

# ANNUAL NEWSLETTER, 2011

## REPORT ON THE 2011 ICOM GLASS COMMITTEE MEETING IN SPAIN

### BARCELONA, LA GRANJA AND MADRID

MAY 30-June 4, 2011

The 2011 Annual Meeting was organized by the Archaeological Museum of Catalunya and The Royal Glass Factory of La Granja.

A total of 25 participants attended the conference, representing Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Norway, Spain and USA.

#### Monday, May 30

The official opening of the meeting took place in the morning in the Library of the Museu d'Arqueologia de Catalunya, by Xavier Llovera and Teresa Carreras, Director and Curator of the Museum, and Paloma Pastor, Chair of ICOM Glass.

The official introduction was followed by a tour of the museum to see the new permanent glass collection *La fragilidad en el tiempo. El Vidrio en la Antigüedad* and the Amatller glass collection *Ánimes de Vidre. Les collections Amatller* guided by Teresa Carreras and Paloma Pastor. After these interesting visits we had the papers, presented by eleven speakers of the ICOM Glass Committee, with the topic "Glass Collections in Spain".

The Board met in mid-day, and the General Assembly was in the afternoon. The group is enthusiastic about coming to the U.S. next year. Then, a reception in "Pueblo Español" (Spanish Village) by the director Jorge Bernáldez left over from the 1937 World's Fair, when we visit the Luesma-Vega Studio-Show Room, located at the Carmelitas de Aragon Church to see a group of glass pieces from a selected group of artist, with a refreshing cup of cava, We met different artist as Pilar Aldana-Méndez, Philippa Beberidge, Maribel Navarro, Anna Marco, Monica Uz, Yukiko Murata, Merixell Tembleque and Joaquim Falcó, Javier Vidal, Miguel de Diego, Ferran Collado and Nuria Torrent

#### Tuesday, May 31

We visited *Sagrada Família* Cathedral, the Gaudí one, which has been nearly finished now. We had the opportunity to meet Antoni Vila Delclòs, Director of Corpus Vitrearum of Catalunya, the person that is doing the stained glasses of the Cathedral. After a very interesting conference by him we visited the stained glasses at the upper floors of the Cathedral. The cathedral windows are geometric stained glass in an abstract style, following the Gaudí project.

Then we went to the Palau Reial of Pedralbes to see the Museum of Decorative Arts, which had a good permanent glass collection. Thanks to Jordi Carreras we had the opportunity to see the museum's storerooms with one of the best Spanish glass collections.

A special highlight of the day was also the Pedralbes 14<sup>th</sup> century Monastery. Thanks to Monserrat Puges, coservator of the Museu d'Historia de la Ciutat, and M<sup>a</sup> José Alcaide we visited with detail the Monastery with extensive stained glass, although it's mostly 19<sup>th</sup> century, even the monastic enclosure spaces.

The group concluded the day with a fantastic farewell dinner at a restaurant reserved for all of us.

### **Wednesday, June 1**

The group got on a bus and drove for two hours to Girona Province to see the City of Ampuries, one of the most important Spanish archaeological site, a Greco-Roman village, a sea port dating from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century B.C. - 1<sup>st</sup> century A.D. Accompanied by the director of the archaeological site, we saw some of the glass finds, a small glass collection, but nice and interesting of the Roman and Pre Roman period.

After a refreshing lunch at the restaurant of the archaeological site, we visited the Museu Castell of Peralada by Jaime Barrachina, curator of the museum, with a wine museum and a very interesting glass collection, Mateu family property. We have the opportunity to visit the private rooms of the Castell. We finished with a refreshing glass of wine and then drove back to Barcelona.

### **Thursday, June 2: Post-Congress Tour.**

We went by train to Segovia, and by taxis to La Granja de San Ildefonso, which is 5 miles from Segovia. The president of the Royal Glass Factory, Francisco Salazar-Simpson Bos and his wife hosted an elegant dinner for the group, a nice end to our day.

### **Friday, June 3**

We spent more than an hour in the SGD La Granja Glass Factory, which was fascinating, and saw them make a number of types of bottles. Then we went to Paloma's museum and saw her collection – which is much larger than I remembered with a bigger collection of international art glass – contemporary, including Libensky – and one by Eric Meek. The 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century glass in Spanish, Bohemian and a little French and English. There is also a big display of machinery. We spent 2 hours there, then, after lunch, a great tour of the royal palace by the curator Victoria Muñoz, then a walking tour of 15<sup>th</sup> century Segovia and the Roman aqueduct by Maria Barrio, Official guide of Diputación of Segovia and finally a nice *tapas* dinner.

### **Saturday, June 4**

We went by bus to Madrid but we saw the MAVA, The Alcorcón Contemporary Glass Museum on the way there, accompanied by the director of the museum, María Luisa Martínez. Then we visited the Decorative Arts Museum, by the director of the museum and President of ICOM Glass in Spain, Sofía Rodríguez Bernis, where we visit the collections of La Granja Glass, and we had the opportunity to see the storerooms of the museum. After the lunch we were by bus to the Royal Palace. Cristina Mur de Viu, Glass Curator, met us at the Palace, in spite of the weekend. We had a very interesting trip through the palace, which has a stunning collection of chandeliers, mostly 19<sup>th</sup> century I think, including one which looks like a ship, wonderful collections of mirrors made in the Royal Glass Factory in the eighteenth century, furniture, clocks porcelain, painting, etc. Exceptionally we visited also the private rooms of the King, usually closed to the public.

Then, at 6, we got back to the center of town and the bus left us literally in front of our hotel. Both the Congress and the Tour were very well organized and we saw the most important glass collections in Spain.