

ICOM

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ICME Secretariat:

Harrie Leyten  
TropenMuseum  
Mauritskade 63  
1092 AD Amsterdam  
The Netherlands - NL

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FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Friends,

Two years have passed since the ICOM General Conference in London, at which ICME members met to plan the future of our International Committee. This means that we have only one more year to go in this three-year period before the next General Conference in Buenos Aires, next year.

This ICME Newsletter reports on the state of affairs of ICOM and looks ahead to the next General Conference. ICME has gone through a crisis in the past two years. There has been a painful lack of communication between the members; very few initiatives have been taken; we can not boast of any spectacular event. Members have written to me complaining of all this, and rightly so.

Yet, complaining alone does not cure the ailments. We shall have to reassess our goals and objectives. We shall have to discuss ways and means to improve our communications and study the strategies how best to implement our ideals. This can not be done overnight. It can not be done by a lone secretary behind his desk. It needs a concerted effort by as many ICME members as possible. I wish to take this opportunity to appeal to all our members, wherever you live, to start planning our major ICME meeting in Buenos Aires next year. One way of improving the situation is to participate in the election procedures which you will find set out in this Newsletter.

A good board with active members will be a major incentive for a successful ICME programme in the next three-year period 1986-1989.

Also, those of you who have been in ICME for so many years and who have taken part in ICME activities in the past, write down your suggestions, your views, your criticisms, and mail them to me, so that I can publish them in the forthcoming ICME Newsletters.

ICME is the second largest International Committee of ICOM. It has had an excellent reputation all over the world. It covers a large body of museums in the world community.

It deals with museums which perhaps more than any other category of museums, are in a process of change, of adaptation to new trends, to new demands in society. In other words, ICME has a very special responsibility. In this, it may not fail.

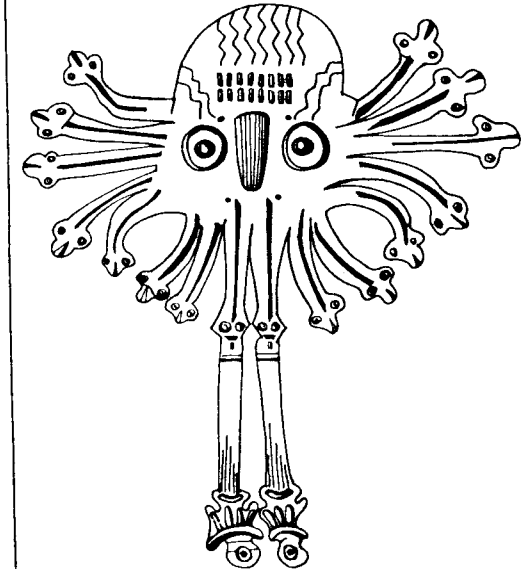
I wish you good luck with your museum work and hope to hear from you.

Yours sincerely,

Harrie Leyten, secretary ICME

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Cover: a mask of beaten gold from one of the Nazca graves. The shape of this funerary offering suggests devotion to the cult of the sun.

September 1985

## ANNUAL MEETING OF ICOM'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

ICOM's **Advisory Committee**, consisting of all chairmen of National and International Committees, meets annually to discuss matters of common interest and to advise the Executive Council. This year's meeting took place in Paris on 1-2 July.

The meeting commenced with a moment of silence to commemorate ICOM members who passed away. Among them are **Grace Morley**, **George Henri Rivière** and **Nico Bogaart**, ICME's former chairman.

The meeting made its acquaintance of ICOM's new Secretary General, **Patrick Cardon**, who had just taken over from **Luis Monreal**.

Over the past years it has been observed that one meeting a year is insufficient if one wishes to cope with all the issues and problems which crop up in a world wide organisation such as ICOM. During the 1984 annual meeting it was decided therefore to establish a working group which should study the more general and complex problems involving National and International Committees and prepare documents for the Advisory Committee's annual meeting.

The working group's chairman is **dr. Herbert Ganslmayr**, who is also the chairman of the Advisory Committee.

Three National Committees and three International Committees are represented on the working group. ICME is one of them in the person of the Secretary, **Harrie Leyten**.

The working group met twice, in December 1984 and in May 1985. In its first meeting the working group decided to invite **mr. Jarno Peltonen**, former chairman of the National Committee of Finland to undertake a study of the role of National and International Committees within ICOM's framework.

