

ICME Newsletter 31, January 2002

Contents:

- Words from the President
- The last paper issue of ICME news!
- ICME 2002
- ICME DURING ICOM 2001 BARCELONA
- ICME Board 2001-2003
- International Expedition to the Pyrenees 2001
- ICME publications
- Central and fascinating discussions in museum anthropology
- Conferences

Words from the President

Barcelona 2001 and Lusaka/Livingstone 2002

Dear all of you,

A large General Conference is a nightmare to prepare for everybody involved. The local representative of the international committee will often find oneself in the worst position, being under pressure both from the board of the international committee wanting this and that, and from the local congress company, whose interest and capacities as a rule go in completely other directions.

Thank you Dolores!!!

In 2002 we go to Zambia

The Zambian museums are poor. They hardly get enough from the authorities whether they are national or municipal to pay wages and taking care of the basic daily work. And they are heavily dependent on foreign donor agencies for all kinds of investments and change.

The situation is not in any way unique to Zambia. On the contrary: It is a well known situation in many poor countries throughout the world.

Why do we go there? Our colleagues in Zambia and those in similar museums need to sit down and exchange viewpoints with museum professionals from other parts of the world. They need inspiration and ideas, they need meaning and useful practical advice. And they may definitely give the same back.

And by the way: A peaceful and friendly 2002 to all of you!

Per B. Rekdal
President

The last paper issue of ICME news (for unregistered members)

ICME's policy is that communication with members will primarily be electronic. ICME news is now available on the ICME web page, and is sent electronically to all members with registered email addresses.

This will be the last issue which is sent directly in paper copy to members who still have not registered their email addresses in the ICME newsgroup. Starting from issue 32, only members who specifically ask for ICME news in paper copy will receive in the post. That means that , Ethnographic Collection, The National Museum of Denmark, 12. Frederiksholms Kanal, DK-1220 Copenhagen K, Denmark, tel.: +4533473206/03/04, fax.: +4533473320, e-mail: espen.waehle@natmus.dk

In the future, all newsletters and information about web page updates will be sent through the newsgroup. The newsgroup also allows members themselves to distribute messages.

In order to become a member of the ICME newsgroup, you must have access to an email address. If you don't have an email address, or if you wish to receive messages on a different address than your regular account, you might want to use one of the many free email services which are now available.

You may become a member of the ICME newsgroup by either sending an email message to icme-subscribe@yahoogroups.com or by registering for membership on the newsgroup web page at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/icme>

Remember that address changes (both email, postal address and telephone/fax) need to be reported both to your ICOM national committee, as well as to ICME!

ICME conference 2002

The National Museums Board of Zambia (NMB)
The International Committee for Museums of Ethnography (ICME)

invite you to

Lusaka and Livingstone, Zambia July 28 - August 2, 2002

"High Expectations, but Low Funding: How do poor museums meet their targets?"

Many museums in different parts of the world have for years been poorly - or even barely - funded, in spite of being in many cases important national institutions. Donor agencies have been important in dealing with short-term projects and special investments, but generally do not support the daily running of the museums.

In spite of this everyday poverty; what are the possibilities for such museums to function meaningfully, or even become more active?

The NMB/ICME invite participants to a conference focusing on this theme. The purpose is to exchange very concretely how to do it-ideas, but also to discuss principles: what is, what should be the function and meaning of poor museums in poor countries?

Meaningful roles for museums in rapidly growing cities

The first part of the conference will be in Lusaka, with the Lusaka Museum as our starting point. Lusaka is a city characterised by rapid growth, with a large influx of people moving to the city with the hope of a better future. The Lusaka Museum is relatively new in its present shape, situated in a large building very close to the city centre. We will learn about the Lusaka Museum's work so far, about experiences from other museums in related circumstances, and discuss the future potential for museums in this kind of rapidly growing cities.

The second part of the conference will be in Livingstone, centring on the possibilities for museums in tourism. Livingstone is an old town, close to the famous Victoria Falls. Tourism has over the last almost 100 years been most developed on the Zimbabwean side of the Falls, but lately also the Zambian side has seen a tremendous growth in the tourist industry, with strong investments from international tourist corporations. The Livingstone Museum is Zambia's oldest - and richest in terms of collections.

