

Minutes
Annual General Meeting
ICOM Costume Committee
Monday, November 8, 2010
Shanghai, China

1. Call to Order: Katia Johansen, Chair

The Chair called the Annual General Meeting to order at 2:20 PM. A quorum was not present. Johansen shared that during the past year, the Committee lost two longtime members: Ingrid Loschek from Germany and Youlie Spantidakis from Greece. Johansen asked members to stand and observe a moment of silence in their memory. Johansen noted that many members could not be in Shanghai. If members bring official regrets, please relay the information to the Secretary. [Note: During the week, members shared regrets from Rebecca Akins, June Swann, Britta Hammar, Ann Resare, Joanna Marschner, Alexandra Kim, Alexandra Palmer, Anthea Bickley, Lillian Kozlosky, Jan Loverin, and Christa Thurman.]

2. Review of Minutes of October 9, 2009: Vicki Berger

A copy of the minutes of October 9, 2009 from Lyon, France is attached to today's agenda. The minutes were also published in the Costume Committee newsletter. As we do not have a quorum present, we can not vote to accept the minutes. We will place these minutes on the 2011 Annual General Meeting agenda.

3. Chair's Report: Katia Johansen

The Chair's Duties:

This has been a busy year! As an indication, I counted my ICOM-related emails since January 1: about 1000 incoming e-mails regarding ICOM matters; outgoing about 650, planning annual meetings; letters to the Board; notices to Newsletter; articles and prefaces for Proceedings; discussions with other ICOM chairs; election matters in the Committee and in ICOM; information from ICOM Paris; contact from members or the public. We supported an application for a travel grant for a young member to Shanghai, and it was awarded: but it requires quite a bit of paperwork from the Chair and Treasurer as well as from the applicant. I am quite conscientious about answering ICOM mail - but as you see, there is really a lot, and some may have slipped through the cracks, for which I apologize.

The Committee website has also required our attention: some difficulties resulted in our decision to remove the membership directory temporarily; for now, it can be acquired by direct contact to Pernilla. A bulletin board discussion forum was established for the Board to improve our ability to discuss issues, given that we

have not met all together since Vienna. It will be necessary for the new Board to pay a nominal fee to the webmaster/editor, as these functions are now so critical to our communication with members that they sometimes require immediate and skilled attention. We have found a volunteer assistant webmaster, for whom we are paying training hours. We are still waiting for the new ICOM website to function better, also for us. It is not certain yet whether it will be able to handle the membership database.

Meetings:

Lyon: The Committee's meeting in Lyon was held 4-9 October 2009. It was a very successful meeting with about 45 participants, arranged by Bernard Berthod, Manuelle-Anne Renault-Langlois and Maria-Anne Privat-Savigny. Unfortunately, few of our French colleagues participated, but it is often the case that local members do not attend (and we might consider how to remedy this). For the first time ever, ICOM in Paris expressed a direct interest in our activities, and we welcomed Director General Julien Anfruns for a short visit. The Board met with him over dinner where we were able to speak about our committee's activities and concerns, and Julien obviously paid close attention. The following morning he presented his visions and plans for ICOM, and participated in our business meeting and Open Forum. He noted particularly, with great admiration, that we plan our meetings in great detail and well in advance, that they are meant to pay for themselves, and that there is lively discussion and sharing of information and resources. The meeting's Proceedings were published in March 2010, edited by Maria-Anne Privat-Savigny, generously funded by her museum, the Musée des Tissus. 14 of the meeting's lectures are presented, including papers on Commerce and Textiles, Collections, Accessories, and Traditional Costumes. It is available from the Museum at cost price.

Munich: We have held an "extra" meeting in Munich this year to keep up the good momentum of Santiago and Lyon, since so few members were considering coming to Shanghai. The meeting was a tremendous success, despite its short lead time in planning. Having a shorter than usual meeting - 3 days with a 1-day post-conference tour to Augsburg's impressive new textile and costume museum - was well-received. The intense and varied program put together by Nina Gockerell and Johannes Pietsch was excellent, and the lectures so stimulating that we are planning to publish a Proceedings, even though it was not originally planned. They will hopefully appear on the members' section of the website, and perhaps be available as a CD. Ann Resare and Britta Hammar have kindly taken on the job of collecting the material.

Shanghai. Planning has taken place with a series of coordinators. Last year we offered to pay travel and board expenses for the coordinator to come to Lyon, after invitations to Santiago as well, but it did not happen. We even applied for and received extra funding from ICOM Paris to help. But here we are, and the program promises to be exciting. It does give us a good reason to change our requirements for the Triennials, if they take place where we don't have members.

This will already be in our plans regarding Rio for 2013, and we will be in contact with the organizers this week.

