

ICME News 25

Dear ICME-members,

Over the last years the number of members in ICME have increased and the potential tasks for a committee like ICME are many and important.

In Africa and Asia many new museums of ethnography are created, seeking their own way but also seeking to learn from the experiences of more established museums. In Eastern Europe museums of ethnography are opening up to the rest of the world. In Western Europe and North America new multicultural situations are creating new challenges.

An increasing market in art and antiques is exploiting countries with bad economy, a rich cultural heritage and badly controlled borders. In this market cultural objects are shamelessly offered to collectors and museums in the richer part of the world. In our committee we must keep up the fight against this illicit trade of cultural objects and for the repatriation of illicitly acquired objects.

And the debate over how we as museum professionals are presenting other societies, other cultures, other individuals is not new, but has spread from North America (presentations of Amerindians) to Australia, Europe and other parts of the world. I have not mentioned Latin America and indeed ICME have regrettably few members in that part of the world; this we have to do something about. And of Oceania - half of the world - we will learn in October and onwards in the years to come.

With challenges as exciting as these we must try to make the board and the working groups function as actively as possible. We all know the conflicts we may experience between the duties of our daily work and the self-elected duties stemming from voluntary activities - like in ICME. Both our daily work and the voluntary activities ought to be complementary to each other and a source of pleasure. If we distribute the work loads as well as the inspirations, it may be (even) more fun to be member of the ICME board, or one of the working groups or be president.

I do not think it is necessary for ICME to make working groups separately if other committees or other organisations are also active in the field. Many groups working in the same field may dilute the strength. Additionally, the individual museum professional will not know which group to join. But we should participate, add strength and seek cooperation with other committees. And most important: we must report to and discuss with, our members through ICME News and our yearly meetings.

In Melbourne we must in any case discuss self-critically what themes for working groups we are able to keep active through our own efforts and what collaborations we should seek for eventual other themes.

Per Kåks
President ICME 1992 - 1998

Call for papers

Papers can be presented related to the the main theme of the conference: "Museums and Cultural Diversity - Ancient Cultures, New Worlds" or the joint session with ICOFOM/ICMAH "Museology and Cultural Diversity" or Repatriation.

Papers on other themes will be included if time allows.

ICME wanted originally to call the joint session "Museums and the presentation of the Other" and we would be very happy to receive papers on this topic that can included either at our own sessions or the joint session.

Send your name, insitution, adress, title of the paper and an abstract of about six to ten lines to

Dr Gaye Sculthorpe, Program Director, Indigenous Cultures Program,
Museum Victoria, P O Box 666E, Melbourne, Vic., Australia, 3121.

Email: gsculth@mov.vic.gov.au
Tel. 61 3 92912165
Fax: 61 3 92912150

Everything received electronically will be greatly appreciated.

ICME in Melbourne 98

Monday 12 October 09.30 - 18.00

09.30 - 09.45: Welcome speech by ICME President and our Australian representative
09.45 - 13.00: Presentation of papers (Museums and cultural diversity)
13.00 - 14.30: Lunch
14.00 - 18.00: Presentation of papers (Museums and cultural diversity)

Tuesday 13 October

10.00 - 12.00: Visit to National Gallery of Victoria to view three new indigenous exhibitions: 1) Raika Wara - an exhibition of Aboriginal Textiles; 2) Emily Kngwarreye - a solo show of a Central Australian artist; 3) Great Icons of Aboriginal Art
12.00 - 13.30: Lunch
13.30 - 15.00: Visit to Immigration Museum (a new venue of Museum Victoria to open October 1998)
15.00: Travel by tram to Museum Victoria's Moreland Collection Store
16.00 - 17.00: Tour of new ethnographic storage facilities and conservation laboratories.
17.00: Drinks and short presentation on Museum Victoria's new Aboriginal Centre with invited Aboriginal and Pacific Islander guests.

