



## Words from the President

ICME is off and running in 2011. Thanks go to many of our members who continue to devote lots of time to the efforts of the committee in between the work for which they get paid.

**Website.** Matthias Beitzl and I watched films transAtlantically during the Christmas and New Years holiday. The result is the archive of ICME newsletters, dating to 1981, which was entered into the website. Creating an on-line ICME archive was a longstanding plan of former chair Daniel Papuga, who worked diligently to collect the past newsletters along with other items documenting the history of ICME. Several complementary e-mails were received by ICME members and others in response to the new entries to the website.

Recently, with the help of a student intern at my workplace, a number of past conference programs were scanned. Matthias is waiting for his next window of opportunity, and some good movies, to add those programs to the growing ICME archives on the website. Not all conferences dating from 1980 to the present are included, but a good representation will document the discussions of the committee.

**ICME/2011.** You might have already received the “Mark Your Calendars” notice of ICME/2011 to be held at the Banz Monastery in Germany. Dr. Baerbel Kerkhoff-Hader of the University of Bamberg is working to put together another excellent gathering. The topic of this year’s meeting “Dissolving boundaries. Museological approaches to national, social and cultural issues” should stimulate some interesting discussions. *See below for the formal Call for Papers.*

The topic of boundaries and borders creates such questions. As museum ethnographers we might ask, what tangible evidence to we collect to document the changes in our varied societies. They might be actual social changes reflected in law and practices; they might be changes in the nature of our populations. What represents these on-going processes? In addition, as we return to the roots of museum ethnography, how do we capture the intangible in this age of changing technology? Which recording devices are more permanent than others, as our business is that of preservation?

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Then how do we tell the stories which might still be very uncomfortable for many of our visitors to face and acknowledge? We hope to learn more about approaches of museums worldwide to topics which embrace the question of boundaries. In order to enable younger ICME members and members from developing nations to attend the ICME/2011 conference two ICME Fellows will be funded this year. *See application materials for the 2011 ICME Fellows elsewhere in this newsletter.*

Hmm, boundaries. This brings up the topic of the turmoil that for the past few months has been shaking North Africa and the Middle East. Concerns are valid for the security of the heritage preserved in the museums in these areas. It is all too easy for individuals to think of their own very immediate needs, rather than that amorphous value encapsulated in the generalization of national and global heritage. Our thoughts are with museum colleagues in the areas rocked by violence and dissent. We wish the best for their own wellbeing and that they remain strong in their efforts to preserve their patrimony.

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### ICOM-ICME Annual Conference 2011

**ICOM-ICME/2011/Banz Monastery  
Banz Monastery at Bad Staffelstein  
(Upper Franconia), Germany  
2-5 October, 2011**

#### Introduction

ICME (the International Committee for Museums of Ethnography) is an international committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) devoted to ethnography (ethnology, anthropology, folk) museums

focusing on local, national and international cultures. ICME is concerned with the challenges facing ethnographic museums and collections in a changing world.



ICME will hold its 2011 annual conference on 2-5 October, 2011, at the Banz Monastery at Bad Staffelstein (Upper Franconia), Germany, *in collaboration with the University of Bamberg/Department of European Ethnology.* Final details of the ICME conference are forthcoming, but the general format of the annual meeting will consist of paper and discussion sessions and a one day excursion to museums in the area. Optional - a short pre-conference tour (October 1-2) in Bamberg - *World Heritage City* - will be organized as well as the usual ICME post conference tour (October 5-8).

**Dissolving boundaries. Museological approaches to national, social and cultural issues,** from the point of view of ethnographic museums. Borders, boundaries, exclusion, delimitation or the dissolution of boundaries as a result of geographical, political, social and cultural parameters in long-term perspectives are not static. They are linked to a steady influence of different forces. Such processes take place quietly without conflict or they end in graduated collisions.

Borders, boundaries and dissolution are not limited to the grand level of nations or levels

of policy planning systems. They also concern the social and cultural constitution of formal and informal groups. Terms like "equal" and "different" are often determined by everyday life experiences. Religious and ethnic identity constructions as well as comprehensive examples of migration, gender or age-specific distinctions present boundaries expressed by exclusions which need to be overcome. The variety of borders and their delimitation contribute towards political and social life.

How do museum ethnographers document and present political and social processes of these types? What is the role of place (in situ, museum, information center) and the role played by authentic objects, photographs, texts?

What is the response of male and female and other visitors?

**ICME/2011/Banz Monastery** invites proposals of 20-minute presentations which address issues related to the topic of the conference. We also welcome paper proposals from non ICME members. Papers addressing the following sub-theme will also be welcomed:

**The Challenging Museum/Challenging the Museum** - Through this topic, speakers can examine how museums of cultures and societies address themes that are perceived as difficult, or connected to dilemmas of various natures. This annual theme has been adopted by the ICME Work Group, chaired by Per B. Rekdal (p.b.rekdal@khm.uio.no).

