

**ICME News
No 19**

April 1992



Cover:

**Haida Dog Salmon, Skaagi
Bill Reid, 1974**

INTRODUCTION

At a Board Meeting in The Hague this month, we have been delighted to receive confirmation that the proceedings of our symposium in Munich will now be published. It is hoped that offprints can be made available to our Voting Members in due course. Accordingly this Newsletter contains only a summary of the sessions in Munich and concentrates on looking ahead to the 16th General Conference.

We are grateful to colleagues in Canada for offering their assistance in developing ICME's programme, especially to Helmuth Fuchs from the Royal Ontario Museum.

Members will be happy to learn that he has made an excellent recovery from his recent stroke and managed to finalise arrangements through Moreno tours in Toronto, for exciting pre-conference and post-conference tours. For more details on these tours and on ICME's programme see below.

David Boston
Vice-Chairman

Peter Bettenhausen
Secretary



Words of welcome for ICME during its excursion to Oettingen. From left to right: Dieter Paus, burgomaster of Oettingen, David Boston, Chairman of ICME, Martin Prösler, organiser of ICME's symposium in Munich, Teresa Battesti, ICME's secretary for the French speaking countries and Girma Fissela, curator of the Staatliches Museum für Völkerkunde in Munich.

**ANNUAL MEETING ICME
MUNICH, GERMANY, 18-20 OCTOBER 1991**

Some 40 people were present in one of the many historical lecture halls of the Ludwig-Maximilians University in Munich to attend the symposium "Towards a Europe of Cultures", organised at the occasion of ICME's last annual meeting. Both the lecture hall and the University building itself could not be missed : huge ICME signs all over Munich showed where the meeting would be held. A remarkable initiative from Martin Prösler who did a great job to help ICME organising the symposium, in conjunction with the Working Group of the German Anthropological Society during a joint conference with the Austrian Anthropological Society.

The theme chosen for the symposium was "Changes in Eastern and Central Europe and their impact on museums". It was intended to provide a forum for discussion of recent changes in European society and to examine their impact on museum work. The symposium placed emphasis on two interrelated topics, providing a basis for future ICOM/ICME activities.

1. A review of the work of museums of ethnography in Eastern and Central Europe:

The deep social changes taking place in this part of Europe are modifying and sometimes even replacing the earlier modes of museumwork. Cultural policies are changing too and consequently government expectations concerning the work of museums are exerting an influence on their functioning.

In the face of these changes, new challenges have become apparent for museums, such as an increasing trend towards "xenophobia" in a number of countries. How are ethnographic museums reacting to these changes ? What actions have they undertaken and what results have they produced? What vision do we ourselves have of the rôle of the museum in to-morrow's society?

2. Forms of co-operation between museums of ethnography:

As a result of the changing face of Europe, other forms of co-operation can be established between East and West. Accordingly, perspectives and structures for co-operation between museums of ethnography should be revised. What do both sides hope to achieve from new forms of exchange?

After words of welcome by our vice-chairman David Boston, the symposium was introduced by Martin Prösler from the Linden Museum in Stuttgart.

Further contributions given were:

- "The times they are changing. Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow - The museum of Non-European Cultures in Slovenia, by Ralf Ceplak, curator of the Slovenski Etnografski Muzej in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia-Slovenia.
- "Ethnographic Museums in Croatia: Between Postmodern Europe and Premodern Reality, by Damodar Frlan, director of the Etnografski muzej Museum, Zagreb, Yugoslavia-Croatia.
- "Ethnographic collectiosn in Hungary" by Tamas Hoffman, director of the Neprajzi Museum in Budapest, Hungary.

- "Museums, Museology and the Changing World", by Vinos Sofka, museologist, of the Statens Historiska Museum in Stockholm, Sweden.
- "Changes in the Museum of Ethnography of Prague", by Jana Souckova, director of the Naprstkovo Museum in Prague, Czechoslovakia.
- "Difficulties with Property Rights Concerning Museum Objects-Experiences in Leipzig Today, by Lothar Stein, director of the Völkerkundemuseum in Leipzig, Germany.
- "Unknown Europe: a vision" by Rudiger Vossen, Hamburg, Germany
- "Dealing with Hostilities towards the Strange and the Stranger. Some perspectives on the Work of the Dresden Museum of Ethnography", by Silvia Dolz, curator of the Völkerkundemuseum in Dresden, Germany.

