

**Minutes**  
**Annual General Meeting**  
**ICOM Costume Committee**  
**9 October 2009**  
**Lyon, France**

**1. Call to Order: Katia Johansen, Chair**

The Chair called the Annual General Meeting to order at 11:14 AM. A quorum was declared. Johansen relayed regrets from the following colleagues: Nina Gockerell, Rainer Y, Jan Loverin, Sandra Rosenbaum, Pernilla Rasmussen, Jutta von Bloh, Bianca du Mortier, Anna Moonen, and Xenia Politou. Committee members added: Anne Kjellberg, Inez Brooks-Myers, Claudia Kidwell, Karen Finch, Barbara Baziulich, and Elisabeth Hackspiel-Mikosch.

**2. Approval of Minutes of 22 August, 2007, and 9 October, 2008: Katia Johansen, Chair**

Johansen explained that we did not have a quorum present last year in Santiago, Chile. Therefore, we have two sets of minutes to approve, 2007 and 2008. As the minutes have been published in the newsletter and distributed earlier this week, she proposed that both sets of minutes be adopted without reading the entire documents. Jean Druessedow moved to accept both minutes. Elizabeth Ann Coleman requested that the Secretary always use surnames and official names (not nicknames) when preparing the minutes. Johansen announced the adoption by the Committee of both sets of minutes.

**3. Chair's Report: Katia Johansen**

Since our meeting last year in Santiago, we the Board have been busy keeping in touch about Committee matters: grant applications to ICOM in Paris, tracking the progress of future meetings, discussing new initiatives and fielding questions from members and non-members alike.

ICOM Paris requires comprehensive activity and financial reports from each international committee in January. Our reports were submitted and are accessible on ICOM's website, as indicated in our Costume News. These reports are now the basis for awarding each committee a "performance" subvention. For us this is now larger than the annual subvention per member (which is shrinking), which previously had been our only income. This is part of the overall plan of ICOM to encourage greater activity in the international committees to fulfill ICOM's global objectives. Fortunately, our objectives coincide elegantly with ICOM's, so we are working towards the same goals: more transparency, more outreach, more members, more quality; in short, more "kapow". We have crystallized these objectives into making information about the Committee more accessible, by way of our website <http://costume-committee.org>, which was introduced live last year in Santiago. On this website, which was funded in part by ICOM, we

designed a secure members' section, with the complete membership list as kept by ICOM Paris. Since the French data-protection act was passed in 2001, we have not legally been able to provide you with printed membership lists. Since the membership section of the website is secure – requiring a password provided on request from Pernilla Rasmussen, who checks that the person in question is actually a member – you are now, finally, able to access information about all our members again. We realize this is a little more complicated than just being sent a list, but we are bound to follow the French laws about protecting private information.

Since our most prominent activity is our annual meeting, a lot of planning and plain hard work goes into its preparation. That we are here today in Lyon, having enjoyed a spectacular week of lectures, museums, and discussions, is proof that we take this very seriously. If you haven't had the pleasure of arranging a Costume meeting, you probably don't appreciate just how many details unrelated to costume history have to be attended to. We thank you, Bernard [Berthod], Manuelle-Anne [Renault] and Marie-Anne [Privat-Savigny] for your efforts on our behalf!

Applications to ICOM Paris: a young member travel grant was awarded this year to Paola di Trocchio from Australia. We thank everyone who applied. We are interested to hear any suggestions as to whether the Committee itself should offer travel grants to members – and not just young members – or should prioritize other activities. Committee funds must be used to further the interests and activities of the Committee, and we would like to hear your ideas about the best use of our money.

At the General Assembly in Paris this year I had a first-rate opportunity to learn more about how other committees work. We are not alone with the challenges we face in trying to get more members. Some committees are very large, with their own large budgets and staff, while others are very small and run on nothing or are supported by museums. We are a medium-sized committee with a good record of activities: our regular meetings, travel grants to young members, many publications, our own website and resources such as Terminology on the net.

