

**Annual General Meeting
ICOM Costume Committee
9 October 2008
Santiago, Chile**

1. Call to Order: Katia Johansen, Chair

The Chair called the Annual General Meeting to order at 11:29 am. Members present were counted and did not constitute a quorum. Katia explained that we would hold the meeting in an informational mode. Katia relayed regrets from the following colleagues: Katalin Foldi-Dozsa, Rainer Y, Pernilla Rasmussen, Britta (and Olla) Hammar, Mirjana Menkovic, Alisa Baginski, Barbara Baziulich, Joanna Marschner, Sandy Heffernan, Johannes Pietsch, Marianna de Jong, Aagot Noss [today is her birthday!], Brigitte Herrbach-Schmidt and Eva Uchalova. Members relayed regrets from Suzanne McLean and Anu Liivandi.

2. Approval of Minutes of 22 August 2007: Vicki Berger, Secretary

Vicki reported that the minutes from Vienna were circulated in the newsletter. As there was not a quorum present, Katia postponed voting on the minutes until the 2009 Annual General Meeting in Lyon, France.

3. Chair's Report: Katia Johansen

Our first activity was writing thank-you notes to everyone involved in the very exciting meeting in Vienna last year. We then set up contact within the new Board about how to implement our new initiatives, planning of the upcoming meetings – including the innovations of the Service Project and Open Forum at this meeting – and preparation of grant applications. ICOM Paris required an annual report and financial report with rather short notice in January. Our activities report, along with those of all the other committees who responded (20 out of 25) can be seen on HYPERLINK "<http://icom.museum/download/June2008/ENG/2008SEC02bis-Rapportfinal-IC-2007.pdf>" <http://icom.museum/download/June2008/ENG/2008SEC02bis-Rapportfinal-IC-2007.pdf>

We have been following up on contacts with Chinese colleagues to begin planning the meeting in Shanghai in 2010. [Since our meeting in Santiago, new suggestions have been made – see separate notice in this Newsletter]. Also, there were numerous meetings with web designers in Denmark, as well as preparing the material to be used on the website. Also answering queries from non-Committee members or forwarding them to other members of the Board and fielding material for the Newsletter.

The following grant applications were made to ICOM:

Grants for young members: notifying the membership by e-mail because of short notice from ICOM, circulating the applications to Board and prioritizing, adjusting the applications to ICOM's exacting standards, notifying applicants of results; travel grants were awarded to 18 young ICOM members in all; Costume received one, which went to Alexandra MacCulloch. A hint for success appears to be an emphasis on the opportunity to spread and share the experience rather than on the personal gains alone.

Applications for the website and for simultaneous translation of this meeting: In May we received a grant of €4000 for the website, less than we applied for, from ICOM. Committee funds will be

used as in-kind financing. We are one of just 5 international committees receiving grants for projects. The next deadline for projects application was October 1, with a response by mid-January. The application deadline for travel grants for younger members will be notified [March 1 to the Board]. Costume Committee applications were commended at the Advisory meeting in June (as the only ones). Costume suggested extending with the possibility of grants for retired colleagues.

Despite our call for proposals from the membership, no suggestions have been made for new projects, so the Board decided to apply for financial support for the tri-lingual implementation of our new website.

There has been a query from former Chair of Arab ICOM, Chedlia Annabi, who is interested in collaboration with the Costume Committee regarding a new national museum in Tunisia for exhibiting costume from their heritage as well as newly designed costume, but further collaboration needs to wait while details of the museum itself are worked out.

The 2006 *Proceedings* have been sent to people interested in purchasing them, as well as to the heads of all ICOM national committees in Latin America, to help generate interest for Costume Committee activities here.

I participated in the ICOM Advisory Council meeting in Paris 2-4 June 2008. It was exciting to see how the organization works – and doesn't work. ICOM is affiliated with UNESCO but there seem to be rather muddy communications. For example, UNESCO does not involve ICOM in its own museum and heritage projects.

ICOM finances are good, but the main function of the new Director General will be to raise funds. Up to 2010 income is expected to increase by 52% while expenses will only increase 42%. The budget is now directly linked to the ICOM Strategic Goals, which is a big change. All international committees received €8.15 per member in subvention plus an extra €1000 this year. 70% of membership fees go back to membership activities. The ICOM website is being redesigned this summer, and the membership database is thought to be operational by January 2009. The prototype demonstrated in Paris was not received enthusiastically. A new software package is being implemented to improve keeping ICOM archives – maybe also for us.

The third issue of the Journal of Intangible Heritage has been published; perhaps we should consider contributing an article relating to costume tradition. See [HYPERLINK http://www.ijih.org](http://www.ijih.org)
<http://www.ijih.org>
82% of ICOM membership is European. It is an important goal to reach out to other geographical areas.