### Submitting abstracts

Abstracts of between 250 and 300 words will be submitted for selection to the ICME Review Committee, chaired by Annette B. Fromm ICME President. Submissions should be sent to [annettefromm@hotmail.com](mailto:annettefromm@hotmail.com) by

**May 15, 2011.** If you send the abstract as attachment, *please also include the text of the abstract in the text of the e-mail itself.*

The following information should be included with the abstract:

- Title of submitted paper
- Name(s) of Author(s)
- Affiliation(s) & full address(es)
- Abstract in English (between 250 and 300 words)
- Support equipment required

### General conference information

Registration forms, registration fee information, hotels, and other details will be forthcoming on the ICME web site - <http://icme.icom.museum>

For more information about Banz Monastery - <http://www.hss.de/english/educational-centres/banz-monastery.html>

### ICOM-ICME Annual Conference 2011 Call for annual ICME Fellows

**ICOM-ICME/2011/Banz Monastery  
Banz Monastery at Bad Staffelstein  
(Upper Franconia), Germany  
2-5 October, 2011**



Applications are invited for two ICME Fellows from individual members of ICME

from developing nations or ICME youth members (under 35 years of age). The ICME Fellowships will be for up to the amount of 2000 euros. They should be used to pay for conference registration, airfare and reasonable daily allowance in Germany for participation in ICME/2011/Banz Monastery, 2-5 October, 2011, with a view to offer opportunities for enriching the ongoing research of candidates through global interaction with ICME members from different parts of the world.

The candidates must remain active in ICME. ICME Fellows are requested to contribute to the ICME Newsletter a piece about their experiences at ICME/2011.

### Requirements

- 1) Applicants **must** have been an ICME member for a minimum of three years (continuous paid membership of ICOM for the years 2008, 2009, 2010).
- 2) Applicants shall be engaged actively in curatorial, education, research and developmental work in a museum.

Applications must reach the President and Treasurer, ICME by 31 May, 2011, along with the following:

- 1) A 200 word statement of the applicant's motivation for attending ICME/2011/Banz Monastery and the benefits which he/she expects to derive from it,
- 2) A curriculum vitae indicating, name, age, citizenship, home address, institutional address, contact phone, fax, e-mail address, details of qualification, employment positions, research experience, and ICOM membership number.
- 3) Names and e-mail addresses of two eminent museum professionals, from whom references will be sought.

ICME Fellows shall be announced by 30 June, 2011. Awards will be given strictly on

merit and subject to fulfilment of all conditions. ICME reserves the right for the selection of candidates and shall hold the right of publishing a conference report of the selected candidate.

**Contact:** Dr Annette B. Fromm, President, ICME

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and

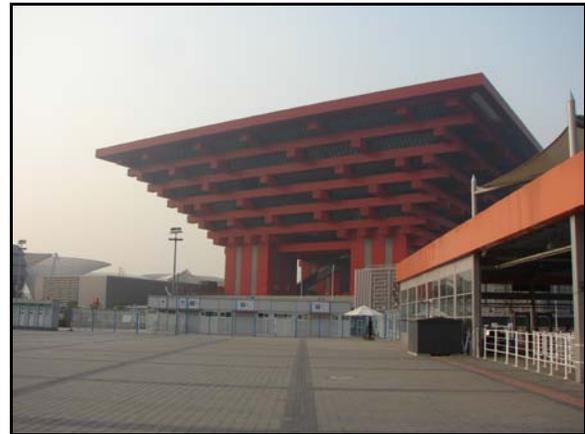
Zvezdana Antos, Treasurer, ICME

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### **The International Council of Museums November 2010 Triennial General Conference in Shanghai, China ICME/2010/Shanghai**

**ICOM Triennial Conference, November 2010.** The 22nd General Conference of the International Council of Museums was held at Shanghai's World Expo Centre in Shanghai, China from November 7 through November 12, 2010. More than 3,600 museum professionals from all corners of the world, representing 122 countries, regions and international organizations, attended this major event of the world museum community. The six-day conference provided museum professionals with a unique opportunity to exchange ideas and reflect on the theme of "Museums for Social Harmony." During the meeting, participants could take a break and visit some of the pavilions at the Shanghai World Expo site including the China Pavilion, Pavilion of Footprint, World Expo Museum, and Theme Pavilions.



The ICME General Conference was addressed by six eminent keynote speakers: Lourdes Arizpe, Xiejun Chen, Gabriella Battaini-Dragoni, Okwui Enwezor, Jinshi Fan and former president of the Republic of Mali Mali, Alpha Oumar Konaré. The latter, a former ICOM president, emphasized substantial changes that are sweeping our society and continents today. He particularly stressed Africa's role in the world in terms of its unprecedented population growth, which will exceed 2 billion by 2050. He called on African museums to meet the social harmony challenge. According to Konaré, the international museum network should also embrace this issue, especially through their interaction with the public and their role in promoting multiculturalism.

An opening gala entertained all with visions of little singing girls in flower costumes, strong male dancers from the Beijing Opera bringing to life the statues of Xian, singers of the Chinese opera, traditional musicians and Chinese poetry, and the acrobat/ballet dancer who used her partner's back, shoulders and head as a base on which to dance in pointe shoes! Afterwards, the ubiquitous Chinese banquet was enjoyed by all!

