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1. WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT - INCLUSION IN DIVERSITY

It will only be a month before I see many of you at the 2005 ICME conference in Nafplion. I'm looking forward to that. However, with an official voting membership of nearly 300 spread around the world, and close to 700 email addresses on our ICME newsgroup, there will be many more of you who I WON'T see there than I will.

That only a portion of ICME members attend any one conference is normal - for ICME as well as for most other ICOM international committees. As far as I know, we have never had more than 100 participants during any one ICME meeting since our founding in 1946. ICME conferences tend therefore to be fairly intimate affairs. This intimacy is unfortunately partly due to the high cost of international travel, as belied by the many emails I receive from colleagues who tell me they would like to attend, but have problems obtaining adequate funding to cover the expenses.

Could another reason for intimate ICME conferences be a feeling that the conference themes are not useful for one's own work? Or perhaps that there are so many other tasks to complete, and it is difficult to find time to leave one's job? Or that the conference will be held in a language which is difficult to follow?

A recent discussion on the ICOM-L list highlights the above problems. During July-September 2005, a large number of messages stated that "young museum professionals" are few in ICOM, and are not well integrated in the organisation. Some of the suggested solutions to this problem included: Founding a separate international committee specifically for young professionals; Organising a mentoring system that could provide guidance to new/young members; Stimulating student membership through reduced membership rates and conference grants; Encouraging increased

networking in the organisation, particularly by means of electronic media. An archive of messages is available at <http://home.ease.lsoft.com/archives/icom-l.html>

I myself believe that INCLUSION is an important keyword in both the "young professional" question, and in envisioning what kind of ICME we should try to have. Inclusion is also one of the main objectives of the ICOM strategic plan as revised in Paris this June (see http://icom.museum/strat_plan.html for details).

How can ICOM (and ICME) help create good conditions for exchange among diverse groups of museum professionals, both "young" and not-so-young? One aspect of inclusion is to give diverse groups of museum professionals the opportunity to meet, discuss and initiate relevant activities. Another aspect is to attract and include new members into the organization.

But just as ICOM is made up of diverse groups of professionals, most of us also have diverse individual interests. For example, ICME members may be involved with ethnographic museums, but simultaneously have strong interests in pedagogy, new media, documentation, marketing, management, conservation, exhibition design, ethics, and many other aspects of museum work. I feel that this diversity and multiplicity of interests is something which strengthens us as museum people. We are united in our interest to look at museum problems from many angles. A kind of "INCLUSION IN DIVERSITY".

The last several years, ICME has worked towards creating an inclusive atmosphere in a number of ways:

- Encouraging student and non-ICOM participation at ICME conferences. During the course of a conference, these participants learn about the organization, and many of them later decide to join ICOM.
- Providing modest grants to help participants with special needs to attend ICME conferences.
- Opening the ICME email distribution list for participation by ANYONE interested in our themes
- The free availability of all committee publications at <http://icme.icom.museum>
- Encouraging formal collaboration between ICME, other committees and other related museum organizations.
- Encouraging ICME members on an individual level to participate in diverse museum activities - not only those initiated by ICME. Members of one committee may be interested in MANY themes. Informal crossover between various professional groups, international committees and affiliated organizations can be a way of creating a more vibrant ICME, as well as ICOM in general.

That said, we WOULD be happy if we could include more of you in our list of official voting members of ICME - and of official members of ICOM. Information on how to join an ICOM international committee is available at http://icom.museum/join_int_committee.html

Best regards from

Daniel Winfree Papuga
president@icme.icom.museum

2. ICME2005. CAN ORAL HISTORY MAKE OBJECTS SPEAK?

The ICME web site has been updated with both the program and with important practical information on the 2005 ICME conference "Can Oral History Make Objects Speak?", to be held in Nafplion, Greece, October 18-21.