A proposed issue is: what is the role of research in ICOM? Only Conservation and ICOMOS have actual plans or subcommittees. All committees should/could/do support research. Might this be a possible meeting or publication theme for us?

It has been suggested that ICOM look into possibilities for e-publishing and for telecasting for meetings.

The group of international committees has proposed that ICOM consider a much larger sum of money to be allotted to the committees to cover actual running costs. The larger committees already have paid staff – but large or small, there is still a lot of work involved in administration. Is there a candidate in Costume for the next Executive Council? This person may not be a current Committee officer.

The next International Museum Day theme is “Museums and Tourism”.

The Chair's report concluded with a live presentation of the Costume Committee website: HYPERLINK <http://costume-committee.org> <http://costume-committee.org>. All Committee members received an e-mail (if they have a viable e-mail address in the ICOM membership list in Paris) at the same time that the website was launched. Members can log in to see Committee Newsletters and, *finally*, the Membership Directory, which we have not been able to publish since 2001 due to data protection laws. Pernilla Rasmussen has generously agreed to be webmaster. Please explore the site, get a password, and contribute articles, reviews and suitable images for the picture gallery.

4. Secretary's Report: Vicki Berger

Membership

As of 30 September 2008, our Costume Committee has 254 members from 35 countries. The largest contingents are: France, 37 members; Germany, 28 members; and USA, 24 members. Last year's membership was 249.

Service Project

On Saturday, October 4, the Costume Committee held a service project to benefit the Chilean costume community. The proposal for the project was a response to the board in support of Goal #5, to promote active participation in the Committee. The proposal was: "...the addition of a Costume Service Project to the overall agenda of each annual Costume Committee meeting. Members and accompanying persons, who are willing and able to arrive a day early or stay an extra day after the meeting, will assist a local museum with a hands-on project...The host museum will designate a contact person and the task of defining the project will follow. The final decision will be based on a match between the needs of the host museum and the talents of the participating members. Plans must be made and announced before Costume Committee participants make their travel reservations." [From Proposal for Objective #5]

During planning for our meeting in Chile, Isabel Alvarado's idea for a fundraiser to benefit educational outreach took precedence over the idea of a hands-on project. The planning committee decided on an afternoon of talks given by Costume Committee members. This plan was announced in the conference materials and both members and accompanying persons answered the call. Sincere thanks to those who helped with the afternoon: Isabel Alvarado, Soledad Hoces de la Guardia, Rebecca Akins, Martha Wilson, Katia Johansen, Jan Loverin, Alexandra Palmer, Sandra L. Rosenbaum, June Swann, Naomi Tarrant, and Alexandra MacCulloch, as well as local arrangements colleagues. Many Costume Committee members also donated items which were incorporated into the Silent Auction planned by our Chilean colleagues. Approximately 80 participants attended.

The Embassy of Denmark funded refreshments and the Embassy of the United States of America funded the simultaneous translation. The estimated net revenue is 570,000 Chilean pesos or \$1,000+ USD. The funds will be used to disseminate costume information to the Chilean public and volunteers and staff in small Chilean museums. Many thanks from the organizers to all who made the afternoon a success.

Bernard Berthod has begun to think about next year's project in Lyon, France. It may be a project to benefit students.

Annual secretarial activities

The year's activities included correspondence related to the Vienna conference, the AGM minutes, working with our contact in the Secretariat's office Modestito "Tito" Chan, reviewing the new website, reviewing grant submissions, planning the Service Project, and assisting Katia Johansen and Isabel Alvarado as requested.

Database

In addition to following Katia's directions about the new website, please continue to send any changes in your name, address, title, etc. to the Secretariat in Paris. Thank you in advance for following this procedural request.

5. Treasurer's Report: Brigitte Herrbach-Schmidt (in absentia)

The Treasurer's report was distributed with the agenda for the meeting. (printed separately here).

6. Editor's Report: Pernilla Rasmussen (in absentia)

With thanks to Pernilla, Vicki read the Editor's Report as submitted:

Since the meeting in Vienna last fall the *Costume News* has been published twice, with one issue shortly after the meeting, October 20 and one March 20. I hope all members have received it by e-mail or regular mail. Many thanks to Britta Hammar for sending out the newsletter to all members with an e-mail address and to Ann Resare for sending out the newsletter with regular mail. Since I took over the editorship I have given the newsletter a new, hopefully more attractive layout. I have also tried to revitalize the part of the newsletter presenting new exhibitions, conferences and seminars. To members with an e-mail address the newsletter has been sent as an attached pdf-file. I hope these changes have the members' approval and that they have made the newsletter more useful and accessible.

