

**Minutes**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**ICOM Costume Committee**

22 August, 2007, Vienna, Austria

**1. Call to order:**

Chair Joanna Marschner called the meeting to order at 9:08 AM. Present: 36 members.  
Regrets from: Naomi Tarrant, Karen Finch, Sandy Rosenbaum, Britta Hammar, Katalin Foldi Dozsa, Sigrid Pallmert, Heidi Rasche, Mirjana Menkovic, Ann Resare, Pernilla Rasmussen, Dorothea Nicolai, Birgit Haase, Aija Jansone, Gundula Wolter. Aude le Guennec (just the AGM).

**2. Approval of Minutes of 13 October 2006, Copenhagen, Denmark:**

Secretary Katia Johansen presented the Minutes. As the Minutes from last meeting were printed in Newsletter and distributed today, it was agreed to dispense with reading them aloud. Four actions to be taken were noted; all actions have been or will be taken. These action items were: location of 2008 meeting, location of 2009 meeting, allowing time for new members to introduce themselves early on in the conference, and preparing a draft of a promotional brochure. Chair Marschner asked for a show of hands approving minutes – passed unanimously.

**3. Chair's report:**

Chair Marschner presented the following report:

- Over the last six years the number of members of the committee has grown steadily, with more young members becoming involved. And - more members than ever are attending the annual meetings. We have managed to publish four volumes of proceedings of the last meetings which is a wonderful achievement. This year we were successful in our bid to secure one of ICOM's special 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary grants which was used to publish the 2006 Proceedings. So – I want to say thank you for all the wonderful work the members of the committee have done since 2002 – to Alex and Elizabeth, to Bianca and Rainer, to Ann and Katia and Britta and Pernilla. It has been just great to know that they would be there as help, support and with kind and sound advice through all the good projects and all the difficult times too – so THANK YOU all.

- This year saw the termination of the contract with John Zvereff, the Director General of ICOM. The interim Director General is Mr Piet Pouw from the Netherlands.

- At the Advisory meeting just held in Vienna, the following information was presented: Knut Wik (Norway) was elected as the new Chair of the Advisory Committee. The work of this committee over the last three years included the formation of working groups looking into the working and role of the International and National Committees. There is a new Nomination Committee. The ethics code has been revised. New mentoring grants have been established to allow young members of ICOM to attend meetings (one of which was awarded to a member of the Costume Committee, Aude le Guennec). There have been two editions of the *Journal of Intangible Heritage*, continuing the debate on this subject which formed the basis of the last Triennial meeting in Seoul, South Korea. The Standing Committee on Legal Affairs had made new links with the International Bar Association, to assist in the debate surrounding the cultural protection and rights of indigenous peoples, intangible heritage, copyright/intellectual property. 2006 saw the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the foundation

of ICOM. The Museums Emergency programme now covers 99% of the world through its contacts with allied associations.

- There were two matters of particular concern to the Costume Committee which were discussed at the Advisory meeting. ICOM announced the launching of a new members database. As well as allowing a more efficient way of up-dating membership details it will have the facility to host forums and news pages. The system will be centrally managed, and maintained. Visit [www.icommembers.org](http://www.icommembers.org) to see a template or prototype of the message board (until September 15). ICOM also launched its Strategic Plan 2008-1010, and announced its new guiding principles: to strengthen ICOM's global impact; to provide leadership in advocating the value of heritage; to champion effectiveness and high standards in museums; and to ensure the resources required to effectively implement the strategic plan. ICOM would like to see these principles embedded in the work of International and National Committees.

- There is a suggestion from the Advisory Committee that there should be a change in the principles for the allocation of the subvention payment to the International Committees. At present there is a standard subvention paid for each member. This means that the committees which are the most wealthy are the ones who have lots of members, but don't have a very lively programme. The change suggested would divide the subvention into three grants. The first for basic costs would be calculated on member numbers as would the second communication grant. The last grant would be called an activity grant where the number of people attending the annual meetings would be taken into account. This would have a significant advantage for our committee. We are of average size, but we are ambitious in our programmes and our meetings are very well attended – so I think we should keep an eagle eye on this discussion.