PROGRAM

Monday 17/10/05

19.00 Informal welcome gathering at the headquarters of the Hellenic National Committee of ICOM in Athens (15 Assomaton Str. at Theseion District. Tel. +30 210 3239414)

Tuesday 18/10/05

10.00 The bus from Athens to Nafplion leaves from the headquarters of the Hellenic National Committee of ICOM.

17.00- 18.30 Welcome speeches

* Daniel Winfree Papuga (President of ICOM-ICME)

* Marlen Mouliou (Hellenic National Committee of ICOM)

Keynote speech by Henry Bredekamp (CEO: IZIKO Museums, South Africa) Oral History, Museums and Communities: a view from the Cape of Good Hope

19.00-20.00 Guided Tour at the Peloponnesian Folklore Foundation (PFF)

Wednesday 19/10/05

9.00-13.30 Theme: *Integrating Oral History in exhibitions - From concept to implementation.*

Chaired by Leif Pareli

9.00-9.15 Renders, Mieke (Kusthistories, Belgium) Use of Oral History in permanent exhibition and concept of 'Kusthistories'

9.15-9.30 Yoo, Chul-In (Cheju National University, Korea) Creating and Presenting Oral Life Histories in Exhibitions

9.30-9.50 Patsarika, Maria (International Centre for Cultural and Heritage Studies, University of Newcastle, U.K.) Baltic Memories Or, When A Tribute to Collective Memories Becomes Promotional Tool

9.50-10.05 Antos, Zvezdana (Ethnographic Museum, Zagreb, Croatia) Stories of Museum Objects

10.05-10.15 Frlan, Damodar (Etnografski muzej, Zagreb, Croatia) Oral History and Exhibition of African Art

10.15-10.45 Coffee/Tea Break

10.45-11.05 Nikiforidou, Alexandra (Hellenic American Educational Foundation) & Polyzoi, Vaso (Museum of Greek Folk Art) The use and function of oral testimonies in the exhibition 'Man and Tools. Aspects of Labour in the pre-industrial world'

11.25-11.45 Gougouli, Cleo From play-rooms to museum display: Toys as inalienable possessions.

12.05-13.00 Discussion [Questions & Answers]

13.30 Lunch Break

16.00-17.00 In situ walk in the historic town centre and presentation of the educational programmes of the Foundation by Kalliopi Kalkounou (Head of the Educational Programmes Department, Peloponnesian Folklore Foundation) and Andromachi Karaniki (Archaeologist) The town of Nafplion during the 19th century. The application of Oral History on an educational programme

17.30-20.30 Theme: *Integrating Oral History in exhibitions - From concept to implementation.*

Chaired by Daniel Winfree Papuga

18.10-18.30 Orlic, Olga (Ethnographic Museum of Istria, Croatia) How to present oral history at museum exhibition?

18.30-19.00 Coffee/Tea Break

19.00-19.20 Pehlivanides, G. & Papageorgiou, D. (Laboratory of Image, Sound and Cultural Representation, Department of Cultural Technology and Communication, University of the Aegean, Greece) Creating Representational Patterns from Oral History Records: The case study of Ermou Street at Mytilini, Lesvos

19.20-19.40 Tsaligopoulou, Katerina (Olympiakos Museum) The oral history in Museums- Theory and Practice

19.40-20.10 Discussion [Questions & Answers]

20.10-21.30 Theme: *Audience research on Oral History. How do we assess museum visitor impact?*

Chaired by a member of the Hellenic National Committee of ICOM

20.10-20.30 Maragudaki, Ino (International Centre for Cultural and Heritage Studies,

University of Newcastle, U.K.) Methods of displaying Oral history: an investigation of visitors' responses to different oral history interpretations

20.30-20.50 Gavish, Galia (Isaac Kaplan Old Yishuv Court Museum, Israel) Curatorship at the Isaac Kaplan Old Yishuv Court Museum

20.50-21.30 Discussion [Questions & Answers]