**ICME/2010/Shanghai** chose to veer away from the Social Harmony theme of the ICOM conference. Rather, the quote from Confucius guided the 28 scientific papers and reports – “To show concern for other people is the foundation for a good life and a harmonious society.” ICME papers focused on the topic chosen by the new ICME working group established and chaired by Per Rekdal of the Museum of Cultural History at the University of Oslo. The whole of Tuesday, papers addressed the topic of The Challenging Museum/Challenging the Museum. In addition, the Wednesday morning was devoted to a joint session organized by ICME and the Exhibitions Exchange Committee (ICEE). Papers presented in this well-attended session addressed the topic of Exchanging Meaning. The paper on the Murder and Manslaughter exhibit at the History Museum of the City of Luxembourg sparked lots of interest and overlapped with the Challenging the Museum theme.

ICME also planned two activities to get our members out of the convention center and into Shanghai. One evening, after a tiresome bus ride, many enjoyed a (wedding) banquet, complete with wedding cake, together with members of ICEE at the magnificent Shanghai Museum. After the

reception, all were free to enjoy the exhibits. The next evening, ICME held their annual dinner at the Lubolang restaurant in Yu Yuan Gardens. Proudly on display were photos of previous guests including American President Bill Clinton, British Queen Elizabeth and Cuban leader Fidel Castro, among others. Our dinner and the subsequent visit to the Shikumen Open House Museum was hosted by the Cultural Palace of Nationalities, State Ethnic Affairs Commission in Beijing. With toasts and exchanges of gifts a huge meal was enjoyed by all in the group.

Duan Mei, the ICME coordinator in China – our lady in Beijing – and her staff greeted the group with beautiful ICME flags that adorned our meeting tables. They also assembled amazing gifts for all members in a special blue ICME bag displaying the logo in both English and Chinese. Once again, the bar was set high for our next conference in 2011. ICME's colorful, new brochure was unveiled and distributed in Shanghai. A copy of it is available on the ICME website - [http://icme.icom.museum/fileadmin/user\\_upload/pdf/2010/ICME\\_brochure2.pdf](http://icme.icom.museum/fileadmin/user_upload/pdf/2010/ICME_brochure2.pdf).

One day of the conference, as usual, was set aside for a variety of excursions to cities and museums in the Shanghai area. A few ICME members took the trip to Nantong, the site of China's first museum, established in 1909. Read a report of this excursion elsewhere in the newsletter.

The conference in Shanghai ended after the day-long triennial ICOM General Assembly, during which the new President and Executive Council of ICOM were elected. Former president of France Jacques Chirac closed the conference. He recalled his long-term commitment to museums and the promotion of cultural diversity. His speech

followed the six active days of discussion in International Committee meetings, two Open Forums on museum-related topics ranging from economic issues to the role of volunteers in museums, other sessions, and museum and city visits. In addition, a Museum Trade Fair displayed the latest trends in the industry as well as information about Chinese museums. How many ICME members had to abandon the give-aways from this Fair in order to avoid overweight charges when departing at the airport? I could fit my two heavy pieces into my carry-on baggage.

As has become the custom, the ICME conference also included a stimulating and interesting post-conference tour. More about that adventure into the environs and water towns near to Shanghai appears in this newsletter as well.

### **Shanghai Report** **ICOM Excursion Day to Nantong** *"Pearl of the River and Sea."*



At the recommendation of ICME's Chinese coordinator, several committee members joined the Thursday excursion to Nantong during the ICOM triennial. A one and a half hour drive, with police escort, brought the four tour buses to Nantong in Jiangsu province.

A wonderful itinerary had been arranged for the group which took us to the Nantong Museum, the first public museum in China, founded in 1905. The museum is actually comprised of several buildings in a vast garden, formerly a public botanic garden. Included are the home of the museum's founder, industrialist Zhang Qian and the original museum building. Zhang Qian was a prominent local statesman, entrepreneur and he founded Nantong's first modern cotton mill in 1899. The exhibits in the original early 20<sup>th</sup> century museum building include displays of art objects, historical documents and natural history. The third building is the current museum, built in 2005. It is still a regional comprehensive museum displaying calligraphy and painting, arts and crafts, local history and natural history.



At this stop the local media – press and television – was on location to interview foreign members of the tour group. As

President of ICME, I was one of the individuals recorded.

From this first stop, we adjourned to a local restaurant for what we had all come to understand as a Chinese banquet. All forms of meats, fish, crab, vegetables, soup and rice were placed on the large lazy susan (turning tray) in the center of each table. With ease, diners could reach those morsels which appealed to them or piqued their interest. I think it was here that the duck and chicken were served with head alongside the cooked bird. And we learned that if a request for water was made, a glass of steaming hot water was offered.

