



**ICME News**  
**No 9**  
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**CONSEIL INTERNATIONAL  
DES MUSEES**

**ICME NEWSLETTER**

**ICME Secretariat:**

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FROM THE EDITOR

ON THE MARCH TO ARGENTINA.....

Dear Friends,

The museum world is posed for the march on **Argentina**, where about 2,000 directors, curators, keepers, educators and technicians will meet to discuss their common interests and problems.

The **ICOM Triennial Conference** will commence on **Sunday 26 October** and will close on **Tuesday 4 November** of this year. **ICME will be there.** We shall organize four meetings of our own. There will also be ample opportunity to meet with other committees.

This Newsletter is devoted entirely to ICME's meeting in **Buenos Aires**. Those of you who will attend the meeting, may take this Newsletter with them as it contains our agenda.

For those who are unable to go it may serve as a sign of life, as an interim report on ICME's current position. This conference is going to be of vital importance to the future of ICME. After three years of a rather poor performance it is essential for ICME to put up a better show. Buenos Aires may serve as a dress-rehearsal. We shall meet to analyze the past in order to carve out a future in which all ICME-members, all the museums of ethnography will prosper. I hope to meet many of you in Buenos Aires. If you can not come, please write to me with your suggestions and comments!

Yours sincerely,

**Harrie Leyten,**  
Secretary ICME

**ICME 1983 - 1986**

We are fast approaching the end of another triennial period for ICME. When we meet in Buenos Aires in October-November, we shall look back at the past three years, which started in London, in August 1983. During a rather emotional meeting, both Nico Bogaart, Chairman, and Fred Lightfoot, Secretary, announced that they resigned their posts. This meant in effect that for whoever took over from them, there would be a break in the continuity. This has proved to be a major drawback for the new Chairman, dr Annette McFadyen-Clark, and the Secretary, Harrie Leyten, neither of

whom had previous experience on the ICME Executive Board.

Over the past three years the contacts between Chairman and Secretary and Board-members have been minimal. The consequences of this have been all too clear. Apart from a small conference on Folk Art, in Greece, organized by Annette Fromm, coordinator of the Working Group on Folk Arts, no events have been organized: no seminars, no conferences, no meetings...

One conference had been planned and announced. It was to be organized by dr Hoffmann in Budapest. Unfortunately, due to lack of interest and insufficient participants, the conference had to be cancelled.

One achievement, which is to ICME's credit, is the continued publication of the Newsletter. In the period 1980-1983 five Newsletters were published. In the current triennial period four Newsletters have been published, including this issue.

During the London conference in 1983 the ICME Board decided to publish a bilingual edition of the Newsletter, to be published by the National Museum of Man, Ottawa. Due to a complexity of reasons, this plan could not be materialized, so that in the spring of 1985 the Tropenmuseum went ahead by publishing a modest version of the Newsletter, in English only.

The editor does not know to what extent the Newsletter meets a need, or is up to expectations of ICME-members. From letters received, we may conclude that the Newsletter is being appreciated. The matter will be discussed in depth during the next ICME conference.

Considering the rather poor performance by ICME in the ICOM-show over the past few years, we shall have to decide on how to proceed in the next three years, on what our goals will be and what resources to tap in order to attain them.

In this issue of ICME Newsletter a number of suggestions are proposed for further scrutiny during the ICME-meetings in Buenos Aires.

At the same time, however, they are proposed here and now so that those ICME-members who are unable to attend the Triennial Conference, can comment on them before then. Kindly mail your comments to the editor, Harrie Leyten, Tropenmuseum, Mauritskade 63, 1092 AD Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**Working Group Aims and Objectives**

This Working Group has been dormant throughout the past three years. This is particularly distressing as it concerns a subject-matter which is at the roots of every museum. It can not be coincidental that of the nine museums of ethnography in Holland six have undergone major

Cover illustration:

*Guitar-player who accompanies Argentinian folk-dance in which Spanish and Indian elements are interlaced.*

alterations in the past few years. They were not restricted to physical adjustments or refurbishing but went through a thorough process of self-analysis, of adaptation to a changing society. Also in other countries discussions are going on about aims and objectives of museums. Prominent in this field is ICOFOM, the International Committee for Museology, a very active committee which organizes at least one international conference a year. We propose to invite some representatives of ICOFOM to come and attend the ICME-session on Aims and Objectives in Buenos Aires. They may advise us on a number of issues from their experiences.

A very important element in the re-establishment of a Working Group is the **ICME Conference in Leiden, Holland, 1987** at the occasion of the 150th anniversary of the Rijksmuseum voor Volkenkunde (National Museum of Ethnography). The conference will take place from **Monday September 8 to Friday September 12, 1987**. Its theme is: 'New Presentations in Ethnographical Museums.'

ICME wishes to invite all those ethnographical museums in the world which have been renovated or which are in the process to come to Leiden and present their experiences, their new policies to colleagues. ICME also invites museums of ethnography which are planning renovations so that they can profit from the experiences of others who have gone through the process already and who (may) have learned from their mistakes. ICME appeals to museums from developing countries to apply in writing to the ICME Secretariat (Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam) if they wish to attend this conference. ICME is trying to secure travelling grants from the Dutch Government to enable you to attend the conference. More detailed information on the conference will be released soon.