So far tourism has concentrated on the Falls and their immediate surroundings. But the tourist industry is looking for ways to make the tourists stay longer, that is: develop new attractions. The traditional culture of the peoples of the region is one key word, the colonial charm of old Livingstone another. The challenges for the museums are many:

- How can tourism generate more income for the museum?
- How can one develop the touristic interest of the museum *as well as* increase the use and relevance of the museum in relation to the local population?
- What are the pros and cons in using "living traditional" local culture as a tourist attraction?

These are challenges not only for the Livingstone museum, but also for other museums in related situations.

Livingstone also has a charming railway museum, and on the way to Livingstone we will visit the Tonga Museum in Choma; a successful small museum. In which ways is it a success? And what can be learned from it?

Pre-conference workshop

Immediately preceding the conference, the NMB and the Norwegian Museum Authority will arrange a workshop on the future of the Copperbelt Museum in Ndola. According to plans the Copperbelt Museum will be developed into a museum for the copper industry and a science centre.

Pre- or post-conference visits may be arranged to the Moto Moto Museum in Mbala and the Nayuma Museum in Limulunga respectively, depending on interest.

Practical information

Zambia has an outstanding record for being peaceful and politically stable. Zambians are friendly, not very formal and have a splendid sense of humour.

For visitors, Zambia is divided in two: The facilities used by Zambians are very economical for foreigners and absolutely satisfactory. The facilities for tourists that live on dollars only, and practically only used by foreigners, are expensive. Some of the latter category of facilities, like game parks, is well worth visiting though. A combination can be recommended.

If external funding is achieved, the conference will rent a bus for the duration of the conference. If not, local taxis and other transport are plentiful and very cheap for foreign visitors.

Lusaka can be reached by air directly from London, or via Nairobi or Johannesburg. Economy seats should be booked well in advance.

For non-African visitors the conference can be combined with a holiday visit to game parks or other touristic African experiences.

Visa is required from several countries. Certain vaccinations and Malaria-protective medication are necessary.

Travel grants

A few travel grants may possibly be available for participants from developing countries, especially from other parts of Africa and particularly for participants giving papers of relevance for the themes discussed.

CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite speakers on the themes mentioned above, as well as on other themes of relevance for

ICME.

Please send your name, address, e-mail, title and a short abstract to p.b.rekdal@ukm.uio.no or fax 47 - 22 85 99 60.

IF YOU CONSIDER PARTICIPATING IN THE CONFERENCE, CONTACT: p.b.rekdal@ukm.uio.no AND WE WILL PUT YOU ON OUR MAILING LIST FOR FURTHER INFORMATION.

ICME DURING ICOM 2001 BARCELONA

ICME sessions

The ICME sessions during the General Conference in Barcelona listed interesting contributions from many corners of the world. We are happy that we are able to [publish](#) a number of the papers on the ICME website where you also will find the full list of speakers and themes covered in the Barcelona sessions. A number of the papers inspired a host of questions and good discussions - so all in all it was a very good programme. Again Dolores Soriano saw to all practical problems and had spent considerable time in making it possible for all of us to come together for our paper sessions.

we were given both an introduction to the institution, a tour through the storerooms as well as a guided tour through the exhibitions on Japan and Ecuador. Another interesting part of the programme was our visit to *Fondacio Folch*, it was intriguing to see how a new proud museum on Catalan history was made with very few original objects and a lot of resources to make Catalan history known to the young generation.

Barcelona for the culturally minded

Some of us were lucky and was able to spend some time in Barcelona outside conference hours. It comes as no surprise that Barcelona is one of the favourite places to visit, for tourists of all ages. If you were not able to go to ICME 2001, I can assure you that Barcelona has a number of other attractions, both for the museum lover, the gastronome, the sunbather, the shopper, the bar fly and a lot of others! There has been some heated debate over how public money has been spent to house a private collection, the - there was at least lovely objects, but in my opinion some other Barcelona museums could possibly spend the same money in a better fashion! While we were in Barcelona, the displayed an exhibition on modern art from Africa :*Africas - the artist and the city* housed one of the most exiting archaeological exhibitions I have ever seen on sacred food (grain, olives, vine) and in the cellar you could explore the Roman foundations of the city. The city also has a sizeable collection from Egypt in the *Museu Egipci*. The new chocolate museum (*Museu de la Xocolata*) is recommended to all of you as well as the well established maritime museum (*Drassanes de Barcelona*). All around the city you could enjoy the architecture of Gaudi and Catalan Modernismo, the new visitor center and exhibitions in his large house *La Pedrea* gave good insight into his works. If you are into textiles, there is a lot to see in *Sta. Maria Del Mar*!