Extracts from his report can be found in this Newsletter.

Another important item on the agenda was a document containing draft proposals for the 1987-1989 Triennial Programme. The main objectives for this programme will be:

1. Increase and improve services to members;
2. Professional training;
3. Development of new museum concepts and new museological approaches;
4. Preservation of moveable cultural heritage;
5. Communication, information, publications;
6. Strengthening and stabilization of ICOM's financial situation.

Several strategies are being suggested to obtain

these objectives. One of them is that International Committees should receive assistance from the secretariat for their activities; they should be encouraged to hold meetings in different regions of the world, in order to ensure greater member participation in the activities of ICOM.

The ICOM secretariat which has drawn up these draft proposals has asked all National and International Committees to study these proposals and suggest further action. ICME members who have any proposals for the next triennial programme are hereby invited to send them either to the Secretary's office in Amsterdam, or directly to ICOM Maison de l'UNESCO, 1 Rue Miollis, 75732-Paris, Cedex 15, France.

At this meeting a first working draft of an ICOM Code of Professional Ethics was discussed and adopted with unanimous approval both for the excellent piece of work which has been done by the working committee and for the importance of this code for the museum profession. A survey of the report is given in this Newsletter.

In view of next year's General Conference, this meeting foreshadowed some of the problems and questions which are part of the event.

The representative of the Argentina National Committee reported on the state of affairs with regard to the organisation, the facilities and also the bottle-necks.

Much time was devoted to the election of candidates for the Executive Council for the term 1987-1989. After lobbying for names of candidates and after a number of procedural problems had been solved, the following candidates stand for election next year:

President: G.D. Lewis (United Kingdom);  
Vice-president: G. Popov (USSR) and A.O. Konarë (Mali);  
Treasurer: J.P. Mohen (France);  
Members of the board: Marta Arjona (Cuba), Brian Arthur (Canada), Patrick Boylan (United Kingdom), Jan Cuypers (Belgium), Kjell Engström (Sweden), Herbert Ganslmayr (Fed. Rep. Germany), Sroj Ghose (India), M. Mukela (Zambia), Nayla Ouertani (Tunisia), Jarno Peltonen (Finland), Paul Perrot (USA), Tomislav Sola (Yugoslavia), Soichiro Tsuruta (Japan), V. Velkov (Bulgaria), Wim van der Weiden (Holland).

Of the fifteen candidates mentioned here five will be elected into office. The candidates have been asked to submit their curriculum vitae and other relevant information.

The meeting also discussed the question of the venue and theme of the General Conference of ICOM 1989. There was only one applicant which proposed to organize the conference: the ICOM

National Committee of Holland. The meeting decided unanimously for the Dutch proposal. This decision was endorsed by the Executive Council in its subsequent meeting. Before the end of this year the Dutch National Committee will produce a working document with a theme and with an outline of the organization.

The next meeting of the Advisory Committee will be held in Buenos Aires during the General Conference, October 1986.

## ICOM SECRETARIAT ACTIVITY REPORT

Every year the ICOM secretariat reports to the Advisory Committee and to the Executive Council on its activities. Here are some extracts from the report covering the period July 1984 - July 1985.

"The total active membership of ICOM at the end of May 1985 was 7.751 members, a net increase of 6.5% from July 1984. Of this total, there are 7.048 individual ordinary members, 106 individual supporting members, 13 honorary members, 540 institutional members, 29 institutional sustaining members and 15 institutional supporting members."

"During the period under review, the Executive Council approved the creation of the ICOM National Committee of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, under the chairmanship of mr. Adnan Hadidi, Director General of the Department of Antiquities.

In May 1985, the regional distribution of the 78 National Committees of ICOM and the membership was as follows:

<b>Africa</b>	15 National Committees; 2% of total ICOM membership
<b>Asia</b>	20 National Committees; 8% of total ICOM membership
<b>Europe</b>	28 National Committees; 61% of total ICOM membersh.
<b>Latin America &amp; the Caribbean</b>	13 National Committees; 7% of total ICOM membersh.
<b>North America</b>	2 National Committees; 22% of total ICOM membersh.

"Basic Museum Bibliography. An updated and revised version (1984) prepared by the Documentation Centre, was published by UNESCO in July 1984 as no. 4 in its series **Studies and Documents on the Cultural Heritage**. It is being widely diffused, free of charge."