21.30 Event hosted by the Friends of the PFF

Thursday 20/10/05

a.m. Visits to the archaeological sites and museums of Mycenae & Epidaurus

Lunch

16.00-16.45 Theme: *Museums, Oral History and source communities developing dialogical paradigms.*

Chaired by a member of the Hellenic National Committee of ICOM

16.00-16.15 Gross, Lori (Director, Museum Loan Network, MIT, USA) Collecting Stories: Connecting Objects

16.30-16.45 Discussion [Questions & Answers]

16.45-21.30 Theme: *Education and Oral History - How can it benefit museum outreach programmes, educational activities, multimedia and the Internet?*

Chaired by Lidija Nikocecic

16.45-17.05 Nakou, Eirini (University of Thessaly, Greece) Oral History, Museums and History Education

17.05-17.25 Willson, Emma (Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, U.K.) Their Past Your Future

17.25-17.45 Hart, Meg (ULPGC, Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, Spain) MED VOICES

18.05-18.30 Coffee/Tea Break

18.30-18.50 Voyianni, Christina, Nikonanou, Niki, Bounia, Alexandra (University of the Aegean, Department of Cultural Technology and Communication) Oral history as content and process for the creation of educational activities in museums and sites of cultural interest: a multimedia educational application for the salt mines of the island of Lesvos, Greece.

18.50-19.05 Pareli, Leif (Norwegian Museum of Cultural History, Oslo, Norway) Forgotten Voices, New Knowledge: An Audiotape Collection Sheds New Light on Museum Objects

19.20-19.35 Cordova-Gonzalez, Julia (Museo Arqueologico San Miguel de Azapa) Oral History. Bridging the gap to Understanding ancient Andean Textiles

19.35-20.00 Coffee/Tea Break

20.00-20.10 Kakourou Chroni, Georgia (National Gallery, Sparta) At great-grandfather and great-grandmother's house

20.10-20.25 Vlachaki, Maria (Educator, Historian and Research Student at the University of Thessaly) Making the history of our school-museum alive

20.25-21.30 Discussion [Questions & Answers]

Friday 21/10/05

9.00-11.00 Workshop

Organised and co-ordinated by van Boeschoten , Riki (University of Thessaly, Dept. of History, Archaeology and Social Anthropology)

11.30-13.30 Museum visit Nafplion Art Gallery

Lunch

17.00-20.30 Theme:

Chaired by Mr. Martin Skrydstrup

17.45-18.45 Commentaries by Professor Dionyssia Kallinikou & Daniel Winfree Papuga

18.45-19.00 Coffee/Tea Break

19.00-19.20 Skrydstrup, Martin (PhD Candidate, Columbia University, Dept. of Anthropology, New York, U.S.A.) Intangible Cultural Heritage as Intellectual Property

19.20-19.35 Demers, Helene (Department of Anthropology, Malaspina University-College. Cowichan Campus, British Columbia, Canada) The story of the return of a Coast Salish mask

19.35-19.55 Rincon, Laurella (PhD Candidate, Department of Public Relations, Culture and Society, Lyon, France): "My voice in a glass box" : objectifying processes in collecting practices, at the National Museum of World Culture in Sweden

19.55-20.30 Discussion [Questions & Answers]

End of meeting

20.30 Farewell Party

Saturday 22/10/05

Departure of delegates - or participation on the ICME Post Conference Tour.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

The Hellenic National Committee of ICOM has given us an UPDATE with practical information about hotels, transportation to/from Nafplion, Conference and Post-Conference tour registration and more. Available on the ICME web site <http://icme.icom.museum>

3. A LETTER. FROM PROF. PH.D CORNELIU BUCUR. DIRECTOR GENERAL ASTRA MUSEUM

Dear colleagues,

The Open Air Museum from Dumbrava Sibiuului celebrated this autumn (19-21 August and 10-12 September) the Centenary of foundation in Sibiu in 1905 of *ASTRA* Museum, *The Ethnographical-*

Historical Museum of Romanians from Transylvania (at that time Transylvania was an Austro-Hungarian province).