Another proposal concerns a **working relation with the Museums of Folk Art or Volkskunde-Museums**. This is a rather new matter for ICME, even though ICME has a Working Group on Folk Arts for some time under the inspiring chairmanship of dr Annette Fromm. Hers is the only Working Group to have accomplished something over the past three years. Annette Fromm and her Working Group have been very active. Yet we would like to ask them if they consider it feasible to work together in a formal manner with those museums, which hardly have an institutionalized place within the ICOM-framework. National ICOM Committee of West Germany has drafted some

proposals in this regard which will be discussed during the Buenos Aires ICME-meeting.

#### Working Group on Inventories

As was announced in a previous Newsletter, **Peter Gathercole**, the coordinator of this Working Group could no longer do the job. His strong appeal for someone to succeed him did not provide us with any new name. And so the Working Group on Inventories apparently died a quiet death...

Yet there is a clear need for inventories. There are also scholars interested in the work. Why then is this Working Group not more active? Could we suggest that cooperation with another international committee will pump new blood through the arteries? Could a linkage with CIDOC, the International Committee on Documentation, be the external incentive for renewed action? If members of this ICME Working Group think along these lines, please get in touch with Harrie Leyten, the ICME-Secretary, who could organize a joined session with CIDOC during the Argentina meeting.

#### Working Group Return/Restitution

Over the past few years there has been a gradual shift of attention away from the hotly debated issues concerning Return/Restitution. ICME has played its part in the international discussion, but it has also discovered that the arguments have been exhausted. It was therefore agreed upon to leave the issue for a while. No new steps would be taken by ICME. That is the reason why the Working Group has not shown great activity during the past three years and if the ICME-meeting in Buenos Aires agrees, it will also keep a low profile in the future.

#### Crafts

The **World Crafts Council** has been very active recently and organized a congress in Jakarta in 1985. The UNESCO Magazine 'Museum' will devote a whole issue to this field of interest. Handicrafts and craftsmanship are notions which need our foremost concern as they are threatened with extinction in this world's fast growing automatization, computerization, mechanization. The old-fashioned craftsman is soon becoming an endangered species. ICME, with its great emphasis on ethnography and those cultures in which craftsmanship is still in high esteem, could play a major part in the re-appraisal of the crafts. It is therefore suggested to the ICME-meeting in Argentina to institute a new Working Group on Crafts.

In order to have a flying start we may consider to invite a delegation of the International Committee on Applied Art to attend our meeting in Argentina. It will be imperative for the new Working Group to associate itself with current developments in the preservation of handicrafts.

In this light contacts with the International Committee on Regional Museums (ICR) may be useful. Equally important are the trends and concepts developed by the movement, especially strong in the French-speaking world, on the New Museology (Nouvelle Muséologie).

#### ICME IN BUENOS AIRES

On 26 October 1986 ICOM-members from all over the world will gather in Buenos Aires, Argentina, for the **XIV General Conference**.

Central theme for the conference is: 'Museums and the Future of Our Heritage: Emergency Call'.

A Triennial Conference combines events of general interest with meetings of particular groups, such as the National and International Committees.

The organizers have set a schedule for these meetings. It so happens that ICME's meetings have been scheduled for the **mornings** at the **Bauen Hotel**.

The main events for the week are as follows:

#### SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER:

**9.30:**  
MEETING OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (to be attended by Chairmen and Secretaries of National and International Committees)  
**12.00-19.00:**  
REGISTRATION AND ACCREDITATION OF DELEGATES AT THE CENTRO CULTURAL GENERAL SAN MARTIN

#### MONDAY 27 OCTOBER:

**9.00:**  
OPENING CEREMONY  
**11.00:**  
PLENARY SESSION  
**12.30:**  
LUNCH  
**14.30:**  
PLENARY SESSION (continued)  
**19.30:**  
INAUGURATION OF THE EXHIBITION ON 'THE ART OF THE PEOPLE OF LATIN AMERICA'

#### TUESDAY 28 OCTOBER

**9.30:**  
ICME-MEETING AT THE BAUEN HOTEL, 360 Callao Ave. Buenos Aires

#### AGENDA:

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
3. ELECTIONS FOR THE ICME EXECUTIVE BOARD 1986 - 1989
4. REFLEXIONS ON ICME 1983 - 1986
5. PROPOSALS FOR THE WORKING GROUP ON INVENTORIES

**12.30:**

LUNCH FOR THE NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE ICME-BOARD

**15.00:**

FREE.