ICME Elections

Outgoing members of the board was warmly thanked for their yearlong efforts and all the enthusiasm put into ICME work. The standard T-shirt ceremony was carried out and we were ready to consider elections for the coming three years, also re-electing Per B. Rekdal as President for three

more years. The composition of current ICME board is shown below. After thanking Dolores Soriano officially for her fantastic work in making ICME 2001 such a success for all participants, the board sat down for a short meeting.

ICME Board meeting, Barcelona

The main points covered in the board meeting were:

1. Without too much discussion and without wasting too much time we were able to divide the tasks between the elected members, see the list of board members.
2. The ICME publication strategy was discussed, including publishing on our new website and the use of e-mail as a tool for informing our members.
- 3.

ICME Board 2001 -2003

Per B. Rekdal, president, chairperson for working group on Multicultural Issues

The University Museums of Cultural Heritage

P.O.Box 6762, St. Olavs pl., N-0130 Oslo, Norway

tel: +47 22859961 fax: +47 22859960

e-mail: p.b.rekdal@ukm.uio.no, <http://www.ukm.uio.no/>

Joris Capenberg, secretary, co-correspondent for Western Europe

"De Schans", Weidestraat 10, 3670 Meeuwen-Gruitrode, Belgium

tel/fax: +32(0)11794175

e-mail: joris.capenberg@pi.be

Damodar Frlan, co-correspondent for East-Central Europe,

Director Ethnographic Museum, Mazuranicev trg 14, 10000 Zagreb, Croatia,

tel: +38514550711, 4558544,

fax: +38514558544,

e-mail: damodar.frlan@public.srce.hr

Wedad Hamed, correspondent for Middle East

Director, Material Culture Dept

Academy of Arts

18 El Borsa El Kadima St, Tawfikia, Cairo, EGYPT

Tel: 202 7962273

FAX: 202 3904250 / 3934809

Aldona Jonaitis, correspondent for North America

Director, University of Alaska Museum

907 Yukon Drive, Box 756960, Fairbanks, AK 99775, USA

Tel: (1 907)474 6939

FAX: (1 907)474 5469

e-mail: ffaj@uaf.edu, <http://www.uaf.edu/museum/>

Harrie Leyten, chairperson of the working group on Repatriation, co-correspondent for Western Europe

The Amsterdam school of the arts, Reinwardt Academy/Museology Department, Dapperstraat 315, NL-1093 BS Amsterdam, The Netherlands,

tel: +31206922111,

fax: +31206926836,

e-mail: h.leyten@mus.ahk.nl

Lidija Nikocec, co-correspondent for East-Central Europe

Director, Etnografski Muzej Istre

Trg Istarskog Razvoda 1, 52000 Pazin, CROATIA

Tel 385 52622220

Fax 385 52624351

e-mail: lidija.nikocec@emi-pazin.tel.hr

Maria Camilla de Palma

Castello D'Albertis

Largo Pertini 4, 1621 Genoa, Italy

Tel 00 39 0105574720

Fax 0039 0105574701

e-mail: mcdp64@hotmail.com

Daniel Winfree Papuga, webmaster, co-editor of the Newsletter

Kjelsaasveien 51-f, N-0488 Oslo, Norway

Tel +47 22090683

e-mail: papuga@c2i.net

Lejo Schenk, co-correspondent for Western Europe

Director, Royal Tropical Institute

P.O. Box 95001, 1090 HA Amsterdam, The Netherlands Tel +31 205688268

Fax +31 205688331

e-mail: l.schenk@kit.nl

Gaye Sculthorpe, correspondent for Oceania

Director Indigenous Cultures Program Museum Victoria, GPO Box 666E, MELBOURNE VIC 3000, Australia