In 1956 the partly recovered patrimony (50,000 objects) was organised by Cornel Irimie into a new exhibition of multiethnic folk art, the exhibition located in the Brukenthal Palace and since 1962 (the year of open air museums inauguration), the museums have evolved. Besides the permanent exhibition of folk art representative of the whole country ASTRA Museum has developed and comprises: The Museum of Traditional Civilization ASTRA (the open air museum), The Museum of Transylvanian Civilization *ASTRA*, The Extra-European Ethnology Museum *Franz Binder*, The Ethnographic Museum of Transylvanian Saxons *Emil Sigerus*, The Memorial Cabinet *Cornel Irimie*, The Department of Information and Documentation in Ethnology *C. Irimie*, The Zonal Department of Conservation and Restoration *ASTRA*, The Department of Marketing and Public Relations, The Cabinet of Pedagogy, The Folk Art Galleries and in the next future The Museum of Rromas Culture and Civilisation. For more details you can access the web site <http://www.muzeulastra.ro/>

The most important and largest museum included in the National Complex ASTRA Museum is The Open Air Museum that was organised in 1963 as the Museum of Folk Technique. It has a very large permanent exhibition (42 ha.), a diverse and complete typology of the patrimony (predominant of technical profile), many and diverse cultural events all of them included into *Living Human Treasures*, the program promoted by UNESCO and implemented by our museum too.

Last year at Seoul (at ICOM General Assembly) ASTRA Museum was quoted as one of the most competent promoters of the UNESCO program for preserving the immaterial cultural patrimony. Recently UNESCO has approved a new award: The International Award for the technic patrimony and it is named Dumbrava Sibiului (the name and location where the Open Air Museum is organised). This award represents UNESCO's official recognition for the value and importance of the immaterial and technical (material) patrimony preserved by our museum. Besides the collections of objects we also have in our patrimony over 2,600 anthropological films from all over the world donated with the occasion of the biannual Documentary and Anthropological Film Festival organised by the Department of Visual Anthropology *ASTRA* Film Studio.

Since 1990 we have been restoring and administering several historical monuments (buildings) located in Piaca Mic. These include: Arts House, The Extra-European Ethnology Museum *Franz Binder*, The Ethnographic Museum of Transylvanian Saxons *Emil Sigerus*, the Department of Information and Documentation *C. Irimie* (including the Memorial Cabinet *C. Irimie*, the founder of our museum), the Documentary Astra Film Studio, the Zonal Department of Conservation and Restoration *ASTRA* and the Department of Marketing and Pedagogy.

All the museums are endowed with up-to-date facilities including computers. The museum's patrimony and the permanent exhibitions are advertised in a digital system and web sites are also available: The Open Air Museum (www.muzeulastra.ro/main/enindexmal.php), *F. Binder* Museum (www.franzbinder.sibiu.ro) and the program *Human Living Treasures* (www.muzeulastra.ro/tezaure/enindex.php).

A bilingual CD-ROM about the Open Air Museum can be sent to you if you are interested. This summer we plan to bring into operation two bilingual touch screens. The first will be with the technic patrimony and it will be placed in the Open Air Museum. The second will be located downstairs at

The Arts1 House when the restoration is finished. This technology will inform tourists will be informed about the Mediaeval culture and civilisation of Sibiu City : architecture , crafts , commercial activities , systems of fortifications, cultural values and events etc. Our museum brought the advertising system at an international level .

Scientific and cultural publications complete the museum1s activity. I should like to mention some of them: the periodical volumes *Cibinium* published in 2000 and 2004 . The treatises in two volumes (aprox. 600 pages.) about the traditional folk civilisation from Romania and the *Romanian ethnomuseology* (written by myself), an ethnological monograph for Marginimea Sibiului illustrating the pastoral life in 18 villages from this area , during the 11th- 20th centuries. Other publications include: The Bulletin of the Association of Open Air Museums from Romania, guides, folders, a guide of the National Olympiad *Traditional crafts* and complete series of documentary films for the cultural events included in the program *Human Living Treasures*.