This wide array of lectures provided an excellent opportunity for an extensive exchange of ideas between the participants. Attention was also drawn to the forthcoming conference on the theme "Europe of Cultures", to be held in Paris in 1993 (see also under Future Events).

ICME was also informed about the destruction of the national cultural heritage in Croatia and, at its business meeting, urged ICOM to take all necessary action to support an end to this grave situation which has threatened to extend even further afield. The committee further took note of the conclusions reached by ICOFOM at their October meeting in Switzerland and recorded strong support for their views.

Finally, ICME adopted the following resolution, also submitted to the ICOM Executive, related to the need for adequate resources, especially for museums in Central and Eastern Europe: There is an urgent need to strengthen the educational role that ethnological and ethnographical museums could and should play, particularly in relation to minority issues and racism.

After the symposium and in between ICME business meetings, visits were arranged to look behind the scenes at the Staatliches Museum für Völkerkunde in Munich, currently undergoing restoration, and to see its branch two hours away by bus in Oettingen. Under the guidance of Girma Fisseha we admired there a remarkable and comprehensive exhibition on Ethiopia.

ICME remains most grateful to Martin Prösler, to other German colleagues involved in the organisation of the meeting and to the participants. (As stated) it has been agreed that the papers will be published in the Proceedings of the Ethnological Museum in Hamburg.



Zu Gast in Oettingen: Das internationale Komitee für Völkerkundemuseen. Bild: Foto Hirsch

Völkerkundler in Oettingen

Besuch einer Äthiopien-Ausstellung

Oettingen (bit). Hochrangiger Besuch war am Samstag in der Zweigstelle des staatlichen Museums für Völkerkunde München in Oettingen zu Gast: das internationale Komitee für Völkerkundemuseen mit Sitz in Paris. Auf dem Programm stand auch eine Exkursion zur Ausstellung „Äthiopien – Kunst und Geschichte eines Landes“.

Der Bürgermeister der Stadt Oettingen, Dieter Paus, bezeichnete es in seiner Begrüßung als eine Ehre, eine solch hochrangige Delegation in Oettingen willkommen heißen zu können. Diese Delegation gehört, so der für die Programmzusammenstellung Verantwortliche Martin Prösler, dem internationalen Museumsrat, einem Teil des Dachverbandes der Museen, an.

Jahrestreffen

Im Rahmen des Jahrestreffens in München trafen sich Verantwortliche aus den Völkerkundemuseen in Europa, um zum Thema „Veränderungen in Osteuropa und dessen Einfluß auf die Museumsarbeit“ ihre Meinungen und Ansichten auszutauschen, so Prösler weiter. So konnte der Vorsitzende Dr. David Boston, Leiter des Harniman Museums London, beispielsweise Referenten aus Prag, Slowenien, Budapest und Kroatien begrüßen. Über neue Möglichkeiten in der Völkerkundemuseumsarbeit

wurde dabei diskutiert, so Prösler weiter. Im Vordergrund stand dabei der Austausch von Ausstellungen zwischen Ost und West.

Konzepte entwickeln

Peter Bettenhausen, vom Völkerkundemuseum in Den Haag, berichtete gegenüber den RN, daß sich das Komitee überwiegend Gedanken über die Rolle der Museen in der gegenwärtigen Zeit gemacht habe, in der auf der ganzen Welt die Ausländerfeindlichkeit zunimmt. Hierauf wolle der internationale Museumsrat reagieren und Konzepte entwickeln, wie die Kulturinstitution dieser Entwicklung entgegenwirken könne.

