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1. WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT

It is an honor to be chosen as the new president of ICME. I have gotten to know many of you during the last three years while serving as co-editor and secretary, and hope now to further the aims of ICME through representation in the ICOM advisory council, and through involvement in organizing annual ICME meetings.

I see the [ICME sessions at ICOM2004](http://intercom.icom.museum)<http://intercom.icom.museum>

More than 70 ICME members attended ICOM2004, and ICME gained a number of new members during the conference.

The National Folk Museum of Korea was ICME's liaison institution during ICOM 2004. This was a collaboration, which functioned quite well, both on an administrative level, and on a social level. The director of NFMK, Dr. Hongnam Kim, and her staff graciously invited ICME to a full day at her museum, and organized an exclusive (but also quite intensive) [post-conference tour](#) for us.



The National Folk Museum also had a film crew documenting much of the conference. A link to their online-photos will be soon be listed on our website. ICME member Leif Pareli, from the Norwegian Folk Museum has already put quite a few pictures from the conference and post-conference tour on his website at <http://home.online.no/~pareli/galleries.html>. We encourage other ICME2004 participants also to share their experiences, and to send both [photos](#) and texts to the new ICME editor, Viv Golding!



The ICME general assembly was held on October 6th. A new 13-member board was elected for 2004-2007 (see the list below). Retiring members of the 2001-2004 board were thanked for their initiative during the last period.

As both ICOM Greece and ICME member (now ICME secretary) Annette Fromm had approached us with interesting ideas for future conference locations, the general assembly gave the new board a mandate to further explore possibilities for ICME conferences in Greece during the autumn of 2005, and Florida, USA in 2006. Further details on each of these this will soon be available on the ICME web site, as well as in the next ICME news. Vienna has already been chosen as the venue for 2007 ICOM general conference. I'm looking forward to meeting many of you during each of these conferences, as well as discussing with you through ICME news and the ICME newsgroup!

Daniel Winfree Papuga

president@icme.icom.museum

2. ICME BOARD 2004-2007

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3. WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

First I must echo Daniel's words of thanks on the generosity of the Korean Folk Museum professionals. This was my first ICOM conference, which presented me with a wonderful introduction to the rich life and ancient cultural heritage of such a friendly and spiritual people. I do miss Korean food so delicious and healthy, but I am still practicing Korean Yoga with anyone who stops long enough in my office!

Like Daniel I feel specially honoured to be the editor of ICME NEWS. I hope to learn some technical skills so that I can actually be more useful to you in the future. Life at the Dept of Museum Studies, University of Leicester is exceptionally hectic, just like my experience of the Museum World, and so this promise of a new format may well be a year or so in coming. Patience is a virtue, I hear.

In the meantime please keep in touch with me via email. Do send me any news or ideas that you think will be of interest to us. I hope we can continue to be a supportive network of people, so if you simply hope to get advice from ICME members on a particular problem you know where you can contact us, ICME NEWS.

To everyone who sent me their conference papers, I must say thank you. I know how difficult it is juggling tasks and appreciate the extra effort you all made to let us share your thoughts on intangible heritage in the context of the museum. I apologise for the short delay in publication, but think you will agree with me that the contributions here are well worth the wait.

Finally, as I look out at a landscape covered in an early snow, let me send you Season's Greetings from the UK. May peace and joy be with us for the New Year.

Viv Golding, Editor of ICME-news

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The deadline for the next issue is **15th February 2005**. Please send your news to any of the above contact addresses, although email is preferred.