tel: +61392912165,

fax: +61392912150

e-mail: gsculth@mov.vic.gov.au

<http://www.mov.vic.gov.au/>

Sujit Som, correspondent for South Asia

National museum of Mankind

Tel +91 0755 661319

Tel+Fax +91 0755 661458

Fax +91 0755 661276

Tel priv +91 0755 465505

e-mail: igmsbpl@mp.nic.in

Dolores Soriano, correspondent for Ibero-America,

tel: +34934246402, 4246807,

fax: +34934237364

e-mail: dsoriano@meridian.es

Shaje Tshiluila, correspondent for Africa

Universite de Kinshasa, B.P. 13933, Kinshasa I, Dem. Rep. Du Congo,

tel: +2438802344, 9903021,

e-mail: inforoute.patri@ic.cd, joshaje@hotmail.com

Head of Department, Ethnographic Collection, The National Museum of Denmark, 12, Frederiksholms Kanal, DK-1220 Copenhagen K, Denmark,

tel.: +4533473206, 03, 04

fax.: +4533473320,

e-mail: espen.waehle@natmus.dk

Corneliu Bucur

Directeur, Muzeul Civilizatiei Populare Traditionale "Astra"

Str. Mica 11 (Dumbrava Sibiului), Sibiu 2400 Jud. Sibiu, ROMANIA

Tel: 40694 15803

Fax: 40694 11806

e-mail: astra@sbx.logicnet.ro (museum office)

International Expedition to the Pyrenees.

At about 7 in the morning on Saturday 7th

On the final day, we visited the Vall de Boi, famous for its Romanesque churches. These were built by Lombard master builders during the 11th and 12th

And so our three-day excursion in the remote and wonderful valleys of the Pyrenees came to an end. We would like to say a big thank you to Dolores Soriano from Barcelona, who organised this exciting programme.

Franziska Lobenhofer-Hirschbold
October 2001

ICME publications on the web

A number of the papers presented in Barcelona have been published on the ICME web site as "ICME papers 2001", and are available for downloading at: <http://www.icom.org/icme>

- Barbara Woroncow (York,UK): Heritage for all - expectations of blacks and Asians towards museums.
- Lidija Nikocecic (Croatia): Trying to grasp Multiculturality - New museological praxis in Istria.
- Lydia Icke-Schwalbe (Germany): The art of craft for social and cultural identity in ethnic groups of India.
-
- Paul Voogt (Holland): Object ID as a tool to fight illicit traffic of cultural heritage
- Joris Capenberghs (Belgium): The new museum concept for the Museum of Central Africa in Tervuren
-

More papers will follow, as we are still awaiting presentations from several authors.

This form of web-publishing is becoming more and more common, since it is a fast and inexpensive way of bringing information to members anywhere in the world.

A common question from authors is whether publishing a paper on the web would ruin their possibility of having the paper published later in a scientific journal. The answer to this is "perhaps". Web publishing (at least in the form that we have chosen here) is equivalent to "working papers" in printed form. The papers have not been juried, and if published later, one merely writes in a footnote that "an earlier version of the paper was presented at...". Alternatively, an abstract of the paper may be published on the web site, with information on which journal the full version will be available on, or with information on how to contact the author in order to order a private copy.

In effect, ICME has a number of publishing forums, of varying levels of formality:

- General information on the web pages, some of which may be duplicated in ICME news.
- Special publications on the web pages, such as conference papers.

- Discussions on the ICME newsgroup, both by the board and the general membership.

Daniel -Winfree Papuga
ICME webmaster

Central and fascinating discussions in museum anthropology

CONTENTS

- Exhibiting Objects. Museum Collections in Policy and Practice.
- Bente Wolff: Money is not for Buying Food, Money is for Buying Things. Modernity and Consumption the Mekeo Way.
-
- Tony Bennett: Past beyond Memories: The Evolutionary Museum, Liberal Government and the Politics of Prehistory.
- Mary Bouquet: Streetwise in Museumland
- Peter Mason: Eighty Brazilian Birds for Johann Georg
- Helle Bundgaard: The Puri Painting of the National Museum in Copenhagen
-
- Brian Durrans: Talking in Museums
- Annesofie Becker: The Companion of Objects: Texts that straddle Narrative and Description
- Torkil Funder: In this Part of the Country
-
- Michael O'Hanlon: The Field of Collecting: Back to the Future
- Anthony Shelton: Museums in an Age of Cultural Hybridity
- Jonathan Friedman: Museums, the State and Global Transformation: From Temple of the Muses to Temple of Amusements
- Book Reviews