Belgrade 2011: a very complete program was presented in Lyon and Munich by Mirjana Menkovic, and will be officially announced in the next Newsletter. I have been on a three-day visit after Munich to visit Belgrade and am impressed with the range of costume and museums we will be seeing. This will not be a joint meeting with ICME (Committee for Ethnographic Museums) as tentatively planned because of a conflict of dates (the week chosen includes a Jewish holiday) but we will extend an invitation to all ICOM members, especially also to ICME members who are able to come.

2012 - more later

ICOM Paris:

This is a time of great activities and changes in ICOM, not least of all because it is election year. The annual Advisory Council was postponed to take place here in Shanghai rather than in Paris in June. There is intense discussion among the international and national committees about the closing down of the ICOM-L list server after censorship of expressed opinions rather than just simple information. Resolutions have been set forth for its reinstatement (and non-censuring), as well as a proposal that material for meetings and minutes are sent out in a timely fashion (this has been sadly neglected), and that there in general be more transparency in ICOM's governance. These are significant issues, and will be hotly discussed this week at the Advisory Council, Executive Council and probably up at the General Assembly as well. The Chairs of the international committees are meeting here at Shanghai, to make precise demands on ICOM. The Costume Committee's 5 votes will be cast for candidates who express an understanding and willingness to make these improvements in ICOM's governance.

There has been an increasingly lively discussion in ICOM among the Chairs of international and national committees. The tone is polite, but there are severe problems of communication, and contact to ICOM in Paris has become very difficult. For example, there are no email addresses for ICOM staff or administration on the new website, no organogram, and in the printed ICOM News we see a continuous stream of long-time employees from the Secretariat leaving. But in the brand new October 2010 Special Report issue, the two most recent Proceedings from our committee are prominently shown among just 4 ICOM publications. This is excellent exposure, as it is distributed to all 23,000 ICOM members! Despite the tumult within the Paris administration, our main contact at the Secretariat, Tito Chan, is still in place and has been extremely helpful, beyond the call of duty. I hope you get a chance to meet him here.

The Committee's annual subvention is now divided into three categories: an amount per member; a "basic" subvention which is the same for all committees;

and a subvention “for performance”, which depends on our activities and reporting back to Paris. We submit a report on the previous year’s activities, and how they relate to the goals we have set; a financial report; and a three-year plan of activities and goals and how they mesh with ICOM’s strategic plan. This requires a lot of careful writing - now also in great detail about the finances of our annual meetings, for example - and sometimes with rather short notice. However, all our deadlines have been met, and we have received satisfactory amounts after review by the CIC (Committee of International Committees). In 2008 it was €4090, in 2009 €4744, and 2010 €4948. In these 3 years the subvention per member has fallen from €8.15 to €4, but our performance subvention has risen from €1200 to €3070. This means that we must keep up the activity level to maintain this level of income. To this we can add our good record in achieving grant money for travel and for special projects.

Information about what other committees have received has been on the ICOM website, but takes some hunting to find. It became clear that our latest grant application was not successful, mainly because the reviewing committee felt we should use more of our accumulated funds first. The new Board will consider how to do this and still retain a safe amount as back-up for on-going expenses and planning for upcoming meetings. We have been rewarded for having meetings in various parts of the world, for our fund-raising at the meeting in Santiago, our publications and our outreach via Newsletters and the website. The new board may consider making travel grants to our annual meetings available, for example. It is important that the Committee’s funds are put to the best use for our members. We have looked into joint meetings with other ICOM Committees, and a project called “Clothes tell stories” to create a CD/workbook about how costume can be displayed in small museums without specialized staff. Please let us know your own suggestions. It seems that our annual meeting, the Newsletter and the Proceedings are our most popular activities.

Finally, I have been asked by ICOM’s President Alissandra Cummins to join ICOM’s new 5-member committee for Strategic Planning 2010-2013. For whole ICOM. This is indeed an honor for our committee, to be a part of formulating the plan for ICOM’s future. I believe that we are considered a model Committee with our level of activity and accomplishments. The first Strategic Plan was presented in Vienna three years ago and has been instrumental in changing the financial aspect of ICOM, funnelling specified funds directly into specific activities. It will be interesting to hear how this is evaluated, before we begin formulating new strategies, and I look forward to hearing thoughts and suggestions from you all. The Board will evaluate how we have measured up to our own goals set after the election in Vienna, and consider recommendations for future action.

I thank all of our Board members for their contributions to the workings of the Committee, our volunteers for their assistance with many other important tasks, and the general membership for making our meetings so inspiring. Thank you.