- In this the Triennial year our committee has to submit not just the annual report about our activities, but also a bigger explanation of our work over the past three years. We were also asked to comment on a number of points to aid the revising of ICOM's strategic plan. As I have mentioned earlier one of the matters considered in the present ICOM strategic plan, was to get a better idea of the working of the international committees such as ours. We have faithfully answered all their questions.

It has been a delight to deal with Margot Schindler and her team, and Dorothea Nicolai in the devising of this year's lovely programme. I know that there will be opportunity to thank them properly later, but let me start here by saying well done, and thank you so much. Also, I would like to thank the Nominating Committee for their work, and to Rainer, for his invaluable contribution to the committee and his care of the committee's reserves. He is a real hero.  
Submitted by Joanna Marschner.

#### **4. Secretary's Report:**

Secretary Johansen presented the following report: Since we last met, I have produced the minutes of the AGM 2006, which were distributed in the *Costume News* 2006:2 (as well as photocopied and handed out here). Since 2006, 20 new members have joined our committee, including colleagues from Latvia and Russia. 35 countries are now represented. New members receive a welcome letter from me and the latest *Costume News*. The Committee now consists of 249 members, of which there are 8 institutions. Institutional membership of ICOM is relatively expensive, which means that it may instead be cheaper – and more popular – with individual memberships at many museums.

Our membership has grown from 165 voting members in 1996 to 249 today, an increase of 84 members. Until 2003 we had both voting and non-voting members, the latter almost as numerous as the voting members. As our main income consists of the annual subvention from ICOM for voting members who have paid their ICOM dues on time, we are naturally interested in the number. From 1998 the membership fell slightly over a four year period, but since 2002 it has grown steadily with an average of about 10 new members pr. year. Surprisingly, only about 40% of all ICOM members have chosen to join an international committee such as ours – so if we wish to attract new members, the membership of ICOM is right to hand.

Updating membership information seems to run more smoothly now, but it is still dependent on members *themselves* submitting changes to ICOM at: [secretariat@icom.museum](mailto:secretariat@icom.museum). The Secretary can not change personal information on behalf of members.

As Secretary I field a number of requests for information. Among them from the director of a Costume museum in Tehran, the actual existence of which I was not able to confirm. We have also received an invitation from ICOM UK to contribute to their bi-annual Newsletter – their editor Lucy Watts thought that a short article about our activities would be of great interest. (**Action: new Board**).

After our meeting last fall we applied for two grants from ICOM. Originally, I had hoped to get some financial support from ICOM for our meeting in Copenhagen/Lund, as it had been announced that there would be special jubilee funds available in honor of ICOM's 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. My original request was denied, but later on, after our meeting, new calls were made for applications. This time we applied for funds for a Proceedings or setting up a website – or both. In December the Special Projects Committee awarded us €6500 for the Proceedings. Along with a small amount left over from the meeting, this means that we were able to produce the handsome volume: *Costume: Design and Decoration*. I thank everyone who submitted articles and illustrations for their generous help, and apologize for any errors it may contain. You will each have received it here now, and the rest were sent out to committee members last week. It is available for sale to ICOM members for €10 and non-ICOM members for €15 plus packaging and postage (contact [kj@dkks.dk](mailto:kj@dkks.dk)). Income from the Proceedings will revert to the Committee's chest of gold.

Submitted by Katia Johansen, Secretary

## 5. Treasurer's report.

(Copies distributed; attached here) Treasurer Y reviewed the financial reports. Approved by show of hands, unanimous. Rainer has placed our funds to accumulate as much interest as possible. Ann Coleman proposed an audit of our financial records **Action (new Board)**. The Chair thanked Rainer for his outstanding work as Treasurer.