Nantong is rich in museums with diversified collections and exhibits. These include the China Abacus Museum, Nantong Kite Museum, and Nantong Blueprint Cloth Museum. After the midday feast, we returned to our buses to see these museums. The Abacus Museum of China was founded by the China Abacus Association, the world's foremost and largest museum dedicated entirely to the abacus. Outside the new modern building was a towering, abstract sculpture of an abacus. Exhibits emphasize the history and artistry of the abacus in China as well as elsewhere in the world.

At the Nantong Kite Museum our group was greeted by a scrolling marquee which welcomed the delegates of the ICOM conference in Chinese and English. Inside the museum, displays included examples of “ban yao” kites characteristic of the area of Nantong, one of six popular Chinese traditional kites. These are large paper and bamboo kites that require up to twenty men to get airborne. The kites are decorated with varying sizes of gourd whistles, to make sounds while the kites fly.



The last stop of the day before returning the Shanghai was the Nantong Blue Calico Museum. This museum is located in a series of early 20<sup>th</sup> century style traditional buildings located along a water source. The museum was opened in 1997. Exhibits range from displays of the spinning and weaving of cotton cloth – the curator’s 82 year old mother was working on the loom on the day of our visit - the dying process, and more. As we moved through the interconnected buildings, through an open window we could see a lady washing dyed clothes in the neighboring stream. Of course, a bountiful shop of jackets, shirts, scarves and more ended our visit to Nantong. These were only a few of the many museums found in Nantong, but an excellent representation.

The group departed to return to Shanghai after a day filled with museums in Nantong. While leaving town, the tour buses passed the historic Langshan ("Wolf hill"). This hill of about 110 meters elevation right next to the Yangtze River is a local landmark.

### **Moved by the wheels of vision**

Mario Buletic, Agnes Aljas  
 ICME/2010 Fellows

To understand our motivations for participating in Shanghai ICOM General

Conference it is inevitable to have a flashback and affirm that the experience gained in Seoul 2009 ICME Meeting was the reason that mostly influenced it. ICOM generously gave us the opportunity to participate by awarding us a grant for young ICOM members. And the rest is history that follows.

Shanghai EXPO 2010 area where the Conference was held is an amazing space with futuristic sci-fi architectural setting; a perfect place to get an idea of what China is experimenting in its actuality. It was at least strange to face the procedure before entering in the conference center. From the hotel to the EXPO site we had to switch two buses, wait in a long line for the metal detector-control and X-rays checking, followed by digital face recognition. And finally, after the last police control of accreditation in the main conference hall entrance, we were allowed to enter. Despite this tortuous control protocol, all worked perfectly. The Red Hall in the conference center was ready in its entire splendor for the opening and keynote General Conference speeches. The concept of *social harmony* and *museums* can be summarized with the idea that museums always need changes, and more than ever they should influence the society and try to make life of every single person better. As it was said, this can be done by promoting intercultural dialogue and tolerance, including social and cultural differences in their activities, stimulating the active participation of local communities, and utilizing new cosmopolitanism and sustainable way of living, to name a few.

It is uncertain how the future will look, but we know that museums will be there and what we can still do is to learn something from the present. The ICME Meeting showed that there are ideas in museums (and

not only) that focus their action on the need to put people on the path to discovery, to be stimulated by the outside world in its splendor and in its details, with its contrasts and fears, with purpose to educate and not to stupefy with a particular object or collection. We can use public spaces, as Edgar Heap of Birds has shown, to evidence the historical and social injustice that Native Americans had suffered, to maintain alive the memory and to underline the problems in our actuality at the same time. Why not analyze the phenomenon of violent crime in the exhibition where the visitors observe crimes in their particular contexts and question themselves on important ethical questions (*History Museum of the City of Luxembourg*); or to let teenagers discuss the sexual violence, gender issues and morality after the theater play performed by museum curators based on the real historical fact of a young girl that was raped (*The Museums of Sør-Trøndelag, Norway*)? The contributions to the more general debate on *Challenging Museum/Challenging the Museum* ICME Meeting topic did not end with above mentioned examples. Many other presenters had shared their experiences emphasizing the importance of proposing challenging issues in a particular social and cultural setting.

Is this *challenging* discourse different from the concrete museum and other cultural heritage preservation practice that we have seen during our stay in China? It is ungrateful to generalize when you are conscious to have seen just a very small part of big country full of differences. However, from the highly protected National parks to Ancient cultural heritage sites, from historical towns to hyper-sized monumental brand new museum buildings, from small private collections with spectacular world heritage objects to entertainment hi-tech museums they were promoting heritage - enjoyment of culture

and exotic image of China, in contrast with Made in China mass-production commodities that are all around us.

What we learned about Shanghai and China is not situated just in museums. Strong impressions about Chinese past, present and future were most striking on its streets, public squares and parks, whether in the big cities or in smaller urbanities. During long walks we could often be participant observers of intensive social dynamics, with dances and karaoke parties, animated cards, mahjong, pool or badminton games, vibrant markets of every kind of commodities and foods. Our primary needs took us to most different places to enjoy the rich food culture: from the wok and barbecue street restaurants to the dumpling and crabs spots. From the Muslim noodles soups in the middle of the block houses to delicious bamboo and mushrooms dishes up the mountains. Museums and cultural heritage sites did not reflect much of these dynamics.