I send this information and details about the museum1s activity to inform you about our celebration and, on the eve of the Centenary, in hope of a better and better scientific and cultural collaboration, partnerships with similar museum members of ICME.

I should like to send you the post card of the Centenary poster and the web site address:

www.centenar.muzeulastra.ro

Best regards,

Prof. Ph.D Corneliu Bucur
General Director ASTRA Museum

4. REGIONAL COLLOQUIUM: 'DO MUSEUMS STILL MATTER? MAKING THE CASE, FINDING THE WAYS'. LIDIJA NIKOCEVIC

This conference, organised in Bucharest (June 22-25, 2005), was meant for museum professionals from the vast region which has been understood as 'Eastern Europe' (not only geographically): Romania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Croatia, Georgia, Serbia, Moldova, Albania, including Poland, Slovakia, Slovenia, etc, but excluding Greece. Bearing in mind that museums in these countries still, more or less, have problems in receiving sufficient financial support, the organisers, The Fund for Arts and Culture in Central and Eastern Europe and The Embassy of the United States of America in Bucharest shaped a Colloquium programme that was meant to help museum directors and curators with practical advice. http://www.usembassy.ro/Museums_Conference/



Marc Pachter (Director of the National Portrait Gallery and Acting Director of the National Museum of American History), was the Program Chairman. He raised some fundamental questions about the purpose and general aims of museums, stressing the idea of democracy that should be reflected on every level of relations between museums and visitors.

The importance of communication within a museum, of consulting the community and addressing issues raised in visitors' feedback were the topics of Graham Beal's (The Director of the Detroit Institute of Arts) and Miguel Fernandez Felix's (The Director of the National Museum of Viceroyalty in Mexico City and professor of museum management) lectures. These were illustrated with their own rich experience and their fruitful exchanges involving communities.

Klaus Muller, the museum and web consultant, talked about the necessity of the communication between museums and visitors through web pages and highlighted possibilities of this new medium.

Patrick Gallagher (the President and founder of Gallagher & Associates design firm) supplied the audience both with extremely useful advice on the exhibition design and two handbooks on creating exhibitions (on the organisational and the executive level).

Jillian Poole (together with Paul H. Elicker), the founder and President of the Fund for Arts and Culture added at the end of the workshop the financial dimension of the museum work: she talked (and distributed another useful handbook) about managing for money.

Most of the lecturers also led workshops after their lectures, that enabled participants to raise questions, discuss and talk about their own experience. Participants came from different types of museums, but quite a number of them work in ethnographic museums. However, most of the problems discussed were familiar and important for museum professionals generally. The possibility to discuss with colleagues in less formal contexts and to build a new network was one of the most important values of this gathering. In this way we, participants, were able to exchange experience, ideas and strategies with people that we don't meet very often. That is why I missed the opportunities to visit Bucharest museums (whose employees participated at the colloquium in large numbers) and to discuss there the problems and themes that we talked about in the congenial atmosphere of the Hotel *Caro*. Also because it seemed that some of these museums, as for example, the Village museum (Muzeul national al satului *Dimitrie Gusti*), already have applied some of the advice heard on the colloquium.

Lidija Nikocecic

Director, Ethnographic Museum of Istria, Croatia

<http://www.emi.hr/>

5. MUSEUMS AND THE ROMA DECADE - BEATE WILDE.



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6.

During the June 2005 ICOM Advisory Committee meeting in Paris, three presentations were given on the UNESCO "Preliminary Draft Convention on the Protection of the Diversity of Cultural Contents and Artistic Expressions".