## 6. Editors' report:

Submitted by Britta Hammer and, in her absence, read by Chair Marschner: Since our meeting in Copenhagen and Lund last fall the *Costume News* has been published twice, and hopefully all our members have received it by e-mail or regular mail. ICOM Paris has been quick to send us the membership lists (e-mails for me and street addresses to Ann Resare), but unfortunately their lists aren't always quite up to date and some Newsletters are returned. Please, dear members, when you change your address, remember to inform ICOM Paris directly ([secretariat@icom.museum](mailto:secretariat@icom.museum)). It saves us double work, and you get the Newsletter faster! Also, please send information about exhibitions, new books, conferences, seminars and on-going research to the editors, so you also contrib-

ute to making the *Costume News* a lively forum for our Committee. Pernilla will be taking over the editorship ([pernilla.rasmussen@ihv.uu.se](mailto:pernilla.rasmussen@ihv.uu.se)), while Britta and Ann have kindly offered to continue to send it out.

Britta Hammar, August 2007

The Chair thanks all three for their work. June Swann suggests the use of automatic acknowledgment, to see if it is received.

## 7. Reports from Sub-committees:

- Terminology: [www.ICOM.museum](http://www.ICOM.museum) (Resources>other resources>ICOM Guidelines and Standards>Costume Committee>Vocabulary) has our terminology in addition to the link printed in the last Newsletter/Minutes.

- Bibliography. Christine Stevens' new job means she would like to pass on this stewardship. It is now on database, available on CDs. There has been little demand for it, only two requests in three years. Should we reassess this activity? This is passed on to the new Board, perhaps in the form of a working group (**action: new Board**). In any case, many thanks to Christine. Madeleine Ginsburg suggested that we offer this material to new institutions. Joanna Marschner: might be made available on a website. Alex Palmer and Anu Liivandi had discussed this – students need to be able to use the internet. But the question is whether this is the best use of our activities – perhaps we could better spread the news of collections and other resources. Jean Druessedow: Must be able to search and find on Google, rather than on a specific website. Bianca du Mortier: ICOM Costume Committee can already be googled. Madeleine: will we use an expert on the website to manage the bibliography? Alex Palmer: will ICOM manage the website? Joanna Marschner: yes, and we will get a set of passwords to manage our own material through a webmaster. Anu Liivandi: is there not yet a bibliographic page for all of ICOM? Joanna: not yet. We can suggest it as something we want. June Swann: what about continuing to send material now? Joanna Marschner: Research libraries exist just for this purpose of collecting articles and titles, and newer articles are already indexed. However, we have many older articles. Pamela Boylan kindly volunteered to be holder of incoming information until a decision has been reached about the Bibliography. Her e-mail: [P.M.Inder@staffs.ac.uk](mailto:P.M.Inder@staffs.ac.uk).

## 8. Election report from the Nominating Committee:

Committee spokesman Alex Palmer presented the report:

The Nominating Committee, consisting of Nina Gockerell, Britta Hammar (chair), Margareta Nockert, Alexandra Palmer and Sandy Rosenbaum, was elected at the annual meeting in Berlin in 2006.

In *Costume News* 2006:2 the Nominating Committee asked the members to send in suggestions for the new board 2007 before the 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2007. 18 persons responded and the call gave the following the result:

List of names for ICOM board 2007 in order of number of suggestions.

|                    |                  |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Pernilla Rasmussen | 8                |
| Bernard Berthod    | 6 (1 vice chair) |
| Katia Johansen     | 4 (chair)        |

|                       |           |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Bianca du Mortier     | 4 (chair) |
| Beata Slota           | 3         |
| Mirjana Menkovic      | 2         |
| Alexandra MacCulloch  | 2         |
| Eva Uchalova          | 2         |
| Dorothea Nicolai      | 2         |
| Inez Brooks-Myers     | 1         |
| Vicki Berger          | 1         |
| Elisabeth Jachimovicz | 1         |
| Katalin Földi-Dózsa   | 1         |
| Alexandra Palmer      | 1         |
| Tom Bergroth          | 1         |
| Johannes Pietsch      | 1         |
| Britta Hammar         | 1         |

The Nominating Committee decided by a majority vote (Nina Gockerell, Britta Hammar, Alexandra Palmer and Sandy Rosenbaum: for, and Margareta Nockert: against) to follow the suggestions of the advisory group and has then been working according to the procedures prepared by Ann Coleman, Aagot Noss and Naomi Tarrant, published in *Costume News* 2006:1 and 2, *Costume News* 2007:1 and presented at the annual meeting in Copenhagen and Lund in October 2007.