The vote for the following Triennial 2013 was done electronically, after presentations from Moscow, Milano and Rio. Rio won hands down on the first vote.

Two keynote talks on the impact of the economic crisis on museums were unsettling. James Chung spoke on “Looking Forward: Economic Change and the future of American Museums”. The change in demographics means that the interests of young people now have more significance, the loss of donors and benefactors is painful, as well as the idea that access to cultural property should be free even as budget cuts from governments increase. However, there are important undercurrents which seem to be in our favor: museums hold the key to *genuine* artifacts and living aspects of history. The unique personal impact of “real” history is a marketable commodity. While tourism in the US is down, local visits to museums are up. Young women earn more than young men because of increased education. This generation of women will be key economic drivers

reshaping consumer markets in the future. The percentage of adults over 65 will be increasing greatly, and the pursuit of luxury will be replaced by the pursuit of meaning. And museum guests vote three times more than non-museum guests, so political pressure can pay off. If these indicators are put to use, museums do not need to be looking at bleak futures. See the entire presentation on the ICOM website, under “documents from the June 2009 meeting”. Though the topic of the recession’s impact on museums is sobering, I noted to my satisfaction that costume collections have the potential of success nonetheless – since women will be “key economic drivers” in future, and adults over 65 will more than before be part of those visiting, in particular, local collections. We know that mature women constitute the backbone of museum guests – and they are easily attracted to costume exhibits. “Real” history is marketable, and costume is for most guests one of the most real categories in museum collections. However, we do have to work with the fact that costume departments are often considered “women’s” interest, and may thus be the first to be hit when staffs are cut back. We need to design exhibitions to show that even in slow times costume exhibits can create interest and draw visitors. As there will be elections to the Executive Council in 2010, it was decided to extend the deadline for developing candidacies to the end of December 2009. It would be tremendous if anyone in the Costume Committee would like to stand for election. Check the ICOM website for details.

Future Committee activities: I would like to suggest we look into having a joint meeting with other committees: for example, in Belgrade, it might be exciting to combine our meeting with the Ethnographic Committee, ICME. I’ve discussed the possibility with Annette Fromm, Chair of ICME, and she is quite interested. They have not yet made any plans for their 2011 meeting. Another possibility is a project or a meeting with the Committee on City Museums, called CAMOC. Since its members are almost all directors of museums, they seem to have good economic resources. I picture us participating in a project called “Costume in city museums” in which we could suggest ways of collecting, exhibiting and promoting costume within these specific museums. Costume is usually a small part of their collections, and there often isn’t specialist staff or facilities to work with costume, but I think we could suggest innovative ways to use what they have. The Chair of CAMOC, Ian Jones, is very interested in collaborating with us, whether it be, say, a 3-day workshop outside our regularly scheduled meetings, a publication, hands-on training or something entirely different. Both ICME and CAMOC have very good contact to museums in countries where we do not yet have any or many members: Eastern Europe, the Middle East, Africa, and South East Asia. These are both the kinds of projects that could well be supported by ICOM Paris.

As you have seen, we have repeated the Open Forum from last year, as this seems to be a good platform for more discussion. We are constantly working to keep up the high standard of our annual meetings, and your comments and suggestions are very welcome. They are added to an informal white book called “How to plan a Costume Committee meeting” which is provided to each future host.

Last year's application to ICOM for translating our website to French and Spanish has been deferred to next year, in part because of work on ICOM's own website. However, I'm confident that we will get the money we need to hire the specialists we need to do this. When ICOM's website is renovated, there will be a dedicated space for Costume, where our own website can appear. So the work will have to be done anyway, and we are eager to add French and Spanish for our members, not least of all to maintain the momentum we gained from our meeting last year in Chile.

Our next big project will be a membership survey – that is, not only of our own members: how they view the committee, what they would like, etc. – but also of ICOM members who are not yet members of a committee, and of colleagues who are not members of ICOM. We will apply for a grant from ICOM to help finance this, and we hope that everyone will contribute ideas. If you know about surveys, please share your experience with us. The deadline is November 15.