"Directory of Asian Museums. The Documentation Centre has revised and updated the first version of the Directory (prepared in 1983), in consultation with the ICOM National Committees and/or institutions concerned. The new version is currently being printed by UNESCO."

"Handbook on Basic Museum Documentation. This handbook is being produced under the responsibility of the ICOM Committee for Documentation. The Museum Documentation Association (UK) is funding a six-month project to produce a working draft. Work started at the beginning of April 1985 and a first, fairly comprehensive draft has been completed and submitted to the CIDOC Editorial Board. The final draft will be presented at CIDOC's annual meeting in August 1985 and publication is planned for 1986."

## THE JARNO PELTONEN REPORT

The working group of the Advisory Committee requested **mr. Jarno Peltonen**, former chairman of the National Committee of Finland, to study the role of National and International Committees. He undertook the study and submitted his report under the title **Proposals for developing the activities of ICOM's National Committees and International Committees and Participation in preparation and implementation of ICOM's three-year plan**.

Some extracts of the report:

"ICOM's current activities and dynamic growth reflect the development of museums internationally. The museums are increasing in number, existing museums are being expanded and new staff recruited while the appreciation of cultural heritage in general is growing. ICOM is purely a professional organization. Its main function is to provide improved operating conditions for museums as well as to promote the study of museology and thus the professional skills of its membership. All theoretical and practical issues arising from this mission, including any measures to be taken, are appraised in terms of professional ethics. The museum's role as a champion of humanism is of great importance. As a result, one of ICOM's objectives is a humane existence of a universal scale...."

"....One of the problems that ICOM is facing is that its three-year plan, or its resolutions, are not put into practice. It should not be difficult to prepare a separate plan for national

committees on the basis of the master plan. Resolutions and parts of the programme could be distributed over a period of three years by giving each year a unifying theme. The triennial programme, in particular, would be suitable for implementation by the national committees. Meanwhile, the international committees could concentrate more on theoretical and ethical issues. Apart from national committees, sections of the triennial plan could be given to international committees or associations as well as to UNESCO....."

".....At present, the various international committees deal with specific museological issues or special sciences. For ICOM, the most important of these are the international committees working with museological issues. It is of great importance that all areas of museology, including different types of museums, are fully represented on such committees to ensure that all aspects of this activity are taken into account. However, this would not necessarily mean that the number of committees should be increased. Instead, new working parties could be appointed within the existing committees to cover the entire spectrum of knowledge in this field. ICOM should carefully study the question when a new international committee is to be set up....."

".....The work of international committees is of great importance to ICOM because they deal with significant issues such as museology and ethics and are therefore responsible for progress in multi-disciplinary museology. Both national and international committees could rely more on (students studying at) universities and other institutions of higher learning...."

"....Asia, Africa and Latin America have so far been little involved in the organization's main activities. It is thinkable, however, that activity will increase with the establishment of national committees and increase in membership. Since ICOM is a non-political association, we could think that the national committees operating in these areas could be free to invite representatives from neighbouring countries to participate in their meetings. Also, information on the work of the international committees should be provided to the national committees in the regions mentioned above."

## ICOM CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

During the July meeting of the Advisory Council a first working draft of a code of professional ethics was discussed and approved with some minor amendments. The definite version will be submitted to the General Conference of Buenos Aires in 1986.

This draft indicates the basic principles for museum governance, such as the minimum standards for museums, a museum-constitution, setting out clearly the legal status, and stipulates the organization of finances and financial responsibilities. It also emphasizes the obligations to provide accommodation for the physical security and preservation of the collection, the safety of staff and visitors, in such a way that the museum functions of collections, research, storage, conservation, education and display, are guaranteed.

Great care should be taken of the collections and the acquisition of new collections. Objects acquired should be relevant to the purpose and activities of the museum, and be accompanied by evidence of a valid legal title.

The draft code specifically deals with the acquisition of illicit material, stating that the illicit trade in objects destined for public and private collections encourages the destruction of historic sites, theft at both national and international levels. It is highly unethical for a museum to support in any way, whether directly or indirectly, that illicit market.