The role of museum institutions is influenced by many aims and agendas to follow, coming mostly from their local cultural contexts. However, the universal thread that is seen in the museums everywhere is that they want to change together with society and have strong desire to influence the society. The aims can never be modest, which is surely what museums are all about.

**The Shanghai triennial was overwhelming...**

Martin Earring  
(ICME/2010 Fellow)



This past conference has brought out a strong sense of community and acceptance for me. Attending my first ICME conference last year in Seoul, I felt very young and new to the group. This year I felt a strong embrace from my international colleagues and it was good to see so many familiar faces and hear about our respective institutions. As my career continues to progress I learn more invaluable information from my international museum elder colleagues as well as my peer colleagues. The Shanghai triennial was overwhelming as there was so much going on outside the ICME conference I found myself content with listening and communicating with the ICME group. However, I was very honored to vote by proxy for a colleague who was not able to attend the triennial.

Personally, during the last few days in Shanghai I had the privilege to spend time with the ICME president, Annette Fromm. We toured the Bundt district of Shanghai and enjoyed conversing about many subjects as we viewed the art deco buildings. I

believe some of the most intellectual conversations pertaining to the museum studies field happens outside of the formal setting of a conference but on the post conference tour and reception dinners. I look forward to building relationships with my international colleagues as well as pushing each other intellectually with the issues we face in our field and the many challenges we endure and how much we relate on many social paradigms.

Many conversations from Shanghai still challenge me today as I continue with my work. I look forward to be involved in the ICME group for many years to come. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to attend the ICOM Triennial in Shanghai, China. I would like to remain active in the ICME community and run for office one day.

**Shanghai Report  
ICME/2010 Post Conference Tour  
Hangzhou – Wuzhen – Suzhou**

"In heaven there is paradise, on earth there are Suzhou and Hangzhou"  
*(shang you tiantang, xia you suhang)*

After six days of opening ceremonies, meetings, tours, museum visits and festive closings, thirty- seven intrepid travelers departed Shanghai on the ICME/2010 Post-Conference tour. This year's version of the ICME tour introduced colleagues to traditional occupations, life styles and sites in eastern China. The three-day coach tour took participants to the old cities of Hangzhou, Wuzhen, and Suzhou. None of these cities are distant from Shanghai, but in history and culture, they are a world away.

*Saturday, November 13, 2010*

Saturday morning the ICME post-conference tour started off leaving Shanghai

in the morning. The route to Hangzhou paralleled the raised track of the Chinese high-speed train. Several trains sped past our fast-traveling coach during the journey. Along the way, members of the tour noticed rows of tall buildings with “rooms” on top. Our guide explained that these were the homes of prosperous farmers. On the top of their homes, they built a small pagoda-like structure that was topped with brass orbs. The orbs resembled lightning rods. These “rooms” were constructed in honor of the ancestors, an important feature of Chinese traditional culture.



Hangzhou to the southwest is renowned for beautiful West Lake and the surrounding tea plantations. *"Above is heaven, below is Hangzhou."* After driving along the shore of the lake, we arrived at our first destination, the China National Silk Museum, open since 1992. A statue of the legendary goddess of silkworms welcomes guests approaching the museum. Suspended from the center of the entry hall is a large lantern made of thousand of silk filaments. A model of an oversized silk cocoon is displayed in front of a large embroidered tapestry of mulberry leaves.



The Museum is divided into eight exhibition halls in which the complex story of silk is related. They include the Silk Culture Hall, the People's Customs Hall, the Silkworm and Mulberry Hall, the Silk Manufacture Hall, the Silk Weaving Hall, the Printing and Dying Hall, and the Modern Accomplishments Hall. Some of the rich exhibits include a large number of ancient silk artifacts, as well as models and photographs. Articles from the neolithic period include certain items from more than 4,700 years and even a dyed piece of silk woven fabric from more than 5,600 years ago. Other exhibit detail the entire process of cultivating silkworms including materials about some live mulberry trees in China that are over one thousand years old. In the Weaving Hall all kinds of traditional looms are displayed; visitors can sit at a loom and try for themselves. The Dying Hall has specimens of many kinds of plants and minerals that were used in traditional dyes. Nearby is also a small botanical garden that raises some of the plants used for these dyes. A large gift shop allows visitors to purchase silk garments.

Our next stop was The Zhejiang Provincial Museum. This multistory modern building on an expansive new plaza includes the Zhejiang Memorial Museum of Revolutionary History. Exhibits in the

Provincial Museum, reached via escalator, are comprehensive showing many areas of regional history and cultural traditions including examples of pottery wares, lacquer wares, wooden pieces, bone tools and ivory objects, jade and silk fabrics, ancient bronze wares, celadon wares and works of calligraphers and painters of Zhejiang Province in the Ming and Qing Dynasties. Vivid dioramas illustrate the struggles associated with the revolution and its aftermath. Established in 1929, this is one of the oldest and best-known museums in China.