Folk vol. 43, 2001 costs 250 DKK (33.6 EUR or 30 USD), postage outside Europe 93 DKK (12.5 EUR or 11 USD), Europe DKK 53 (7 EUR or 6.4 USD), Scandinavia 39 DKK (5.2 EUR) and Denmark 24 DKK. A copy may be ordered from: Folk, c/o Etnografisk Samling, 12. Frederiksholmskanal, DK-1220 Copenhagen K, Denmark or via mail to arne.kirstejn.olsen@natmus.dk

Conferences

January 12-19: . "Towards living heritage" - The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR) (A non-western context). A UNESCO sponsored collaborative stakeholder workshop to be held at Darjeeling.
Contact: Mr. Rajesh Agrawal, Director, National Rail Museum, Chankya Puri, New Delhi- 110021,
email : rajesh_agrawal@vsnl.com, Fax : 91-11-6880804, Tel : 91-11-3304137, under intimation to me
at email: igmsbpl@mp.nic.in, Fax : 91-755-661458 or 661276, Tel : 91-755-661458 (O) 465505 (R).

cinereel@bpi.fr <http://betelgeuse.bpi.fr/6/reel/>

cfe@mnhn.fr

April 8-12: ASA Annual Conference 2002: East Africa - 'Perspectives on time and society: Experience, memory, history' - Arusha, Tanzania. Contacts: Professor Wendy James (University of Oxford), Dr David Mills (University of Birmingham), 51 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6PE, UK; fax: +44 1865 274630; email: asa2002@anthro.ox.ac.uk<http://les1.man.ac.uk/asa/Arusha.htm>

April 17-20: "Museums and the Web" 2002, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.

<http://www.archimuse.com/mw2002/>

iwf.secr-gsw@iwf.de <http://www.iwf.de/gieff.html>

iuc@du.tel.hr

<http://www.hr/iuc/docs/kurs/courses.html>

May 12.-16: "The Community of Museums: Seeking the Common Good" American Association of Museums Annual Meeting 2002, Dallas, Texas, USA

July 29 - August 2: NMB/ICME conference 2002. "High Expectations, but Low Funding: How do poor museums meet their targets?" Held in Lusaka and Livingstone, Zambia. Contact: Per B. Rekdal, The University Museums of Cultural Heritage, P.O.Box 6762 St. Olavs pl. , N-0130 Oslo, Norway, Tel. (-47) 22859964 Fax (-47) 22859960. email: p.b.rekdal@ukm.uio.no <http://www.icom.org/icme>

lkurti@helka.iif.hu

August 30 -September 2: 13th Congress of the European Anthropological Association, Zagreb. "A quarter of a century of the European Anthropological Association: Reflections and perspectives". Contact: Institute for Anthropological Research, Amruseva 8, 10 000 Zagreb, Croatia; tel.: +385 1 4816903; fax: +385 1 4813777; email: eaacongress@luka.inantro.hr, <http://luka.inantro.hr>

September 29- October 4: ICOM/CECA Conference "Museum Education as a Product: Who is buying?" in Nairobi, Kenya. Contact: Elizabeth Ouma or Frederick Karanja Mirara, ICOM-CECA 2002 Organising Committee, National Museums of Kenya, P.O. Box 40658, NAIROBI, Kenya. Tel:+254 [02] 742878, 742131/4, 448930/33 Fax:+245 [02] 741424 email: nmkeduc@museums.or.ke

November 20-24: American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting, Hyatt Regency hotel, New Orleans, LA, USA.

ICME - International Committee for Museums and Collections of Ethnography

<http://www.icom.org/icme>

Mailing address: ICME, Ethnographic Collection, The National Museum of Denmark,

12. Frederiksholms Kanal, DK-1220 Copenhagen K, Denmark,

tel.: +4533473206/03/04, fax.: +4533473320,

e-mail: espen.waehle@natmus.dk or papuga@c2i.net

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