2010 is our next election. However, in case not everyone will be able to attend the meeting in Shanghai, the election will be held by mail and/or e-mail and the result announced at the AGM. Joanna Marschner has kindly accepted to head up the Nominating Committee, which will oversee the upcoming election, following the election procedures adopted in 2006.

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

As of 18 September 2009, the Costume Committee had 248 members from 33 countries listed on the official roster received from the ICOM Secretariat. In 2007 the Committee numbered 249; in 2008, 254. The largest contingents are: France, 37 members; Germany, 28 members; USA, 26 members; Denmark, 19 members; and the Netherlands, 15 members. Nine countries on the roster have one member each. The roster is available today for anyone to check his/her listing. Please send contact information changes to [secretariat@icom.museum](mailto:secretariat@icom.museum)

Annual secretarial duties included: writing thank-you notes for the meeting in Santiago, Chile; preparing minutes of the Annual General Meeting for publication in the newsletter; answering miscellaneous correspondence regarding the Lyon, France meeting; and helping Chair Johansen as requested (for example, collecting information on internet survey businesses such as Zoomerang and Survey Monkey).

#### **5. Treasurer's Report: Brigitte Herrbach-Schmidt**

Herrbach-Schmidt introduced the financial report which was distributed earlier in the week. Banking reports are available today if anyone would like to examine them. She asked for questions. None being heard, the meeting continued. The Treasurer's Report is printed separately in this volume of Costume News.

#### **6. Editor/Webmaster's Report: Pernilla Rasmussen (in absentia)**

With thanks to Pernilla Rasmussen, Katia Johansen read the Editor/Webmaster's Report as submitted:

Since October 2008 the Costume Committee has two main ways of communication with its members – the newsletter *Costume News* and the website [www.costume-committee.org](http://www.costume-committee.org). At present these supplement each other. In addition there have been a number of mass mailings, e-mail and postal, with extra information.

Since the meeting in Santiago the *Costume News* has been published twice – 2008:2 in February and 2009:1 in May. I wish to thank all of you who have contributed to the newsletter during the year. If you enjoyed reading about new exhibitions and other interesting activities in our field, please remember to contribute your own information to the editor at: [pernilla.rasmussen@konstvet.uu.se](mailto:pernilla.rasmussen@konstvet.uu.se). Tell us if you have published a book, opened a new exhibition, are planning a conference or doing interesting research. It is impossible for the editor alone to keep the members informed. I repeat my suggestion to put the *Costume News* editor's address on your museum's press list. Some of you have already done that - thank you.

I hope all members have received the newsletter by e-mail or regular mail. To members with an e-mail address the newsletter has been sent as an attached PDF-file. I hope this has worked out well. I thank Britta Hammar for sending the newsletter to all members with an e-mail address and to Ann Resare for sending it out by regular mail. Do not forget to report all changes in addresses directly to ICOM Paris at: [secretariat@icom.museum](mailto:secretariat@icom.museum). This will make Britta's and Ann's work much easier and ensure you always get the latest news from the committee. I also thank Britta and Ann for being able to send out extra information at very short notice. It is a considerable inconvenience and should remain an exception.

The deadline of the next *Costume News*, 2009: 2, will be November 1. I ask you all kindly to remember the deadline and send in your material on time. This is the only way the newsletter can appear regularly and without too much delay.

Since October we also have our web site: [www.costume-committee.org](http://www.costume-committee.org). If you haven't done so already, I hope you will all visit the site now and log in to the members' section, where the membership directory is. This makes it easy to check if your own membership details are correct; if not, contact ICOM Paris, who holds the membership list. We can not correct your information! The latest issue of the *Costume News* is put on line as soon as it is available. The members' section also contains past issues, the minutes of annual meetings and financial reports.

At present 84 members have passwords which give access to the members' part of the site. I get requests every day for access to the members' section, and I understand there have been some problems understanding the process. Here is how it works: You choose a log-in name and a password. In order to maintain the high level of security which is

required, I must check that your name appears on the current membership list before I allow access. If so, I send you an e-mail that the password now is enabled, and then you can log in. I do not ever see your password – it is up to you to remember both your user name and password. If you forget them, you will have to open a new account.