4. THE ICME CONFERENCE PAPERS

"Museums and Intangible Heritage" ICOM 2004 general conference, Seoul, Korea

The following papers are available for downloading:

- Dr. Henry C Jatti Bredekamp: [Transforming representations of Intangible Heritage at Iziko Museums, SA](#)
- Dr. Matilda Burden: [Museums and Intangible Heritage: The Afrikaans Language Museum](#)
- Dr. Annette Fromm: [Transforming the Intangible into the Tangible; Expositions of Ethnic Culture in the United States](#)
- Dr. Viv Golding: [Inspiration Africa! Using tangible and intangible heritage to promote social inclusion amongst young people with disabilities](#)
- Kolokesa Mahina: [Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa: The Case of the Intangible Heritage](#)
- Lidija Nikocecic: [The Intangibility of Multiculturalism](#)
- Daniel Winfree Papuga: [A taste of intangible heritage: Food traditions inside and outside of the museum](#)
- Dr. Margaret Hart Robertson: [The Difficulties of Interpreting Mediterranean Voices: Exhibiting Intangibles Using New Technologies](#)
- Martin Skrydstrup: [A Visionary Idea and a Pragmatic Tool: Making a case for a database listing resolutions to cultural property claims](#)
- Dr. Tom G. Svensson: [Knowledge and context - the social life of objects](#)
- Dr. William Westerman: [The Queen City Manifesto: The Potential for Civic Engagement in Local Folklife Museums](#)

Other papers will soon follow on the [ICME2004](#) webpage!

5. SHOULD ICOM ADJUDICATE CULTURAL PROPERTY DISPUTES?

A Review Essay from the Triennial in Seoul

ICME board member Martin Skrydstrup has written a review article of the joint INTERCOM, ICME and ICOM Legal Affairs Committee session on repatriation during ICOM 2004.

The abstract is included below. Read the ENTIRE article on the [ICME2004 webpage](#).

Abstract

What role should ICOM play in cultural property disputes? Does the current ICOM approach underwritten by the Code of Ethics suffice? If not, should ICOM consider the introduction of dispute settlement such as arbitration or mediation? These questions were addressed by a joint panel at the ICOM Triennial General Conference in Seoul, where Marilyn Phelan gave the keynote entitled Legal and Ethical Considerations in the Repatriation of Illegally Exported and Stolen Cultural Property: Is there a Means to Settle the Disputes? Phelan argued that there is currently no legal regime in place to address adequately the issues relating to the restitution of illegally exported and/or stolen cultural property. By choosing to illustrate this by four rather clear cut and morally compelling cases of illicit exported and looted art, Phelan made a poignant case for the introduction of new means of dispute resolution. Responding to Phelan's proposal Harrie Leyten and W. Richard West, Jr. came down in favor of an informal mediation option as opposed to formal and binding arbitration. The reviewer argues that the disparities between the panelists reveal more fundamental differences in their conception of museum collections as cultural property. If the problem can be reduced to a conventional ownership issue, then it is consistent to argue as Phelan did in favor of an International Arbitration Panel. If the issue at hand is a postcolonial Nation's ability to display its heritage or a local community's control over its ceremonial objects, then the problem hinges on more than conventional ownership notions and mediation or other negotiated proceedings would seem the most appropriate remedy to apply, as the two respondents both argued. Overall, the panel revealed a need to examine fundamental ownership conceptions of museum collections with respect to the relevant stakeholders in any exploration of mediation or arbitration as a mean to resolve disputes.

Martin Skrydstrup ICME Board Member

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6. UP-COMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

December 10: "Display, Development and Diagnosis Day - What's new at Brighton with exhibitions, community work and an object identification session", Museum Ethnographers Group meeting, Brighton Museum & Art Gallery, UK.

<http://www.museumethnographersgroup.org.uk/megmeetings.htm>

December 14-18: "Post Traditional Environments in a Post GlobalWorld", Ninth Conference of the International Association for the Study of Traditional Environments, Sharjah/Dubai, UAE.