Another site on our itinerary was the HuQingYTang Museum of Traditional Chinese Medicine. This “museum” is actually part of the old Huqingyu Drugstore, which is honored as “the Medicine House of the South of the Yangtze River.” The business is around 120 years old and the museum is also known as a court-style pharmacy. The architecture is typical of the prevalent style of the Qing Dynasty. It is one of the major national monuments of China. It is located in a lively commercial area, which seemed to be oriented toward tourists – foreign and local. The streets are lined with numerous traditional medicine shops, souvenir items, candy makers, and other stores. Kiosks down the center of the road sold all sorts of items including carvings and

paper cuts. The former attracted my attention. I chose to shop in lieu of a museum visit.

Somewhere along the way, we had a wonderful Chinese feast for lunch. After our visit to the Medicine Museum and the shops we adjourned to the hotel, Hangzhou Wu Yang Holiday Hotel.

*Sunday, November 14, 2010*

After a huge breakfast at the hotel, our group started the day early with a “cruise” in the famous West Lake. Despite the constant mist and the tour delivered in Chinese, we enjoyed the sites of the lake, tall pagodas, graceful bridges, small working boats skimming the water.



After a cruise we reboarded the coach for the National Tea Museum. Through the mist we could see the low mounded shapes of tea plants of the plantation surrounding the museum. The National Tea Museum opened in 1991 and is the only museum in China with tea as its theme. The exhibits showcase some of the aspects of history of tea and tea culture in China. The museum is comprised of four groups of buildings in which four themes are presented – the History of Tea, Tea Properties, Tea Sets and Tea Customs. The gift shop, of course, offered a wide variety of Chinese teas, tea sets and books about tea culture.

With too little time for a real visit, the coach took the ICME travelers to our next destination, Wuzhen, about 80 kilometers from Hangzhou. Was this where our intrepid driver, following someone's directions, gave us a tour of some industrial area? Wuzhen is known as the Lifeblood of Heavenly Cities, it is one of many small towns where people still rely on the river network. Since 1991, it was ranked first among the six ancient towns south of the Yangtze River. Upon arrival at Wuzhen, the group crossed the picturesque carved stone bridge into the town and marched quickly to a lovely restaurant for another feast, called lunch. Afterwards, we were given a few hours to explore the town and enjoy the small, evocative museums all along one narrow and winding street. There was the Thousand Bed Museum, the Jiangnan Folk Custom Museum, the Woodcarving Museum, the Ancient Coin Museum, the Blue Cloth Workshop, and more. Many of us also sampled the home brew at the wine shop, sat alongside the lady and her loom, visited the Taoist temple, and watched the theatrical on the small stage built in 1749 in the center of the town. At the end of the lovely day we returned to our coach and drove to our hotel in Suzhou, the Suzhou Nan Lin Hotel.

*Monday, November 14, 2010*

Suzhou is located in the south of Jiangsu province, some 50 miles west of Shanghai, along the old Grand Canal. The city is dotted with lakes and ponds connected by a spider's web of canals. And all the canals are lined with whitewashed houses with gray-tiled roofs. It is thus known as the "Venice of the East."

The city has been famous for its gardens for many centuries. We were able to visit two of the most renowned gardens in Suzhou on the final day of our tour, the Humble

Administrator's Garden and the Lion Grove Garden. Both gardens are, rightly so, included on UNESCO's list of World Heritage Sites.

The Humble Administrator's Garden is thought to be the finest and largest garden in southern China. It dates to the early 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is composed of different sections including a series of pavilions, bridges and lovely plantings. The second garden we visited was the Lion Grove Garden or Shizilin. This garden, dating from the 14<sup>th</sup> century, includes many large grotesque rocks in shapes in the garden resembling lions. The most noted feature in Lion Grove Garden is the labyrinthine rockery, which was mostly made of the limestone from Taihu Lake in Wuxi City. The pavilions of both gardens are furnished with furniture and artwork such as rare tablets and steles, paintings and calligraphies.

Later in the day, we visited two museums in Suzhou. The Suzhou Museum, opened in the current building in 2006, was designed by my native son I.M. Pei. The entrance is a formal gateway, set behind high walls. The museum building replicates traditional courtyard and garden design, encircling an interior lake.

The large entry way with high cathedral ceilings leads to exhibition galleries radiate around the center. Exterior windows allow the visitor to appreciate the indoor space along with the outdoor space. On display are ancient paintings and calligraphy, ceramics, crafts, unearthed relics and revolution relics. Pei designed both the building and the exhibits in order to accentuate the works of art and the gardens. Our last stop was the Museum of Suzhou Folk Customs. This regional folk custom museum is located at an ancient residence.

The building is the ancestral home of the family of architect I.M. Pei. Displays give tangible insight into the marriage customs of the region as well as holiday celebrations and food traditions. I'm sure I join all members of the tour to thank the museum staff from both museums for opening and welcoming us on a Monday, when they were normally be closed to the public.