Wednesday 14 October

09.30 - 13.00: Joint session with ICMAH and ICOFOM (Museology and Diversity)
13.00 - 14.30: Lunch
14.30 - 16.00: Presentation of papers (Repatriation)
16.00 - 16.30: Afternoon tea
16.30 - 18.00: ICME Business meeting/elections
19.30: ICME Dinner (see below)

Nominations and elections

Based on the experiences of the last periods, as secretary I suggest the the new board try to fill the following functions:

- 1) A secretary taking care of the formalities of the committee and helping the president with the daily leadership of the committee.
- 2) An editor of ICME News who can also function as treasurer. Almost all of the expenses of ICME is connected to the publication of the newsletter.
- 3) A co-editor taking care of the French or English version of ICME News (depending on whether the editor is English- or French-writing).
- 4) It would be an advantage if the chairpersons and contact-persons for different working groups also were members of the board. They could be responsible for reporting about the activity of the work groups to the board and to ICME News, and for setting up the part of the programme dealing with the work of each work group at ICME's yearly meetings.
- 5) The other board members should have a duty to report to ICME News about actualities from their parts of the world and be active in finding authors for relevant papers that can be presented in ICME News or at the yearly meetings.

Sadly, the funding from ICOM is not sufficient for making and mailing ICME News to all members, voting and non-voting. The solution to this is either:

- to send out very few and slim issues of ICME News yearly, or
- to send ICME News only to voting members, or
- to charge a fee from our members for receiving ICME News, or
- to find an editor whose institution is willing partly to sponsor the publishing of ICME News.

In fact, there is a tradition that ICME News have been published through part sponsorship from the institution of the editor. Can this continue? We hope so!

We should also consider:

- It would definitely be an advantage if the editor and co-editor of ICME News can be reached through e-mail. It would save the editors lot of work and papers can be sent to the editors electronically.
- All ICME-members seeking election as members of the board or as president should consider their ability to attend the yearly meetings. The ICME board should of course not be a club for those coming from wealthy countries, and for each yearly meeting one is trying to get travel grants. But generally very few travel grants, if any, are available, and in the end board members must see it as their own responsibility to find funding for participation in the yearly meetings.

The board 1995 - 98 consisted of the following persons:

President: Per Kåks, Sweden (not eligible for reelection)

Ordinary board members:

Per B. Rekdal, Norway (secretary)
(not eligible for reelection as board member)
Klaus Bell, Austria
(eligible for reelection)
Kalyan Kumar Chakravarty, India
(eligible for reelection)
Rivka Ganen, Israel
(eligible for reelection)
Mohd Kassim Haji All Permai, Malaysia
(eligible for reelection)

Joseph C. E. Adande, Republique du Benin
(eligible for reelection)
Lydia Bushell, Australia
(eligible for reelection)
Annette B. Fromm, USA
(eligible for reelection)
Jane Peirson Jones, England
(eligible for reelection)

Elections of the ICME board 1998 - 2001

Our regulations states that (ordinary) board members are elected for three years and can serve a maximum of six years continuously. The president (our only extra-ordinary board member) is elected separately also for a three year period and for maximum six years continuously. It is possible to seek election as president after serving six years as board member.

At the General Conference in Stavanger in 1995 practically the whole leadership of ICME was renewed. The only exceptions were the president Per Kåks, who was reelected in this position and Per B. Rekdal, who was reelected as board member and has served as secretary since 1995.

Since Per Kåks has served six years as president, he is not eligible for reelection. The secretary Per B. Rekdal has served six years as board member and is not eligible for reelection as board member, but is eligible for the presidency. The other members of the board have served only three years and are eligible for reelection as board members and are of course also eligible for the presidency.

We do not yet know who will seek reelection, election or be candidates for the presidency, and it must be stressed that any voting member of ICME can be a candidate for the board and/or the presidency (except for the above mentioned limitations).

Candidates can be put forward as late as at ICME's election meeting in Melbourne. But it would no doubt benefit the process if proposals for candidates are sent to the secretary as soon as possible.

We would like to have information about the candidates name, adress, phone, fax, eventual e-mail, position, briefly why she/he is a candidate and whether you have approached the candidate and he/she is willing.

There is absolutely no rule against suggesting oneself as a candidate!

ICME dinner

is suggested for Wednesday evening. There will be an additional charge for this that can be paid at the ICME desk upon arrival or at the first day's ICME sessions. Approx. cost \$30 (excl. drinks).

Where do we stay?

For those of us concerned about the costs (at least those of us who have to fly around half the globe are) the Victoria Hotel may be a good option. People visiting Melbourne from country Victoria often stay at this hotel so it is a reasonable place and not too expensive.

See you in Melbourne!

Per B. Rekdal
Secretary