a European Cooperation Project co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union. The 4Cs seeks to understand how training and education in art and culture can constitute powerful resources to address the issue of conflict as well as to envision creative ways in which to deal with conflictual phenomena, while contributing to audience development through active participation and co-production. The project aims at advancing the conceptual framework of intercultural dialogue and enhancing the role of public arts and cultural institutions in fostering togetherness through cultural diversity and intercultural encounters

[See more](#)

Boots Company Archive

This digital archive holds around 27,000 entries and includes photographs, letters, advertisements, building plans, and colleague magazines. It gives anyone interested in the history of the business the opportunity to discover and study resources rich in detail.

[See more](#)

ELEMENTARIUM: The Periodic Table on line

L'Élémentarium est le nouveau site internet pour tout savoir sur les éléments à l'origine de notre quotidien. Conçu pour le plus grand nombre, il permet de comprendre la place et le rôle des éléments dans notre quotidien à travers des illustrations concrètes, des données physico-chimiques et des données industrielles.

[See more](#)

Journal of Applied History

The Journal of Applied History (JOAH) is an interdisciplinary, peer-reviewed scholarly journal concerned with the application of historical knowledge and insights to current matters. As such it seeks to promote long-term thinking when considering the causes and implications of present affairs and issues.

[See more](#)

Precious Plastic Portugal

O movimento Precious Plastic, que nasce para combater a poluição do plástico, desenvolveu uma série de máquinas que permitem a qualquer um reciclar o plástico e transformá-lo em qualquer outra coisa. No Porto, o Precious Plastic Portugal constrói estas máquinas e vende-as para todo o mundo, assim como abrem as portas do seu espaço para quem quiser experimentar e criar algo precioso com o plástico

[See more](#)

Plastic Pollution Coalition

Plastic Pollution Coalition is a growing global alliance of individuals, organizations, businesses, and policymakers working toward a world free of plastic pollution and its toxic impacts on humans, animals, waterways and oceans, and the environment.

[See more](#)

ISHPSSB OSLO MEETING

05.07.2019 – 12.07.2019

Oslo, Norway

[See more](#)

Issue 10 of Science Museum Group Journal

This year is significant both as the centenary of women's suffrage and the Year of Engineering. In our final issue of 2018, we celebrate these significant markers by turning the spotlight on women scientists with a mini-collection of special papers. Read about the pioneering work of Hertha Ayrton, the first female member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers, and Blanche Thornycroft, a true pioneer among female naval architects. Explore the under-acknowledged role of women in the railways in the early twentieth century, find out what photographs can say about attitudes towards women scientists, and discover how well (or not) Wikipedia represents women engineers today. You'll also find articles on subjects ranging from Victorian technologies of display to the challenges of exhibiting contemporary science, from the changing 'voices' of objects over time to an enlightening review of three exhibitions by artist Tacita Dean. We're sure you'll agree that Issue 10 of the Science Museum Group Journal has something for everyone.

[See more](#)

Plastics China Documentary

Yi-Jie, an 11-year-old girl, works alongside her parents in a recycling facility while dreaming of attending school. Kun, the facility's ambitious foreman, dreams of a better life. Through the eyes and hands of those who handle its refuse, an examination of global consumption and culture. PLASTIC CHINA brings us front and center into the lives of a community/culture barely heard from who toil daily in waste from around the globe - washing, cleaning and recycling the plastic garbage - and still living in poverty, yet harnessing the same dreams of education, good health and upward mobility as everyone else. This is not the China we see on TV.

[See more](#)

All Things Bakelite: The Age of Plastic - Documentary Film - Two-disc DVD box set

All Things Bakelite: The Age of Plastic, a film by John Maher, is a virtual periodic table of elements that combine to create a joyous and provocative story about the "father of modern plastics". In 1907, Leo Hendrik Baekeland, a Belgian-born American chemist, made one of the most transformative discoveries of the 20th century: Bakelite. It was the first wholly synthetic plastic and it ushered in an explosion of new man-made materials that marked the beginnings of our modern industrial age.

[See more](#)

PRIZES

Maurice Daumas Prize – ICOHTEC's Article Prize

The International Committee for the History of Technology, ICOHTEC, welcomes submissions for the Maurice Daumas Prize, which aims to encourage innovative scholarship in the history of technology. ICOHTEC is interested in the history of technological development as well as its relationship to science, society, economy, culture and the environment. There is no limitation as to theoretical or methodological approaches.

The prize will be awarded to the author of the best article submitted which deals with the history of technology in any period of the past or in any part of the world and which was published in a journal or edited volume in 2017 or 2018. Eligible for the prize are original articles published in (or later translated into) any of the official ICOHTEC languages (English, French, German, Russian or Spanish). Submissions are welcomed from scholars of any country who are currently in graduate school or have received their doctorate within the last seven years. Please send your submission and a brief (not to exceed one-page) cv to each of the six Prize Committee members no later than 15 January 2019. Electronic submissions are preferred. The winner will be contacted in late April 2019.