Kulturen darstellen

Als eine der wichtigsten Aufgaben sieht er die Darstellungen anderer Kulturen und das Schaffen von Verständnis für andere Kulturen im Völkerkundemuseum an. Schon in der Schule müsse man Ausstellungen organisieren, um so der Ausländerfeindlichkeit entgegenwirken zu können, so Bettenhausen weiter. Doch vor allem in Osteuropa lasse sich dieser Gedanke nicht verwirklichen, da hier viele Museen wegen Geldmangel kurz vor dem Ruin stünden.

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Anzeigen 09081/83216-217

MUSEUMS: RETHINKING THE BOUNDARIES ?

Posed in the form of a question, the theme for the XVth ICOM General Conference, Museums: Rethinking the Boundaries?, will explore some of the issues faced by contemporary society as it undergoes considerable and rapid evolution. As we enter a new century, museums, which have been defined by ICOM as "institutions in the service of society and its development" are actively examining a possible redefinition of their role in society.

Profound issues concerning creative and intellectual freedom; the environment, ecological considerations and world famine; complex tensions within political systems; the economic disparities of the north-south axis; the erosion of centuries-old cultures and new technologies surround us all. What are museums' responsibilities in the face of these enormous changes which affect not only the environment in which museums function but, in reality, the entire planet?

Recognizing how vast this theme could be, the Organizing Committee has identified specific aspects to be addressed. These include: What role should the museum play in today's society? Is there a need for a new definition for museums? What are the limits? And finally, in the face of complex societal changes and the evolution of museological disciplines, what should be the responsibilities of the international organizations which represent the interests of museums?

**GENERAL OUTLINE OF THE SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED
AT ICME'S SESSIONS**

Within the broad scope of the general theme chosen for the conference in Canada, ICME has chosen the title "Museums for all" as its own specific theme during the conference. It is intended to focus especially on current developments, new museum concepts, policies, problems and practice.

With the theme "Museums for all" ICME stresses its objective that throughout the world as many people as possible should have access to their own cultural heritage as well as to that of other cultures.

As other institutions and agencies are operating increasingly within this field, attention will also be paid to their roles, besides possible forms of coöperation with our kind of museums.

Apart from more theoretical contributions related to our theme, we hope to pay much attention to practical museum programmes, exhibitions and examples of succesful forms of coöperation within and outside the "museum boundaries", both on national and international levels. It is also hoped to have a number of audio-visual presentations in the programme as illustrations of what is being done.

!!!!!!!!!!!! REQUEST FOR CONTRIBUTIONS !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Many members have already returned the form enclosed with the last issue of ICME News (No. 18), regarding their wish to attend the ICOM conference, but so far only a limited number of presentations to the ICME sessions have been offered.

In the current schedule for Monday, 21 September and Tuesday, 22 September, as many as 14 written or audio-visual contributions could be included. These presentations should be in the official languages of the conference and not exceed a maximum of 20 minutes.

The subject for any proposed contribution and / or audio-visual requirements should be sent as soon as possible to the secretary on the enclosed form. Finally, a short abstract of your presentation would be most helpful !!!

NOMINATIONS FOR THE BOARD OF ICME/CIME

As indicated in the Programme Summary, the Annual Meeting of ICME/CIME will be held in Québec on Wednesday, 23 September 1992.

Under the present by-laws, the limit as an officer on / as a member of the Board is six consecutive years (Model rules for International Committees).

According to these same by-laws, no more than two members from one country can be elected to the Board. Voting members, who have previously served as officers and boardmembers are eligible to be nominated.

Since the death of Herbert Ganslmayr, the post of Chairman has been left vacant. Under the present rules, the current Vice-Chairman (David Boston, U.K.), Secretary (Peter Bettenhausen, The Netherlands) and Secretary for French Speaking Countries (Teresa Battesti, France), could serve for a second term of three years and are willing to do this if nominated. The following Board members are due to retire as they have completed six consecutive years: Helmuth Fuchs (Canada), Annette Fromm (USA), Dawson Munjeri (Zimbabwe) and Ulla Wagner (Sweden).

The remaining Board members, who are eligible to be renominated for a second term of three years, are as follows: Ralf Ceplak (Yugoslavia/Slovenia), Soroi Mareop Eoe (Papua New Guinea), Suwati Kartima (Indonesia), Wolfgang Mey (Germany), Lothar Stein (Germany).