The Committee has among many other things had to consider that:

- Beata Slota and Eva Uchalova were very pleased to be asked to become members of the board but too much work and heavy responsibilities in their museums prevented them from accepting.
- Alexandra Palmer and Britta Hammar are members of the Nominating Committee and could not be re-elected.
- Mirjana Menkovic, Katalin Földi-Dózsa and Johannes Pietsch do not live in a euro country and could not work as treasurer.
- It also proved difficult to find a person ready to accept the post as treasurer but a temporary solution was finally found.

The Committee came finally to the conclusion that this time there were not enough names proposed by the membership with the combination of experience to necessitate an election.

The aim of the Nominating Committee has been to find efficient officers, who together will make a good working team for the next three years. The committee has done its best to evaluate the skills and commitment of each candidate prepared to stand for office, against what they are required to do and was in *Costume News* 2007:1 presenting a slate to the voting members of Costume Committee to which they were encouraged to respond before 15<sup>th</sup> of May 2007 to the chairman of the Committee.

#### **List of candidates for the board:**

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| <b>Chair</b>      | Katia Johansen     |
| <b>Vice chair</b> | Bianca du Mortier  |
| <b>Secretary</b>  | Vicki Berger       |
| <b>Treasurer</b>  | Rainer Y *         |
| <b>Editor</b>     | Pernilla Rasmussen |
| <b>Member</b>     | Bernard Berthod    |

**Member**            Alexandra MacCulloch

\* Rainer Y has very kindly agreed to stay until a new treasurer living in a euro country can be found.

The Nominating Committee had by the 15th of May in all received **20** answers from voting members responding to the slate.

**Voting members approving the slate (18):**

Isabel Alvarado, Jutta Beder, Vicki Berger, Bernard Berthod, Jutta von Bloh, Ilse Bogaerts, Inez Brooks-Myers, Jean Drusedow, Birgit Haase, Katia Johansen, Alexandra MacCulloch, Mirjana Menkovic, Pernilla Rasmussen, Ann Resare.

*The Nominating committee:* Nina Gockerell, Britta Hammar, Alexandra Palmer, Sandy Rosenbaum

**Voting members disapproving the slate (2):** June Swann. *The Nominating Committee:* Margareta Nockert

The Nominating Committee\* has now completed its work and asks the board to kindly receive the slate for ratification at the annual meeting in Vienna.

\*Margareta Nockert has made a reservation to the procedures.

The Nominating Committee would finally like to suggest that a small working party is put together to draw up more detailed procedures how to manage a serious ballot in the future – to be discussed with the general membership in Costume News and at the next annual meeting in Chile.

Lund 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2007

For the Nominating Committee:

Britta Hammar, Chairman

**To the board of ICOM Costume Committee:**

The Nominating Committee received the 18th of June 2007 a kind proposal from Dr. Brigitte Herrbach-Schmidt, oberkonservatorin at Badisches Landesmuseum in Karlsruhe, Germany, to take over the position of treasurer of our committee after Rainer Y. Unfortunately the proposal came too late to be presented to all voting members in due time. However, it would be a very convenient solution, the accounts could probably stay were they are and Rainer Y would be able to give a helping hand if needed.

The Nominating Committee therefore requests the board to explain the proposition to the members present at the annual meeting in Vienna and ask if they can accept the offer made by Dr. Herrbach-Schmidt.

Lund the 4<sup>th</sup> of July 2007

Britta Hammar , Chairman

Alex asked for an approval of the slate, with the revision that Brigitte Herrbach-Schmidt has agreed to step in as treasurer. This was approved by a show of hands. It is suggested that a working group is drawn up to ensure more transparent election procedures in future, including brief presentation of candidates' resumes and board position responsibilities (**action: new Board**).

