

2015 – Chair’s report

Nicholas Crofts

CIDOC Chair

The year 2015 has again been a fulfilling and lively one for CIDOC. Our annual conference took place New Delhi, under the general theme of *Documenting Diversity – Collections, Catalogues & Context*. The conference was attended by more than 230 participants from around the world who were able to enjoy a packed and varied programme of workshops, presentations, social events, and a memorable visit to the Rashtrapati Bhavan where we were greeted by the President of the Republic of India, His Excellency Pranab Mukherjee. The conference was followed by an excursion to Agra and the Taj Mahal. We again benefitted this year from the generosity of the Getty Foundation who provided us with a substantial grant, allowing us to provide financial support to 23 participants. ICOM and CIDOC provided grants for another five individuals. The local organisers provided additional support for participants from India. The conference was remarkable for the range of topics covered. 124 papers were delivered in 25 sessions.

Preparations are now well under way for the 2016 conference, organised in conjunction with the ICOM triennial in Milan. This is a great opportunity to meet with colleagues from other committees so we hope to see many of you there.

2015 was full of opportunities for professional training. In collaboration with our partners, CIDOC organised week-long training schools in Rio de Janeiro, Finland and Texas. The events were attended by a total of more a hundred students. New tutors were trained and four new modules were added to the curriculum. A similar series of training events is planned for 2016. To allow the CIDOC training programme to continue to grow, the board decided to establish a semi-autonomous association, which will be responsible for its management and development. Detailed reports of the training events and details about the new training association can be found on the CIDOC website.

With the end of my second and final term as chair of CIDOC in sight, I find myself looking back over the last six years with some satisfaction. CIDOC membership has grown at a steady pace, we have organised a series of successful conferences, translated and published many of our key documents, provided vocational training for several hundred museum professionals and continued to publish our bi-lingual newsletter. Two important new working groups have come into existence, reflecting the broad and expanding range of CIDOC members’ concerns and interests. And we have extended our reach and influence, thanks to the ratification, in 2013 by the ICOM General Assembly, of CIDOC’s principles of documentation. I would like to thank all my colleagues on the board, both elected members and chairs of working groups, who have contributed their time and energy to make CIDOC a success. Without their support and engagement we would not have been able to achieve all that we have. And I wish the new Chair and board of CIDOC every success in the coming years.