<http://www.arch.ced.berkeley.edu/research/iaste/>

December 12-15: "Strategies for Development of Indigenous People" and "Mega Urbanization, Multi-ethnic Society, Human Rights and Development": IUAES 2004 Inter-Congress, Kolkata and Ranchi, India. <http://www.leidenuniv.nl/fsw/iuaes/10-01-CALCUTTACONGRESS.HTM>

December 15-19: AAA Annual Meeting Meeting Moves Location and Dates! Due to labor dispute at the San Francisco Hilton, the Anthropological Association's Annual Meeting for Nov. 17-21, 2004 has been moved to to the Atlanta Hilton, December 15-19, 2004. <http://www.aaanet.org/>

January 10- 28 2005: "Conservation and Exhibition of Southeast Asian Collections" ICROM international course on Conservation and Exhibition of Southeast Asian Collection, Bangkok, Thailand. <http://www.iccrom.org/>

March 23 - 26, 2005: National Meeting of the Popular Culture / American Culture Associations, San Diego, California, USA. <http://www.h-net.org/~pcaaca/2005/>

April 4-7, 2005: "Creativity and cultural improvisation", ASA 2005Conference, Aberdeen, Scotland, UK. <http://www.theasa.org/conferences.htm>

April 5-10, 2005: "Heritage, Environment and Tourism", annual conference of the Society for Applied Anthropology. Santa Fe, NewMexico, USA. <http://www.sfaa.net>

May 9-10 2005: Looking Backward, Looking Forward" Museum Ethnographers Group annual meeting, Manchester, UK. Deadline for paper proposals: December 9th 2004. <http://www.museumethnographersgroup.org.uk/>

July 19-23, 2005: "Pacific Arts Association Eighth International Symposium", Salem, Massachusetts, USA. <http://www.pacificarts.org/>

7. NON-EUROPEAN COMPONENTS OF EUROPEAN PATRIMONY

The project 'Non-European Components of European Patrimony' held a workshop in Budapest in March, 2004 with the title "Non-European ethnographical collections in Central and Eastern Europe". Papers from the workshop are available on the NECEP page: <http://www.necep.net/budapest.html>

Papers from two earlier workshops organised in Paris are also available: "History of non-European collections in European Museums" and "Objects and Societies". See <http://www.necep.net/about.html> for details.

8. TOWARDS BETTER COOPERATION BETWEEN CENTRAL AND SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE

In the period from 14 to 17 October 2004, the 4th

Each participant had 15-20 minutes to present the experiences of his/her country, region or museum, relative to the conference theme. Many participants provided detailed description of complete traditional costumes or their parts. Unfortunately, only a few of these elaborated on the values the traditional costumes were given in different time periods, the ways how these costumes

became symbols of national or regional identity, the ways of keeping in museums the costumes with changed functions, the different attitudes to keeping costumes and footwear in museums, methods needed for costumes restoration, etc.

In the breaks between presentations, our colleagues from ASTRA museum acquainted us with their own unique methods of maintaining their intangible heritage, especially traditional crafts. For this purpose, within the program "Living human treasures" about keeping the intangible heritage, they organize the international and national fairs (even Olympic games!) of traditional crafts, craftsmen associations, galleries and sales places for craftsmen's products.

Last year in Martin, the idea about creating a web page was abandoned as unnecessary - while the idea about establishing a mailing list containing regular news concerning museum activities in the area of Central and South Eastern Europe was accepted. As the idea was not realized and even not mentioned at the Sibiu conference, such a mailing list remains an unrealized wish. Communication between participants of the Sibiu conference depended on private initiative. As one of the ideas and aims of the conference was to create a better communication level between Central and South-East European ethnologists, I believe it would be very useful to realize this idea.

The visit to Sibiu was interesting for me, but far too short, especially concerning attendance of an uncommon folklore performance in the recently restored "Old theatre". A visit again later may be worthwhile, as Sibiu is presently one gigantic building site, in preparation for 2007, when together with Luxembourg it shall assume the title of European capital of culture.

Although the venue for next year meeting of colleagues from museums of Central and South Eastern Europe is still unknown, I hope that foundations for better networks and more concrete ways of cooperating shall be established there.