Just as for the newsletter I would like to receive information for the website – not least of all more pictures for our gallery! (Recommended size for pictures in the gallery are ca 800 x 600 px.) This is an opportunity to reach not only committee members but also anyone with an interest in costume visiting the site. The site is still under development and can be adapted to the membership's wants and needs. For example, I have also supplied downloadable tables of contents and illustrations from our Proceedings since 1990 (see "Resources - books"), making it easier to find articles and authors of specific articles from our past meetings.

While it is tantalizing to make everything but the membership directory open to the public, we need to consider that the site's main objective now is to serve the members' interests. If, in time, we want to become a global source of information about costume in museums, it will require more resources for establishing and maintenance.

June Swann requested that the Committee send a thank you to Rasmussen for her work on the Newsletter and Website. Johansen concurred.

## **7. Sub-committees: Katia Johansen**

- a. **Guidelines, Bibliography, and Terminology Committees.** Johansen explained that these committees have completed their work and suggested that they be disbanded. Elizabeth Ann Coleman moved to disband the committees. Naomi Tarrant seconded the motion. Motion passed.
- b. **Nominating and Elections Committee.** Joanna Marschner, newly appointed chair of this committee, reviewed the following material which was distributed with the AGM agenda:

Proposed nomination and election procedure for the Board of the ICOM Costume Committee

A new Board is elected at each Triennial meeting of the Costume Committee.

1. After one year in office the Board of the Costume Committee appoints the Chair of the Nominating Committee, who will confirm that she/he is not interested in standing for election of the Board of the Costume Committee at present. The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall select the other members of the Nominating Committee, including one member from the previous Nominating Committee. The Committee should consist in all of 3 or 5 members. The candidates for the Nominating Committee should also indicate that they are not interested in standing for election on the Board of the Costume

[Committee] at present. The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall also contact at least one committee alternate who can step in, in case a regular member must step down. The list of the Nominating Committee Members should be supplied to the Costume Committee Board at least one month prior to the last annual meeting before the Triennial.

2. The Nominating Committee will be approved at the annual meeting one year before the election of the Board members to the Costume Committee.

3. Directly after the installation of the Nominating Committee, it will send out to all Costume Committee members a list with job descriptions of all positions to be filled, a poll on whether one would like to stand for any of the posts on the Board and a standardized form to submit a candidacy. The candidacies can be submitted until the 31<sup>st</sup> of December of the year prior to the Triennial meeting of the Costume Committee. Shortly after the closing date, the Chair of the Nominating Committee will inform the Board of the Costume Committee of the number of candidacies received. During the months of January and February the Nominating Committee will perform a ‘validity check’ of the candidates:

- Confirm that all Costume Committee Board member candidacies are active members of the Costume Committee.
- Confirm that all Costume Committee Board member candidacies can offer a reasonable commitment and be allowed by their institution to work for the Committee and attend upcoming annual meetings, i.e., the candidate must acknowledge that he/she will be responsible for all expenses related to his/her position if elected. During this period the Nominating Committee will either prepare a slate (single candidate for each position) or ballot (multiple candidates for one or more positions)

4. In March the Nominating Committee will present its slate/ballot to each member of the Costume Committee allowing the members six weeks to return their votes to the Nominating Committee.

5. Two months prior to the Triennial meeting the Chair of the Nominating Committee will report the results to the Costume Committee Board and prepare a report for ratification by the Costume Committee membership at the Triennial meeting.

After summarizing the above points, Marschner asked the group for input. Elizabeth Ann Coleman and Naomi Tarrant offered to submit suggestions. Marschner asked that members send written comments to her by the end of October. June Swann asked about the status of voting and non-voting members. Johansen responded that we no longer have “non-voting” members. All members are voting members and one designated staff member from a member institution can vote.