The outgoing Board, Joanna Marschner, Elizabeth Jachimovicz, Britta Hammar, Alex Palmer and Rainer Y, was warmly thanked by Margot Schindler, with special gifts – Viennese, textile, useful, fashionable, warm and loving (cashmere shawls) and by Katia Johansen, with the very exclusive "ICOM Grand Order of Great Costume".

## **9. Remarks from new Chair, Katia Johansen:**

I thank you for electing us your new Board. The Nominating Committee has done a careful and conscientious job in putting us together – and I look forward to being able to contribute our work to this Committee, which has been of great inspiration to me for many years.

For my own part, I am honored to take over the job as Chair. Our former chairs – of which we have all of three here today! – are a virtual string of pearls. I will try to live up to the standard they have set.

A Committee like this is a special organism which needs some special considerations. I look forward to giving it the attention it deserves. My own ambitions are, among others:

- Get a website up and running, with or without ICOM Paris.
- Have the Committee be responsible for one of the "Study Series" publications from ICOM (they appear once a year), to expose our work and potential to the greater museum world.
- Make sure the Committee's construction and working rules are clear and up-to-date.
- Spearhead an action for reaching out to new, younger members.
- Not only respond to suggestions and reactions from our membership – but also promote participation. Activating the members we have – even if it is only having *everyone* contribute a short information about his/her collection at the annual meetings – increases the value of the Committee.
- Reassess the format of our annual meetings. I would like to see time allotted for serious discussions, although it requires more preparation from us all!

An election is a good time to take stock. Is it time for any remodeling? Please speak up – or write – about any issues you want addressed. Here and now, or after the meeting. The new board, which already has some very good, new suggestions in the works – will discuss these and present our proposed 3-year agenda in the next Newsletter.

Thank you again. This is going to be great!

Katia Johansen presented the new Board: Bianca du Mortier, Vice Chair; Vicki Berger, Secretary; Brigitte Herrbach-Schmidt, treasurer; Alexandra MacCulloch; Bernard Berthod; Pernilla Rasmussen, editor.

## **10. Upcoming Meetings:**

- 2008: Santiago, Chile. 6-10 October, followed by a short post-conference tour. Isabel Alvarado gave a short presentation about this meeting, whose theme will be related to "Colonial Fashion".

- 2009: (open). Vicki Berger invited members to attend the Annual Symposium of the Costume Society of America which will be held in Phoenix and Tempe, Arizona, USA, May 27-30, 2009. At last year's meeting it was also suggested we plan a meeting in Belgrade, but unfortunately Mirjana Mencovicz has had to withdraw her offer to host this meeting due to changes caused by a recent

national election. She hopes to offer a meeting in Belgrade at a later date. This left us with one more option: an offer from Bernard Berthod to host the Costume Committee in **Lyon**. This offer was accepted with applause.

- 2010: ICOM Triennial, Shanghai, China, November 7-13, 2010.

#### **11. Other business:**

June Swann requested clarification of the new Chair's reference to Public Relations under future working groups. KJ: Bianca du Mortier and KJ have produced a prototype of a Welcome-leaflet which was distributed. Reactions and suggestions will be welcomed. The format is such that everyone will be able to download and print some out on his own printer – meaning that it can be edited frequently if necessary, and that we avoid costs of printing and sending. Anthea Bickley suggested that we advertise in the Newsletter how many back issues are available of our publications, what they cost and how one can obtain them (**Action: Katia**). June Swann relayed a comment from an absent member about the Costume Committee being anti-American. The Chair will discuss this and any action needed with June. Jean expressed the need for a membership list; Claudia Kidwell volunteered to receive information for an American membership list. Katia will investigate the legalities of distributing the list (**Action: Katia**).

#### **12. Adjournment:**

The Annual General Meeting adjourned at 10:42 AM.

Submitted by Katia Johansen and Vicki Berger