From Britta Hammar and Ann Resare I understand that there are still some problems with the members' addresses. Some members' e-mail addresses do not work. Do not forget to report all changes in addresses directly to ICOM Paris at: secretariat@icom.museum. This will make their work much easier.

I wish to thank all of you who have contributed to the newsletter during the year. If you have found the part in the newsletter with new exhibitions and other interesting activities within our field (as new books, conferences, seminars and on-going research) useful, please contribute with your own information to the editor at: pernilla.rasmussen@konstvet.uu.se. It is impossible for the editor alone to keep the members informed. I suggest members to put the *Costume News* editors address to the press list of the museum. Some of you have already done that. Thank you.

The deadline of the next *Costume news*, 2008:2, will be November 1.

Since September 2008 I am also webmaster of the Costume Committee web site: www.costume-committee.org. I would like to thank the committee for giving me the opportunity to learn how to manage a web site. I hope all members soon visit the web site and get access to the members' part of the site. I will give you access as quickly as I can.

The web site will give us new possibilities. At the members' part of the web site you will find the members directory. This will make it easy to check if your membership details are correct. You will also find the latest issue of the *Costume News* as well as previous newsletters. The upcoming newsletters will be published directly on the web site. I will continue to make the *Costume News* as it looks today for two more issues. During this time we have time to see how the newsletter and web site can work together in the future.

I kindly ask all members to contribute to the web site. This is an opportunity to reach committee members with information but also all other people with an interest in costume visiting the site. Our common interest in the *Costume News* and the web site can make them a lively forum for our Committee.

7. Sub-committees: Katia Johansen, Chair

Katia led a discussion about the Terminology, Guidelines, and Bibliography Committees. She thanked everyone who has devoted time and energy to the three committees. The work of the Terminology and Guidelines Committees is posted on the new web site. We could find a home for the Bibliography in its old format by depositing it in a suitable library. Jean Druessedow commented that in today's world, researchers use an internet search engine but that she will miss the review of publications. Alexandra Palmer commented that other journals review publications. Katia said that she will ask the web designer about possible solutions. She will lead the board on implementing this plan. Ann Coleman moved to go forward with the plan. Naomi Tarrant seconded. No vote was taken as there was no quorum. Katia reported that we will receive new rules from ICOM concerning internal workings of committees. The work of the sub-committees can be considered finished for now, pending response from the rest of the membership.

8. New Business: Katia Johansen, Chair

Upcoming Meetings

2009, Lyon, France: Bernard Berthod

Katia introduced Bernard Berthod who announced that the next Costume Committee Meeting will be held in Lyon, France, 4-9 October 2009. Bernard gave a brief outline and Power Point presentation about the plans. Themes under consideration are "Costume and Textile Trade" and "Costume and Textile Commerce."

2010, Shanghai, China: Katia Johansen

The 2010 Triennial Meeting will be held in Shanghai, China, 7-13 November 2010. Katia has been in conversation with two Chinese colleagues who are interested in coordinating the meeting. Jean Druessedow commented that Shanghai has textile industry. Naomi Tarrant suggested that someone from CIETA might help. June Swann added that the International Association of Costume has Chinese members.

2011, (proposed) Belgrade, Serbia

Katia has talked to Mirjana Menkovic about the possibility of holding the 2011 meeting in Belgrade.

2013, next Triennial

Katia reported that we have three cities competing for the 2013 Triennial: Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Milan, Italy; and Moscow, Russia. The vote will be held in June. She asked members to send comments to the Costume Committee Board.

Future Committee Projects

Katia led a discussion of possible future projects for the Costume Committee. Ideas offered were: travel grants for young members (March 15 deadline), developing a tri-lingual web site; survey of members by newsletter or by electronic survey for ideas, encouraging young professionals in Tunisia, and a publication in ICOM Study Series.

Naomi announced that "Costume" is looking for a new review chair.

Jean asked how the Service Project is different from the presentations at our usual meeting. Katia responded that the Service Project encompasses hospitality, giving back to the host country, raising funds for worthy projects, and promoting collegial exchange. Isabel Alvarado added that the Service Project was very important to the meeting and the funds raised are much appreciated. Ann asked if the project was a burden to Isabel. Isabel responded that because of the help of the Textile Committee, it was not. Alexandra asked how we can make the project more available to members. Jean suggested we invite visitors. Alexandra suggested shorter papers. Anthea Bickley suggested that we look at the target audience, and plan the event outside of the work week.

June commented that the last election was not democratic. Katia responded that the board will work on rules and that we are waiting on new ICOM rules for committees. Katia will report on this in the newsletter.

9. Adjournment: Katia Johansen, Chair

Katia thanked Isabel Alvarado and her entire host committee for the wonderful experience in Chile. The meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.

Submitted by Vicki Berger, Secretary