Marschner announced that the Nominating and Elections Committee members will be Sandra Rosenbaum, Ann Resare, and Isabel Alvarado (reserve member). Present board

members will submit job descriptions and will be asked if they are available to serve another term. All members may send nominations to Marschner. A slate or ballot will be prepared by March 2010. Members will have six weeks to vote. Results will be circulated to the Board. Voting will be by post mail and/or e-mail. The results will be ratified in Shanghai, China.

Johansen thanked Marschner for accepting this important assignment. She then asked for suggestions for the creation of any other sub-committees. June Swann asked about the status of the Bibliography. Johansen responded that Pamela Inder-Boylan has copies (CDs). The Bibliography will be posted on the website at a later time. Copies are available from Inder-Boylan as requested.

- c. **Costume Service Project.** Chair Johansen called on Isabel Alvarado to present a report on the Costume Service Project held in Chile:

During the Costume Service Project, the amount of \$763.375 Chilean pesos was raised (equivalent today: 960 Euros). Currently this money is in a certificate of deposit in the bank, and has gained interest.

The Chilean National Textile Conservation Committee is responsible for the administration of the money raised, but this year has been unable to find a good use for it. In a meeting with the board of the Committee we discussed different possibilities for spending the funds and finally decided on the following alternative.

In alternate years, the Committee organizes either a course or seminar during its Annual Meeting. A course on the history of textiles and their conservation is planned for next year; therefore, we have decided that with the money raised by the Costume Service Project, we can offer 3 or 4 grants to non-Committee members working in small museums in the region or regions nearby where the course will take place. The grants, in addition to covering the inscription fee, will also pay for transportation to and from the event and hotel expenses.

We think this training will benefit people that could not commonly access this kind of specialization.

Johansen thanked Alvarado for this report on the results and future plans resulting from the Costume Service Project held last year in Chile.

## **8. New Business: Katia Johansen**

Upcoming meetings

2010, ICOM Triennial in Shanghai, China: Johansen announced that Yuan Jie, the official 2010 liaison to the Costume Committee, was not able to come to Lyon despite great efforts from all sides. Recent suggestions for the program include exhibitions of

Olympic uniforms, students' contemporary designs, ethnic designs; a visit to the National Silk Museum; and exploring crafts such as embroidery and printing. Twelve attendees indicated they planned to go to Shanghai. Johansen asked for input. Naomi Tarrant requested both contemporary and ancient topics as well as a post-conference tour designed for the Costume Committee. Guest Julien Anfruns, ICOM Director General, announced a partnership with Star Alliance for reduced airfares and \$70,000 USD available to assist members in "low-income countries." He hopes to raise more funds for this effort. Johansen added that we will have 2 ½ days for our meeting plus one excursion day. Please watch the ICOM website for updates. Also, please send leads for programming and tours to Johansen.

2011, Belgrade, Serbia: Mirjana Menkovic extended the official invitation to Belgrade, Serbia, with a stimulating power point presentation. 9-14 October 2011 is the target week. Proposed themes are:

- European Fashion between East and West
- Traditional as Inspiration for High Fashion (subtheme)
- Fashion as *perpetuum mobile* and its Democratization (subtheme)

The Ethnographic Museum in Belgrade will be the lead organizer. Other co-organizers are the Gallery of Frescoes of the National Museum, the Historical Museum, the Museum of Applied Arts, the Museum of the City of Novi Sad, the Petrovardian Fortress, and the Faculty of Applied Arts of the University of Arts. A post-conference tour will be planned. Belgrade will be pleasantly warm in October.

Johansen thanked Menkovic and accepted the invitation on behalf of the Costume Committee.

2012: Johansen asked for suggestions for 2012 meeting locations. Members proposed Spain, Italy, Algeria, Morocco, Belgium and Calais, and Turkey. Johansen mentioned that 2012 is the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday of the Costume Committee.

2013, ICOM Triennial in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

## **9. Adjournment: Katia Johansen**

Johansen asked for any further comments. None were made. Johansen thanked Bernard Berthod and the host committee for the excellent meeting in Lyon. The meeting adjourned at 12:25 pm.

Submitted by Vicki Berger, Secretary