Field exploration, collecting and excavation by museum workers present ethical problems that are both complex and critical. All planning for field studies and field collecting must be preceded by investigation, disclosure and consultation with both the proper authorities and any interested museum in the country of the proposed study to make sure that the proposed activity is both legal and justifiable on academic and scientific grounds. If a museum should in future come into the possession of an object that can be demonstrated to have been exported or otherwise transferred in violation of the principles of the UNESCO convention and the country of origin seeks its return and demonstrates that it is part of the country's cultural heritage, the museum should, if legally free to do so, take responsible steps to co-operate in the return of the object to the country of origin.

The proposed code also specifies ethical obligations of members of the museum profession. Museum employees must act with integrity and in accordance with the most stringent ethical principles as well as the highest standards of objectivity. Among other things, this implies that any museum-related activity by an individual

museum-employee may reflect on the institution or be attributed to it. Museum employees and others in close relationship with them must not accept gifts, favours, loans or other dispensations or things of value that may be offered to them in connection with their duties for the museum. Also, no member of the museum profession should participate in any dealing (buying or selling for profit), in objects similar or related to the objects collected by the employing museums.

The code enumerates the rights and obligations of individual museum-employees, indicating the individual's responsibilities to the collections, to the public and to colleagues and the profession as such.

## BUENOS AIRES 1986

The XIV General Conference of ICOM will be held in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from October 26 to November 4, 1986.

The theme of the conference: **Museums and survival of the Heritage: Emergency Call** is intended to direct the debates in this important international forum towards a very precise target: will the cultural heritage be able to survive in the coming third millennium unless a different strategy from the present one is established? People without a past, without a heritage are people without roots. Therefore, the future survival of the cultural heritage and of the heritage of the people, will have to be based on the participation of the community.

How can we arouse the interest of ordinary citizens in this daily operation, consisting, above all, in creating an awareness of the problems? How should we manage the meagre resources available? How should we establish an order of priorities for a national, regional and international policy?

The working sessions of the international committees will be held during five days. One day has been set aside for joint International Committees meetings.

ICME always meets in the mornings, at the Centro Cultural General San Martin. The registration fee for participants is US \$ 120 per person, if paid before August 31, 1986. If payment is made after this date, the registration fee is US \$ 150 per person. Cheques should be made available to **Conferencia General ICOM '86** in US dollars and sent together with the registration form, to: ICOM '86 General Secretariat, Congresos Internacionales S.A., Moreno 584-9 Piso, 1091 Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Participants who fly Aerolineas Argentinas, are entitled to special reductions:

1. Round-trip ticket point-to-point Paris US \$ 627;
2. Round-trip ticket point-to-point New York US \$ 726;
3. Round-trip ticket point-to-point New York (in the middle of the week) US \$ 651.

The airline's salesmanagers in New York and Paris are to be contacted for the necessary arrangements concerning point-to-point tickets. Further information is expected concerning cheap flights for African and Asian ICOM members who wish to attend the General Conference.

## ICME ELECTIONS : THE FUTURE OF ICME

ICOM General Conferences mark the beginning and end of a period of three years, within which a programme has to be implemented. Within the general framework of ICOM and its triennial programme each International Committee has its own objectives and programme.

During the London Conference of 1983, ICME decided to concentrate its activities on four themes, each of which to be worked out by a special working group. The four working groups are:

- \* **Aims and Objectives**
- \* **Inventories**
- \* **Folk Arts**
- \* **Return/Restitution**

Each of these working groups has a co-ordinator. At the same time ICME as a body has a board, consisting of nine members. It is the board which is expected to motivate the members, initiate action, co-ordinate activities and so on. In other words, it is very important for ICME to have a board which lives up to these expectations. In the current three-years period the ICME board has not shown very much initiative and has not been the source of enthusiasm which members have a right to expect. During the 1986 General Conference in Buenos Aires, ICME has been allotted four morning sessions to work on its own programme. We shall have to draw up a plan for these sessions. Agendas will have to be fixed beforehand. Themes for discussions must be set. Speakers will have to be invited. I assume that a critical evaluation of the past three years will prove essential for a feasible plan of action for the next three-year period. Crucial for the future of ICME will be the election of a new board. It is in this perspective that I wish to call on all ICME members in the world to join hands and write their comments, critical or otherwise, and in this way contribute towards the future

of ICME. Ideas to improve the communication between members, suggestions with regards to the communication between members, suggestions with regards to the implementation of our main themes, initiatives for meetings or co-ordinated action, all these will be warmly received by the ICME secretariat.