And, that, along with a long bus ride back to Shanghai ended the ICME/2010/Shanghai Post-Conference Tour. We hope many will be able to join our next adventure into museums and cultures.

## Journals of Note



### International Journal of Intangible Heritage

One of the professional and personal benefits which I have enjoyed over the past four years is serving on the Editorial Board of the 'International Journal of Intangible Heritage' (IJIH). This internationally juried journal grew out of the overwhelmingly successful ICOM 2004 Triennial Conference held in Seoul, Korea. Intangible Heritage was the theme of that conference. Keynote speakers addressed the 2003 UNESCO Convention for the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

For the last four Februarys, as President of ICME, I have served on this esteemed editorial board, critically reviewing articles submitted for publication to the journal. It has been an intellectual challenge as I have had to remain current with the field of intangible heritage. This is a joy since my academic background is in folklore. I have continued

to learn much, much more. At the same time, I have become acquainted with leading scholars in the field who also serve on the editorial board. As a group, we have been introduced to more and more excellent examples of Korea's rich intangible heritage.

We museum anthropologists often work with different genres of intangible heritage – ranging from oral traditions, misc, dance, foodways, and more. We do not always incorporate the workings of the UNESCO Convention in our work. If you do, I would like to encourage you to consider submitting an article, a short note or even a photo essay to the International Journal of Intangible Heritage. For more information about the journal refer to the website - [http://www.ijih.org/101\\_web/main.jsp](http://www.ijih.org/101_web/main.jsp). Any questions can be addressed to the secretariat, as listed on the website.

If you'd like to increase your knowledge of the UNESCO Conventions, more information can be found on that website - <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/index.php?lg=en&pg=home>.

### Heritage & Society

Beginning in Spring 2011, the journal 'Heritage Management' will be renamed 'Heritage & Society'. 'Heritage & Society' will be edited by Elizabeth S. Chilton and Neil A. Silberman with the University of Massachusetts Amherst, and will feature a new editorial board.

'Heritage & Society' will be a global, peer-reviewed journal that provides a forum for scholarly, professional, and community reflection on the cultural, political, and economic impacts of heritage on contemporary society. We seek to examine the current social roles of collective

memory, historic preservation, cultural resource management, public interpretation, cultural preservation and revitalization, sites of conscience, diasporic heritage, education, legal/legislative developments, cultural heritage ethics, and central heritage concepts such as authenticity, significance, and value.

The journal will provide an engaging forum about tangible and intangible heritage for those who work with international and governmental organizations, academic institutions, private heritage consulting and CRM firms, and local, associated, and indigenous communities. 'Heritage & Society' will publish original research that contributes to the theory and practice of Heritage as it impacts on wider contemporary society. In general, the journal is aimed at both working heritage practitioners and scholars concerned with evolving heritage theory and its application in real-world situations.

'Heritage & Society' welcomes submission of original manuscripts of no more than 30 double spaced pages that focus on management of the world's heritage resources. All manuscripts are subject to anonymous peer review by knowledgeable scholars and professional practitioners and, if accepted, may be subject to revision. Materials submitted to Heritage & Society should not be under consideration by other publishers, nor should they be previously published in any form.

For additional details contact one of the co-editors at: [hs.editor@sbs.umass.edu](mailto:hs.editor@sbs.umass.edu)

## Conferences

March 30–April 1, 2010, Building National Museums in Europe 1750-2010, Bologna, Italy, more information and a draft program,

<http://www.unibo.it/Portale/Ricerca/EuNaMus2011.htm>

June 17-19, 2011, Working Conference on Heritage Regimes and the State: Nomination, Implementation, Regulation, University of Göttingen, Göttingen, Germany, Contact: Arnika Peselmann ([apeselm@gwdg.de](mailto:apeselm@gwdg.de))

August 15-20, 2011, “International Summer School for Humour and Laughter,” Tartu, Estonia, Contact: Liisi Laineste ([liisi@folklore.ee](mailto:liisi@folklore.ee))

October 12-15, 2011, American Folklore Society's 123rd Annual Meeting, "Peace, War, Folklore," Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, Proposal Deadline The deadline for submission of all proposals, which must be submitted with meeting registration and payment, is March 31, 2011, <http://www.afsnet.org/>

November 16-20, 2011, American Anthropological Society, 110th Annual Meeting, Montreal, QC, Canada, “Traces, Tidemarks and Legacies,” [aaameetings@aanet.org](mailto:aaameetings@aanet.org)

November 17-20, 2011, Society for Ethnomusicology 2011 Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States, [www.ethnomusicology.org](http://www.ethnomusicology.org)

June 1–8, 2013

ICME Conference within the ICOM General Conference  
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

November 7-9, 2011, Knowledge / Culture / Social Change International Conference, Sydney, Australia.

The deadline for abstracts/proposals is 3 June 2011.