The prize will be awarded at our 46th Symposium, to be held in Katowice, Poland, in summer 2019 (22-27 July 2019). The winner will receive a cash prize of Euro 500 as well as a travel grant of Euro 300 (if needed) to attend the ICOHTEC Symposium, which will feature a special panel organized around the winning article. The Daumas Prize is sponsored by the Université de Technologie de Belfort-Montbéliard (UTBM), France.

PRIZE COMMITTEE

Maria Elvira Callapez, Pl. Dr., [Prize Committee Chairperson],
CIUHCT, Faculdade de Ciências, Universidade de Lisboa, **Portugal**
Email: mariaelviraacallapez@gmail.com

Antoni Roca-Rosell, Dr.
Universitat Politècnica de Catalunya
Barcelona, Catalunya, **Spain**
Email: antoni.roca-rosell@upc.edu

Eike-Christian Heine, Dr.
Technische Universität Braunschweig, **Germany**
Email: eikechristian.heine@gmail.com

Laurent Heyberger, Dr.
Université de technologie de Belfort-Montbéliard (UTBM), **France**
Email: laurent.heyberger@utbm.fr

Liliia Zemnukhova, PhD

Sociological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (SI RAN), St. Petersburg, **Russian Federation**

l.zemnukhova@gmail.com

Lino Camprubí, Dr.

Universidad de Sevilla, Facultad de Filosofía, **Spain**

Email: lcamprubi@us.es

MAURICE DAUMAS (1910 - 1984) – The French Trailblazer

The history of technology would never have become a prominent field of historical research without energetic pathbreakers. Maurice Daumas was one of them. One of his better known early works is *Les instruments scientifiques aux XVIIe et XVIIIe siècles*, which was also published in English. Between 1962 and 1978, he edited a highly acclaimed history of technology, *Histoire générale des techniques*, in five volumes, which has been translated into English and Spanish, and used as a textbook in various countries. In France, Daumas was also the pioneer of industrial archaeology. Daumas was the first secretary general of ICOHTEC and the host of its symposium at Pont-à-Mousson in 1970.

For further information about Daumas:

http://www.persee.fr/web/revues/home/prescript/issue/rhs_0151-4105_1984_num_37_3

For information about ICOHTEC: <http://www.icohtec.org>

CALL FOR PAPERS

The International Committee for the History of Technology's 46th Symposium in Katowice, Poland, 22 – 27 July 2019

TECHNOLOGY AND POWER

Deadline for proposals is Tuesday, 15 January 2019

Social theorists from Max Weber to Jürgen Habermas have argued that power relations are among the defining characteristics of every society, along with culture and economic relations. The main theme of this conference, *Technology and Power*, seeks to interrogate the various roles technologies have played in the development of power relations in the past, in different parts of the world. Political power (local, state, and inter-state) is the most obvious of these, but relations of gender, sexuality, race, ethnicity, class, labour, age, and so on, also include elements of power. Technologies have instrumental, mediating, undermining, reinforcing, and constructive roles in all of these relations. Some technologies have been used by elites, others have served the relatively powerless. Think of weapons as means of state power, but also as instruments of revolution; the printed word as a vehicle of state and church propaganda, but also as a disrupter of all kinds of authority; contraceptive devices and pills that have changed relations between the sexes and in families. Power is usually contested, and technologies often change the chances of those involved in these conflicts.

The recent interest in transnational history has extended the range of these topics and revealed their interconnectedness. Technological change is disrespectful of national borders: technical knowledge and technicians travel, and new technologies of communication and transport transform balances of trade and power on a worldwide scale. We have only begun to explore these global dimensions, and the symposium will offer the opportunity to push this project forward.

A broad but non-exhaustive list of possible topics for paper presentations follows. Proposals and presentations on a wide spectrum of topics related to the general theme are very much encouraged. Proposals outside the main theme will also be considered.

1. Technology and the State

Engineers and architects in power

- forms of technocracy across the world and in different times
- case studies of technocrats
- large technocratic projects (think of TVA or the post WWII dam building projects in the third world, and similar projects in earlier times)

The State and the economy, from mercantilism to the present

- energy politics
- technical education
- stimulating small companies, from crafts to modern start-ups

State power and military technology

- military technology and the rise of the modern nation-state
- technology-driven military revolutions
- war and technological change
- military and technological aspects of unconventional warfare
- military technology in non-military settings
- military-industrial (-academic) complexes (not only US)

Technical forms of government

- technologies of surveillance (as in border control, security services, public health)
- environmental governance
- managing populations by means of statistics or eugenics