I will see to it that they are being published in forthcoming Newsletters or special bulletins as preparation for the all important ICME meeting in Buenos Aires.

The election of a new board may pose certain problems. First of all: not all ICME members (about 300 all over the world) will be able to attend the General Conference. This implied in past conferences that very few members are in fact entitled to vote. During the annual conference of ICOM's Advisory Committee in Paris in July, it was unanimously agreed that for the next general Conference all ICOM members who are unable to attend the meeting personally, will be allowed to vote **by mail**. As it has happened in the past, the nomination of candidates will also be done **by mail**. The following procedure is suggested:

**1. Nomination of candidates.** All ICME members with voting rights are invited to submit in writing one or more names of ICME members who qualify as candidates for a position on the ICME Board for the period 1986-1989. Members who do not qualify are those who have served two terms on the board already. This means in effect that of the current board only the following members are eligible: **Annette Clark** (Canada), **Lawrence Foanaota** (Solomon Islands), **Shaje Tshiluila** (Zaire) and **Harrie Leyten** (Holland).

ICME members are free to propose their own names as candidates. A list of the names will be published in the next ICME Newsletter which is expected to be out by the end of this year.

In order to help members in the next round of voting, it is desirable that a curriculum vitae of each candidate is available and can be published with the list of names.

All members are kindly requested to submit the names of candidates before November 1, 1986 to the Secretary of ICME, H.M. Leyten, Tropenmuseum, Mauritskade 63, 1092 AD Amsterdam, Holland.

**2.** After the publication of the names of candidates in the next ICME Newsletter, the definite election for the Board will be done in a twofold manner. Those ICME members who will attend the General Conference in Buenos Aires, will vote in person. But those ICME members who are unable to attend the Conference will be asked to vote either by proxy or by mail. The ballot papers will be

received by the secretary prior to the General Conference, but be counted only during the election-meeting in Buenos Aires.

**3.** The ICME Board consists of nine members. According to a long-standing tradition, either the chairman or the secretary or both are chosen from a country close to the ICOM Headquarters in Paris, so as to facilitate communication. At the same time there is a tradition to vote for members in such a way that there is an even distribution over the continents and main regions in the world.

Harrie Leyten.

### WORKING GROUP ON RETURN/RESTITUTION

In ICME Newsletter No 6 of February 1985 the working group on Return and/or Restitution of Cultural Property announced an international symposium on aspects of illicit trade and invited interested parties to make contacts with the ICME secretariat.

So far, only one letter has been received.

The response therefore is so disheartening that a decision has been taken to discontinue the preparations for the symposium. Here is an interesting question to be discussed during the next General Conference:

**In what manner, if any, should issues concerning Return/Restitution be tackled in the next triennial programme?**

### WORKING GROUP ON FOLK ARTS

**Annette Fromm**, Co-ordinator of the working group sent us the following notice:

"Progress is being made in the Folk Arts Working Group/ICME.

Four of the papers presented at the London General Conference of ICOM as well as the working definition of Folk Arts prepared by group members in the summer of 1984 will appear together in a special issue (18: 1, Fall 1985) of **FOLKLORE FORUM**.

The four articles are:

- Folk Arts at the Museum Carneiro: An Ethnography Which Reflects Social Change in a Developing Country - by Lelia Gontijo Soares;
- Terminology Used by the Catalan Basket-Makers - by Ma. Delores Soraino;
- New Alternatives of Education Through Museums for urban and Rural Communities

in Ecuador - by Lucia Astudillo de Loor;  
- Reviving Old Traditions Through Ethnographic Documentation among Yeminite Jews in Israel - by Aviva Klein-Franke.

More information can be obtained about this publication after 15 September by writing to **Folklore Forum**, The Folklore Institute, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, 47 401 U.S.A."

ICME/ICOM Congress on Folk Arts in Budapest, Hungary. For more information on this event read elsewhere in this Newsletter.

### WORKING GROUP ON INVENTORIES

In the course of last year **Peter Gathercole**, co-ordinator of the working group, appealed to members of his group for material on inventories which could be published. The publications would be possible through external financing. The secretariat received the following letter from Peter, dated April 9, 1985 which I publish in abbreviated version:

"To all members of the ICME working group on Ethnographic Inventories.