IN THE AFTERNOON MEETINGS ARE HELD BY AMONG OTHERS CIDOC, CECA, ICOFOM, TRAINING OF PERSONNEL

#### WEDNESDAY 29 OCTOBER

**9.30:**

ICME-MEETING AT THE BAUEN HOTEL

#### AGENDA:

1. WORKING GROUP AIMS AND OBJECTIVES - NEW PROPOSALS
2. DISCUSSION ON THE ICME CONFERENCE AT LEIDEN, HOLLAND, SEPTEMBER 1987 ON 'NEW PRESENTATIONS IN MUSEUMS OF ETHNOGRAPHY' - INTRODUCED BY HARRIE LEYTEN
3. SESSION, ORGANIZED BY ANNETTE FROMM ON BEHALF OF THE WORKING GROUP ON FOLK ARTS

**12.30:**

LUNCH

#### THURSDAY 30 OCTOBER

**9.30:**

ICME-MEETING AT THE BAUEN HOTEL

#### AGENDA:

1. WORKING GROUP ON INVENTORIES - NEW PROPOSALS
2. INSTITUTION OF NEW WORKING GROUP ON CRAFTS - INTRODUCED BY HERBERT GANSLMAYR

**12.30:**

LUNCH

**21.00:**

GALA PERFORMANCE AT COLON THEATRE

#### FRIDAY 31 OCTOBER

**9.30:**

ICME-MEETING AT THE BAUEN HOTEL

#### AGENDA:

1. EVALUATION PREVIOUS MEETINGS
2. PROSPECTS 1986 - 1989
3. ICME NEWSLETTER'S FUTURE
4. EVENTS IN THE NEXT THREE YEARS
5. ICOM GENERAL CONFERENCE 1989 IN HOLLAND - REMOTE PREPARATIONS

**SATURDAY 1 NOVEMBER**

FREEDAY  
ALL-DAY EXCURSIONS

9.00:  
MEETING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**SUNDAY 2 NOVEMBER**

10.00-18.00:  
EXCURSION AND BARBECUE OFFERED BY  
MRS. NELLY ARRIETA DE BLAQUIER AT  
'LA BIZNAGA' RANCH

**MONDAG 3 NOVEMBER**

INTERDISCIPLINARY DAY

9.30:  
GENERAL SESSION TO ENABLE  
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEES TO REPORT  
ON THEIR FINDINGS WITHIN THE  
CONFERENCE THEME AND MAKE  
SUGGESTIONS FOR A MEDIUM-TERM  
PROGRAMME

15.00:  
SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS FOR  
INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEES

**TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER**

9.00:  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

15.00:  
GENERAL ASSEMBLY

20.00:  
FAREWELL COCKTAIL PARTY

**WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER**

DEPARTURE

### ELECTIONS FOR THE ICME EXECUTIVE BOARD

1986 - 1989

In ICME News No 8, February 1986, the  
candidates for the next ICME Executive  
Board were announced.

Their names and addresses are:

1. **Mrs Victorine Arnoldus-Schröder**,  
Director Ethnographical Museum  
'Gerardus van der Leeuw', University  
of Groningen, The Netherlands
2. **Mr Gosewijn van Beek**,  
anthropologist, lecturer at the University  
of Amsterdam, The Netherlands
3. **Miss Annette B. Fromm**,  
anthropologist, Director of the Gershon  
and Rebecca Fenster Gallery of Jewish  
Art, Tulsa, Oklahoma, U.S.A.,  
coordinator of the ICME Working Group

on Folk Arts

4. **Prof. dr Helmuth Fuchs**,  
anthropologist, curator Royal Ontario  
Museum, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
5. **Dr Herbert Ganslmayr**,  
Director Uebersee Museum, Bremen, West  
Germany,  
current Chairman of ICOM Advisory  
Committee, former Chairman of ICME
6. **Mr Harrie Leyten**,  
anthropologist, curator Africa Department  
Tropenmuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands,  
lecturer of Museology, University of  
Amsterdam, present secretary of ICME
7. **Dr Ulla Wagner**,  
anthropologist, Director Ethnografiska  
Museet, Stockholm, Sweden

It was further announced that the secretariat  
was eagerly awaiting more candidates, so that  
the prescribed election-procedures could be set  
to work.

Unfortunately and much to my surprise, no new  
names have been proposed to me since the  
publication of ICME News No 8.

This means that there will be only **7 candidates**  
for the **ICME Executive Board 1986 - 1989**.

As there are nine vacancies on the Board, there  
is no need for elections. The seven candidates  
will fill the posts unopposed. It also means that  
there is no need for the procedures, foreseen in  
the ICOM statutes, viz. for absent members to  
vote by either mail or proxy.

As a conclusion of all this the seven ICME-  
members, listed above, may assume that they  
form the next Executive Board. They will  
determine among themselves, who of them will  
be Chairman and Secretary.

If the agenda of the ICME-meeting is adopted as  
indicated, the new Board will assume responsibility  
at the beginning of the first ICME-meeting, on  
Tuesday, 28 October.

I hope that all seven candidates will be able to  
attend that meeting and that they are breasting  
with new ideas to make ICME flourish during the  
next three years!

**Harrie Leyten**,  
Secretary ICME

### MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ICME 1983-1986

**Mrs Annette McFadyen Clark** (Chairman)  
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