Olga Orlic

Ethnographic museum of Istria, Croatia

<http://www.emi.hr>

When the Austrian Museum of Folk Life and Folk Art in Vienna organized the meeting of the Central European Ethnographic Museums in the year 2002, we dedicated a large part of the available time to the discussion of future projects.

Under an external professional moderation, we discussed a whole day in teamwork, how and with which projects one could cooperate in future lastingly. There were very concrete results which, however, only can be developed if a structural continuity and a continuity in content is created for the individual conferences.

I think, that there must be an executive board of its own within the working group of Central European Ethnographic Museums. This board decides contents as well as organizational interests in cooperation with the colleagues out of the museums involved.

Through this, the development of long-term co operations between the institutions would be possible. As experiences in international exhibition co operations show, conceptual and organization work in groups enriches the knowledge transfer between the institutions.

Matthias Beitzl

Austrian Museum for Folk Life and Folk Art

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9. SMALL MUSEUMS REQUEST FOR HELP

I would like to kindly ask your help in a matter which related to small museums.

I'm working on a study concerning small museums in the Mediterranean countries. The study includes Museum history, collections and activities; it will also include a revision of the Museums history, management, collections, activities and conditions.

The study will focus on designing a framework for upgrading and developing existing museums both on the managerial and contextual levels. It is proposing a model for the interaction between the different museums, and getting benefits of their individual experiences.

A discussion of museums as source of cultural, educational, and internal tourism and as a tool in tourism industry is essential to the study; this should include financing museums and procedures leading to self-sustainability if possible.

What I mean by help is just to provide me with the name of a contact person in your country who work in small museums, and can cooperate to create this study. I know that you are all busy, and would understand if you couldn't help, or felt that this subject is very far from your interest.

Yours truly,

Atiyeh Khateeb (Sartawi), Palestine.

sartawi9231@hotmail.com

10. THE NATIONAL FOLK MUSEUM OF KOREA - SOME COMMENTS ON DISPLAY METHODS



On Tuesday October 5th., during ICOM2004, the members of ICME spent a delightful day under the hospitality of the staff of the National Folk Museum of Korea. The program included demonstrations on the education service, folkdancing, lunch and dinner and guided tours of the galleries. The displays cover a much wider field than the name of the museum would suggest and include archaeology, history and art.

A feature of the displays, both here and in many other Korean museums, is the use of models. These are lavish to say the least and demonstrate that museums have a very much higher priority in Korea than they do in Britain. The scale and scope of these models varies greatly, from huge dioramas of whole cities, to small life-size sets.

The last group, of items displayed at actual size, pose a problem which was voiced by some of the members. For example, in a scene representing life during the Silla dynasty, silk robes must obviously be replicas. But what of ceramic vases? Are these originals or also replicas?

There are two ways in which it can be made clear at a glance what items in any given display are true antiquities and which are modern replicas. They comprise: Colour-Coding and Key Pi

COLOUR-CODING

I feel that it would be fair to say that the labelling systems used in this museum, are very traditional: indeed, this is true in all the museums which I have seen in Korea. In particular almost all labelling is on white stock.

In my view, and I am well aware that not everyone will agree with my opinion, labels should generally be on coloured, i.e. lightly tinted, stock. I suggest this partly for aesthetic reasons, but mainly because it gives another dimension to display, by making it possible to convey information at a glance.

Colour-coding can be used for many purposes, depending on the nature of the display, the intentions of the person designing it and the audience intended. For example:

- To distinguish captions from text
- To provide different levels of labelling - basic or advanced
- To mark out transcriptions or translations of, e.g. inscriptions
- To identify donors
- To identify languages, e.g. Chinese from Japanese.

One use of colour-coding is to differentiate captions for original specimens from captions for models.

- First colour (e.g. orange) for original objects or pictures
- Second colour (e.g. sky blue) for models, such as replicas, casts, reconstructions and perhaps also reprints and photographs.