Enquiries: [r.dobson@uws.edu.au](mailto:r.dobson@uws.edu.au)

Web address:

[http://www.uws.edu.au/centre\\_for\\_cultural\\_research/ccr/events\\_and\\_news/kcsc\\_conference](http://www.uws.edu.au/centre_for_cultural_research/ccr/events_and_news/kcsc_conference)

July 11-15, 2011, Association for Cultural Studies Summer Institute, Ghent University, Belgium.

The Association for Cultural Studies presents the inaugural ACS Summer Institute to be held 11-15 July 2011 at the Department of Educational Studies of Ghent University in Belgium. The theme of the Summer Institute is Critical Literacies. Enquiries: [acssi2011@UGent.be](mailto:acssi2011@UGent.be)

Web address: <http://www.acssi2011.ugent.be>  
Registration is limited. We strongly advise participants to register and secure accommodation as early as possible.

September 1-4, 2011, Re-Thinking Humanities and Social Sciences, Zagreb, Croatia.

Website: <http://www.rhss-conference.com>

Contact name: Marko Lukic

Organized by: University of Zadar

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 1 June 2011

8 September 2011, Austere Cultures/ Cultures of Austerity: Reactions to the Erosion of Critical Spaces

Leeds, West Yorkshire, United Kingdom

Website:

<http://www.leedsmet.ac.uk/conferences/austerity/index.htm>

Contact name: Dr Dario Llinares

Organized by: Leeds Metropolitan University

Deadline for abstracts/proposals: 15 April 2011

## Call for Applications

The Einstein Fellowship Awarded by the Einstein Forum and the Daimler and Benz Foundation. The Einstein Forum and the Daimler and Benz Foundation are offering a

fellowship for outstanding young thinkers who wish to pursue a project in a different field from that of their previous research. The purpose of the fellowship is to support those who, in addition to producing extraordinary work in their area of specialization, are also open to other, interdisciplinary approaches? following the example set by Albert Einstein.

The fellowship includes living accommodations for five to six months in the gardener's cottage of Einstein's own summerhouse in Caputh, Brandenburg, only a short distance away from the universities and academic institutions of Potsdam and Berlin. The fellow will receive a stipend of EUR 10,000 and reimbursement of travel expenses.

Candidates must be under 35 and hold a university degree in the humanities, in the social sciences, or in the natural sciences. Applications for 2012 should include a CV, a two-page project proposal, and two letters of recommendation. All documents must be received by May 20, 2011. Please send applications to: Prof. Dr. Susan Neiman, Einstein Forum, Am Neuen Markt 7, 14467 Potsdam or email to: [einsteinforum\(at\)einsteinforum.de](mailto:einsteinforum(at)einsteinforum.de)  
phone: +49-(0)331-271780  
fax: +49-(0)331-2717827

At the end of the fellowship period, the fellow will be expected to present his or her project in a public lecture at the Einstein Forum and at the Daimler and Benz Foundation. The Einstein Fellowship is not intended for applicants who wish to complete an academic study they have already started work on.

A successful application must demonstrate the quality, originality, and feasibility of the

proposed project, as well as the superior intellectual development of the applicant. It is not relevant whether the applicant has begun working toward, or currently holds, a PhD.

The Albert Einstein Fellowship supports creative, interdisciplinary thought by giving young scholars the chance to pursue research outside their previous area of work. The fellowship, previously awarded by the Einstein Forum and the ZEIT - Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius was received by:

Mischa Gabowitsch (D/RUS):  
Exportschlager Vergangenheitsbewältigung.  
Russland und der deutsche Umgang mit der NS-Vergangenheit, 2007

Amber Carpenter (SA/UK):  
Metaphysics as Ethics in the Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Tradition, 2008

Péter Zilahy (HUN):  
Architectural Essays on Berlin, 2009

"All that is valuable in human society depends upon the opportunity for development accorded the individual."

(Albert Einstein)

Amy Garey, PhD student, Department of Anthropology, University of California-Los Angeles

Listserv Editor

Soyuz: the Research Network for Post-Socialist Cultural Studies

### Up-to-date ICME news

**Subscribe to the ICME Yahoo Group**  
<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/icme/>

### Call for E-Mail Up-Dates

IF you should change any of your professional information, please make sure that you inform both ICME and the ICOM Secretariat in Paris of any change of address,

phone, e-mail. Thank you very much for your help.

### HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT...

...the website [www.costume-textiles.com](http://www.costume-textiles.com) has been updated, modernized and is now also functioning as a social network. You are invited to visit the site with the option of creating an account in order to become a "member" of the "community", join or create a "group" or exchange a "link" of your organization. In this way you can be informed and connected, through an array of initiatives, within a friendly and congenial format which encourages reciprocal respect of each others' works and interests. If you create an account you will have direct access to all of the announcements and news flashes as they happen.

Please note that the **Call for Papers** for the next international symposium, to be held in Florence, November 2012 entitled **Costume Colloquium III: Past Dress – Future Fashion**, has been posted on the website.

We encourage you to visit [www.costume-textiles.com](http://www.costume-textiles.com), and spread the news to others like yourself who want to be kept informed of all that is happening in the costume and textile world around us.

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