Dear Colleague,

As I have not received enough material from members, I do not feel justified in sending out a Newsletter.

Disappointingly, only Lissant Bolton and myself responded to the invitation to prepare papers for the meeting of the Division of Cultural Heritage of UNESCO. Both papers were short, and have been submitted to Paris for use at the meeting later this month.

Although last year I agreed to act as convenor for the Working Group I feel I can not do this any longer, also for personal reasons.

In view of this, is there anyone who would be willing to act as convenor?

I should be very glad to hear from you as to how you feel about the current position of the Group and where we might go from here.

With best wishes,

Peter Gathercole"

It goes without saying that the ICME secretariat is concerned about the plight of this working group and supports Peter's plea for assistance!

### CONFERENCE ON FOLK ARTS IN BUDAPEST

The ICOM National Committee of Hungary and ICME/Working Group on Folk Arts are organizing a conference on **Folk Arts-Traditions-Innovations** at the Ethnographical Museum in Budapest.

The conference starts on November 25 with a special meeting of ICME. During the next three days the conference will focus on a number of sections:

Historical-Ethnographical Section; Aesthetical Section; Economic Section; Cultural-Sociological Section; Ideological Section.

There are ample opportunities to discover the wonders of the city and the country, as the organizers have planned trips to Balatonaliga, Tab and Kecskemet.

Hungary has a strong and living tradition of Folk Arts and it will be a great experience to be introduced to it by the Hungarians themselves. A number of members of the ICME/Working Group on Folk Arts has registered already. Anyone else who is interested in this conference, may write to ICME Secretary, Harrie Leyten.

For your information: registration fee for this conference US \$ 250.

We hope to give you a full account of this conference in the next ICME Newsletter.

## ICME EXECUTIVE BOARD 1983 - 1986

During the 1983 ICOM Conference in London, ICME elected its new Executive Board for the 1983 - 1986 period. Here are their names and addresses:

Mrs Annette McFadyen Clark (Chairman)  
Ethnology Division  
National Museum of Man  
Ottawa  
Ontario K1A 0M8  
Canada

Mr Harrie M. Leyten (Secretary)  
Tropenmuseum  
Mauritskade 63  
1092 AD Amsterdam  
Holland

Mr Lawrence Foanaota  
Director  
National Museum of Solomon Islands  
P.O. Box 38  
Honiara  
Solomon Islands

Mr Kassim Ali  
Curator of Ethnology  
Muzium Negara  
Jalan Damansara  
Kuala Lumpur  
Malaysia

Dr Peter Gathercole  
Darwin College  
Cambridge CB3 9EU  
England

Dr Torben Lundbeck  
Department of Ethnography  
National Museum of Denmark  
10 Ny Vestergade  
DK-1471 Copenhagen K

Dr Sachin Roy  
ex-Director  
National Museum of Man  
E/8 DDA Flats, Mnrirka  
New Delhi 110067  
India

Madame Shaje Tshiluila  
Institut des Musées Nationaux  
B.P. 4249  
Kinshasa II  
Zaire

Mr Moses Abun  
National Museum  
P.M.B. 2127  
Icaduna  
Nigeria

Dr Tamas Hoffmann  
Neprajzi Muzeum  
Kossuth L. Ter 12  
H-1055 Budapest  
Hungary

## ICME WORKING GROUPS

The ICME members at the London Conference reduced the number of ten working groups, established at the 1980 Mexico Conference. For the period 1983 - 1986 ICME works through four groups only.

1. Working group on the Return and/or Restitution of Cultural Property

Coordinator:  
Dr Herbert Ganslmayr  
Director Übersee Museum  
Bahnhofplatz 13  
D-2800 Bremen  
German Federal Republic

2. Working group on Aims of Ethnographic Museums

Coordinator:  
Dr Rudi Vossen  
Hamburgisches Museum für Völkerkunde  
Binderstrasse 14  
2000 Hamburg 13  
German Federal Republic

3. Working group on Folk Arts

Coordinator:  
Annette Fromm  
Folklore Institute  
504 N. Fess  
Bloomington  
Indiana 47401  
United States of America

4. Working group on Inventories

Coordinator:  
Dr Peter Gathercole  
Darwin College  
Cambridge  
England

It was decided that each of the working groups should try to concentrate on one event for the 1983 - 1986 period.