KEY PICTURES

Individual captions for exhibits may not always be suitable for a display, for example, often if the viewer is more than about a metre away. In particular one would not want set pieces, such as habitat groups or period rooms, to be festooned with captions. Even worse, in my opinion, is to assign each item an intrusive number or letter, corresponding to a similar number or letter referring to one of a battery of labels.

A key picture is an illustration of the display placed either on a board or on a desk in front. The objects appear on this illustration, as, generally, outlines or silhouettes, each with the appropriate caption.

These outlines or silhouettes can likewise be coded.

- First colour (e.g. bright red) for originals
- Second colour (e.g. deep blue) for replicas and other models.

These two methods can be used either separately or together. Both can be installed easily and at virtually nil cost. Perhaps this could be something also for other ICME museums to consider?

David C Devenish

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11. CULTURALLY RICH BUT FINANCIALLY POOR

The letter below outlines with passion the difficulties that ethnographers working in countries such as Nepal, culturally and geographically rich but financially poor face, in terms of preserving cultural heritage. It clearly highlights the problem in a context of globalization, where rich nations have purchasing power over poorer ones who are in danger of losing precious cultural artifacts to the museums, private collectors and traders of the West. What to do? As Museum professionals, even in the West, we do not usually have large capital budgets. It is possible to secure grants from government, but this is a lengthy and complex process in my experience. We do however have a code of ethics; we can also share skills and expertise. For example, the 2002 ICME conference in Zambia focused on "[High Expectations, but Low Funding: How do poor museums meet their targets?](#)"

And again, in my country a colleague, Laura Peers at the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford is working WITH First Nations people to preserve their heritage. Her work seems to provide a valuable partnerships model for ICOM-ICME. I am sure there are many other 'success stories' that members may like to share with us via the newsletter. Members may also have bright ideas on this and I suggest we ask them to let us know via ICOM-ICME news.

Viv

editor@icme.icom.museum

Sent: Tue 11/30/2004 2:15 AM</dd><dd>To: editor@icme.icom.museum

Subject: Nepal

I accept your "Welcome to the ICME newsgroup" happily. We have more the to forty-one ethnic group and 61 dialects. Different cultures, food habits, dress and ornamentation, including house-building systems. Because of the rapidly increasing small and big of Urbanization, Industry, and globalization, Nepalese culture is losing day by day which is urgently required to preserve and conserve these intangible and tangible properties as soon as possible. The problems of under developing country like Nepal have different types of problems than the world might expect of JAPAN, CHINA, SINGAPORE in Asian country including African, South American and Pacific countries like basic HEALTH, basic EDUCATION, basic DRINKING WATER, basic EDUCATION along hand to mouth problems running around us often.

Nepal is not only rich in ethnological culture, but also in its geography. Because government should focus their priority of aspect or area in other sectors which willingly. In such cases, we should look to face developed countries and peoples like you.

My objectives

- 1- I am planning to collect traditional utensils, dresses, ornaments, musical instruments, and their methods or ways of life in visual camera.
- 2- People are sending such goods abroad through antique dealers and tourists.
- 3- After some year later above mentioned objects may disappear and we should visit to foreign museums to see objects created by our ancestors.
- 4- The necessary thing is to study and research to hand over coming posterity for educational values.

I have written to the Getty Foundation and other organizations, including requests for resource persons or funding, but always receive the COMMON answer: UNFORTUNATELY (frankly, saying the word UNFORTUNATELY gives me a HIGH ALLERGY irritation).

In a real sense above-mentioned problems are not only my tension, instead they are the problems of all humankind.

Sincerely

Bharat Raj Rawat

Senior Curator, National Museum of Nepal, Kathmandu.

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11. CALL FOR THOUGHT

We look forward to hearing your views, however brief.

Kind regards.

Viv Golding, Editor of ICME-news

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