ICOM has once again urged International Committees to establish a wide geographical distribution as possible. Nominations by voting members for officers and members of the Board must be submitted in writing to the Secretary, Peter Bettenhausen, countersigned by candidates to confirm that they are willing to serve if elected at the Annual General Meeting.

ICOM 1992 AND PRE- AND POST-CONFERENCE ICME ACTIVITIES

- Friday 11th Start pre-conference tour in Toronto. This tour will take us a.o. to different museums and cultural centres run by American natives. (see ICME-NEWS nr. 18 for full details)
- Booked through Moreno tours,
523 The Queensway, Suite 101A,
Toronto, Ontario, M8Y 1.19 Canada
Tel. (416) 252.5704 Fax. (416) 252.9783
- Friday 18th End pre-conference tour in Montreal, transfer to Québec
- Saturday 19th Registration (all day)
Booked through ICOM Canada
- Sunday 20th Plenary Sessions (all day)
- Monday 21th ICME Meetings (morning) Location to be announced
ICME Meetings (afternoon) Location to be announced
- Tuesday 22nd ICME Meetings (morning) Location to be announced
ICME Meetings (afternoon) Location to be announced
- Wednesday 23rd ICME Business meeting (morning) Location to be announced
Free time (afternoon)
- Thursday 24th Outdoor activities (all day)
- Friday 25th General Assemblies of international committees (afternoon)
- Saturday 26th ICOM General Assembly (morning)
Closing Reception (evening)
- Sunday 27th Moreno -tours hopes that there will be enough registrations to operate an ICME post-conference tour. If interested please contact Moreno-tours, Toronto. (adress see above).

Note:

All ICOM activities must be booked through ICOM

FUTURE MEETINGS

As decided during the last Board meeting held in The Hague, ICME intends to meet at least twice a year during the forthcoming triennial period. Suggestions and especially offers for additional meetings, symposiums, workshops or conferences are of course very welcome!

- Following the 16th General Conference in Canada in September 1992, the Board of ICME will meet again in February 1993 in Paris, immediately after the European Meeting of Museums of Anthropology, which will be organised by the Musée National des Arts et Traditions Populaires and the French Committee of ICOM. (See also ICME News number 18).
- For the autumn of 1993 ICME has been invited to hold its Annual Meeting in Scandinavia. Before the actual session in Northern Sweden we will be welcomed by the National Museum of Ethnology in Copenhagen to visit its new exhibition galleries. The meeting in Sweden will offer an opportunity to elaborate on the topics discussed at the meetings in Munchen and Québec. Special attention will be given to museums and minority issues as well as to the role of tourism. It is further hoped to arrange an excursion to the Saamen as part of the programme.
- At the beginning of 1994 there will be another Board meeting, preferably in a country outside Europe.
- ICME's Annual Meeting in the autumn of 1994 will be held in Leipzig, Germany, at the invitation of the Ethnological Museum in Leipzig, on the occasion of its 125th anniversary.
- Finally ICME will meet again at the XVIIth General Conference which will be held in 1995 in Stavanger, Norway.

**INTENTION TO PRESENT A PAPER AND/OR AN AUDIO-VISUAL PROGRAMME
AT ICOM 1992**

Please fill in this form and return it as soon as possible to the
address below.

Name:

Address:
.....

Telephone number:

Fax number:

Kind of presentation: 0 paper
0 audio-visual

Title of presentation:

Approx. length of presentation:(minutes)

Audio-visual requirements needed for presentation:
.....
.....

Please send the completed form to: Peter Bettenhausen,
Secretary ICME, Stadhouderslaan 41, 2517 HV Den Haag,
The Netherlands.

INTENTION TO ATTEND ICOM 1992

If you did not yet send in the registering form included in ICME
News nr. 18, but are planning to attend ICME's meetings during
ICOM 1992, please fill in this form and return it as soon as
possible to the secretary of ICME, Stadhouderslaan 41, 2517 HV,
Den Haag, The Netherlands.

Name:

Address:
.....

Telephone number:

Fax number:

ADRESSES MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

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