4. Secretary's Report: Vicki Berger

As of October 28, 2010, the Costume Committee had 259 members representing 38 countries listed on the official roster plus recent updates from the ICOM Secretariat. The larger contingents of membership are: France, 39; Germany, 28; USA, 25; Denmark, 19; Netherlands, 17; Sweden, 13; United Kingdom, 13; and Canada, 12. Thirteen countries have one member each. The roster is available today for anyone wishing to check his/her listing. Please send contact information changes to secretariat@icom.museum

Annual secretarial duties included: writing thank-you notes for the 2009 meeting in Lyon, preparing minutes of the Annual General Meeting for publication in the newsletter, answering miscellaneous requests, and helping Chair Johansen as requested.

5. Treasurer's Report: Brigitte Herrbach-Schmidt

The Treasurer distributed a financial report to Costume Committee members only. She reported that we are doing well financially and that we have funds to spend on projects. The full Annual Financial Report on the 2010 calendar year will appear in a future Costume Committee newsletter in 2011.

6. Editor/Webmaster's Report: Katia Johansen

Webmaster Pernilla Rasmussen was not present and a report was given by Katia Johansen. The Webmaster requests that members send images for use on our web site. The web site has been greatly admired by others. Johansen and Rasmussen have received requests to publish Rasmussen's exhibition reviews on other web sites. The Board will discuss the pros and cons of these requests. Ann Resare and Britta Hammar continue to send out mailings by e-mail and by post. Please send new or updated e-mail addresses to ICOM Secretariat. It is expensive to resend e-mails and mail by post. Visit our web site to keep up-to-date on Committee business.

7. Report from Nominating and Elections Sub-Committee: Isabel Alvarado

Isabel Alvarado, reserve Nominating and Elections Sub-Committee member, read the following letter from Dr. Joanna Marschner, Chair of the Nominating and Elections Sub-Committee:

“The nomination sub-committee received sixty-four ballots by the 28 June 2010. This represents 26% of the present membership. The ballots were counted by Joanna Marschner and witnessed by Margaret Dorman.

The membership was in favour of retaining all the present board members in posts for an additional term of three years. This is allowed within the framework under which the committee is managed. All present board members have agreed they are happy to serve the additional term, if it is the wish of the membership.”

[Note: Although the names of the new board members were not read, the Secretary includes the list found in the attachment to Dr. Marschner’s letter: Katia Johansen, Bianca du Mortier, Vicki Berger, Brigitte Herrbach-Schmidt, Pernilla Rasmussen, Alexandra Kim, Bernard Berthod, and Pascale Gorguet-Ballesteros.]

Chair Johansen welcomed the new board and thanked Isabel Alvarado for her report.

8. New Business: Katia Johansen

a. Future Meetings:

- (1) 2011, Belgrade, Serbia, hosted by Mirjana Menkovic. The dates for this meeting are September 25-30, 2011. A full report will be published in the newsletter. September is the “Month of Dress” in Serbia. The theme selected for the meeting is “In Between: Culture of Dress between East and West.”
- (2) 2012 (October), Brussels, Belgium, hosted by Corinne Ter Assatouroff and Martine Vrebos. Johansen showed a colorful power point presentation and shared the following plans. The theme of the October meeting will be “Fashion, Lace, and Transparency.” Many museum and workshops visits are being planned as well as an excursion to Antwerp. There will be a program for accompanying persons and a post tour. Several destinations are being discussed. As information becomes available, it will be posted on the web site.
- (3) 2013 (June), ICOM Triennial in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. No other details were reported.

b. Report on 2008 Service Project in Santiago, Chile: Isabel Alvarado

The Service Project raised 1,150 Euros. The Chilean Textile Committee decided to give educational grants to students and staff from small museums. The Textile Committee applied to the Ministry of Culture for a workshop grant to augment the Service Project funds. Unfortunately, the grant was not funded. Next the Textile Committee decided to give travel grants for a seminar on exhibitions held in Valparaiso. Four grants for transportation, hotel, and per diem were awarded to a textile artisan, a

collections manager, and two conservators. In addition, four ½ grants were awarded to young design students from the University of Valparaiso. All recipients were very grateful to the Costume Committee and the Textile Committee. There are 29 Euros left in the fund. Chair Johansen thanked Isabel Alvarado for the good news report.

9. Adjournment: Katia Johansen

Chair Johansen asked for questions from the membership. Elizabeth Jachimowicz asked if there will be pre or post tours in Belgrade. Johansen answered that tours are in the planning stage. Jean Druessedow asked about the program for the rest of this week. Johansen responded that information will be shared during the program following this business meeting. Johansen thanked the board and members for their attention. We will meet again in Belgrade, Serbia next year. The meeting adjourned at 3:00 PM.