Technology and international relations

2. Design as politics

Urban planning across the world: the design of city life, transit infrastructures, ecological urbanism
Scripting the everyday: attempts to shape life through the design of homes, offices and products for everyday use

Design fantasies: technological utopias and dystopias

Design and political ideology, from totalitarianism to neoliberalism; design activism (as in DIY and the 'maker movement')

3. Power and the body

The rise of Big Pharma

Reproductive technology, gender and family relations

Self-monitoring technologies, the 'quantified self'

Resisting and rejecting modern medical interventions; alternative and non-western health care practices

4. Maintaining, repairing, and appropriating technologies

Repair and maintenance of large technological systems

Everyday cultures of maintenance and repair in developed and developing nations

Sites of repair: factories, workshops, maker-labs, and homes

Hacking and modifying digital and material things

Proposal Guidelines

The symposium covers all periods and all areas of the globe. In keeping with a cherished tradition of the field, the meeting is open to scholars from all disciplines and backgrounds.

The conference language is English.

Members of ICOHTEC pay a reduced fee.

Proposal submissions

The final deadline for all submissions is **Tuesday 15 January 2019**.

Please check updated instructions on submissions at our website: <http://www.icohtec.org/>.

Please submit your session, individual paper, or poster, online:

<http://www.icohtec.org/annual-meeting/cfp-system/2019-katowice/>

The submission form should guide you through the submission process, but if you need further explanation, you can find it in the pdf document 'Technical instructions', which you can download from the opening page of the submission form.

If you want to submit a proposal for a session in another format, please contact the chair of the Program Committee, Dick van Lente, at vanlente@eshcc.eur.nl

Annual Call for Proposals: Special Issues of Centaurus

Centaurus, the official Journal of the European Society for the History of Science, regularly publishes issues dedicated to a special theme. Recently published special issues include:

- Tercentenary of D'Alembert's Birth (1717-1783): A Review of the Latest Research.
- The Promises of Science: Historical Perspectives.
- How Do Writings in the Early Astral Sciences Reveal Mathematical Practices?
- Scoops, Scams and Scuffles: The Construction of Prehistoric Knowledge in Newspapers.

The ESHS and the Editorial Board of *Centaurus* are now soliciting proposals for special issues for **2020 and 2021**.

Proposals should include the following:

1. A description of the topic and its significance (approximately 500 words).
2. A list of 6 to 10 contributors and a title and paragraph describing each contributor's individual essay. Note that we would normally expect a diverse set of authors.
3. A brief CV of the guest editor(s).
4. A schedule of production (date of first submission; time for peer review; time for revisions; final version ready).

Centaurus is growing and special issues can now be larger than before. More than 150 pages (75,000 words) are available for a special issue. All topics that fall within the scope of the journal can be chosen. See the website of the journal at:

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/%28ISSN%291600-0498>

For more detailed information for authors, see the author guidelines at:

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/16000498/homepage/forauthors.html>

We are especially looking forward to receiving proposals for interdisciplinary special issues.

The committee selecting the special issues will be composed of the editorial board and ESHS representatives. Criteria include the quality, innovative character and interest of the proposal, the expertise of the guest editor(s), the expertise and diversity of the authors, and the coherence and feasibility of the project.

Deadline: proposals should be sent to the editor (at the address below) no later than January 15, 2019. The results of the selection process will be announced in February 2019.

If you cannot make this deadline, please send a note to the Editor, and it may be possible to negotiate a different deadline. Ad hoc proposals will also be considered, but proposals sent in response to the Annual Call will receive priority.

PAST EVENTS

PAST EVENTS ON PLASTICS AND THE HISTORY OF SCIENCE

**SEMINÁRIO -
Desenvolvimentos e
desafios na validação
de embalagens para
alimentos. Migração
e Avaliação de risco.**

12.11.2018

Porto, Portugal

[See more](#)

**IN THE SHADOW
OF A CENTENNIAL:
WRITING THE
HISTORY OF IUPAC
(1919-2019)**

16.11.2018

Paris, France

[See more](#)



Noite Europeia dos Investigadores

The Conservation and Restoration Department (FCT NOVA) was present at the European Researchers' Night (NEI2018) to promote the conservation work carried out by the project 'The Triumph of Bakelite - Contributions to a History of Plastics in Portugal'. This project, developed by CIUHCT (FCUL) and DCR (FCT NOVA), is coordinated by researcher Maria Elvira Callapez. This event took place at the National Museum of Natural History and Science (MUHNAC / MULisboa), on September 28th. With the activity entitled "Cultural Cultural Objects in Plastic - A Heritage to Discover and Preserve", researchers Susana França de Sá, Inês Soares, Sara Babo and Joana Lia Ferreira introduce how the conservation sciences contribute to the writing of the national history of cultural heritage in plastic.

[See more](#)