Katarina Stentou (Director of the UNESCO Division of Cultural Policies and Intercultural Dialogue) gave the first presentation. Ms. Stentou claimed that one of the main problems in forming the new

UNESCO draft convention has been defining what 'protection' is. Protection can come about through promoting respect, and not necessarily through protectionism, she said. She stated that it also is furthered by the free flow of ideas through words and images, and the promotion of cultural identities in relation to diversity. In order to accomplish this, work on the convention before submission to the October 2005 UNESCO General Conference will focus on the revision of articles hindering the unlawful trade of cultural properties, and avoiding a narrow definition of 'culture'.

ICOM president Allissandra Cummings commented that it is perhaps the ICOM code of ethics which can best act as a reference for museum professionals in hindering the unlawful trade of cultural properties, and that UNESCO might take professional ethics into account when shaping such a convention.

On the following day, Ms Corazon Alvina, (Director of the National Museum of the Philippines) and Dr. Stephen Engelsman (Director of the National Museum of Ethnology, Leiden, Netherlands) each gave presentations on the draft text of the convention.

Dr. Engelsman's presentation was particularly poignant in asking "'Who' can own cultural property", and "what is the difference between legal and cultural ownership?". Not being a legal expert himself, he had consulted Dutch UNESCO for their interpretation of what was driving the convention process. Their answer was:

- * Francophone language protection (particularly France & Canada)
- * North-South polarity on the capital generated by intellectual products (such as Bob Marley compositions).
- * Development policies
- * Multilateralism of the press (meaning both the diversity of of opinion, and that of the diversity of types of media with regards to human rights and the freedom of expression).

Dr. Engelsman maintained that 'protection' in this convention is not geared towards collecting the past, but rather towards protecting today's cultural phenomena - which he himself considered quite a positive endeavor.

After reading the draft documents, I would have to agree with Dr. Engelsman. The latest version of the convention (which will be submitted to the UNESCO general meeting in October) is available at http://portal.unesco.org/culture/en/ev.php-URL_ID=11281&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

Daniel Winfree Papuga

7. UP-COMING CONFERENCES AND EVENTS

September 17- 23 : "Partnering In Museum Education - Enhancing The Adventures", ICOM/CECA Annual Conference, Banska Stiavnica, Slovakia. <http://www.ceca-icom.org>

September 18-21: 9th RAI International Festival of Ethnographic Film, Oxford, UK. <http://www.therai.org.uk/film/festival/>

September 22-24: "The Best in Heritage 2005", Dubrovnik, Croatia.

<http://www.TheBestInHeritage.com>

September 23-27 : MUSEUM-OBJECT-TEXT, one of the themes at "Elective Affinities", IAWIS/AIERTI 7th International Conference on Word & Image Studies, Philadelphia, PA, USA.

<http://www.iawis.org/>

September 25-30: "The sustainable museum", British Council Seminar, Oxford and London, UK.

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/>

October 3-7: "Museums, Partnerships, Communities", ICOM-ICR annual meeting, Isle of Man and Liverpool, UK. <http://icom.museum/calendar2.html#icr>

October 12-15: "(Im)permanence: Cultures in/out of Time", interdisciplinary conference at the Center for the Arts in Society at Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA, USA.

<http://www.hss.cmu.edu/cas>

October 18-21: "Can Oral History Make Objects Speak?", ICOM/ICME Annual Conference, Nafplion, Greece. (see above - or <http://icme.icom.museum>)

October 22-23: ICME post-conference tour of the Peloponnese. (see above - or

<http://icme.icom.museum>)

November 3-5: "DIGITS FUGIT!: Preserving Knowledge into the Future", 33rd Annual Museum Computer Network Conference, Boston, Massachusetts, USA. <http://www.mcn.edu/>

November 3-5: "City museums as centres of civic dialogue?", ICOM/ICMAH Annual meeting, Amsterdam, Rotterdam and Leiden, The Netherlands. Information from reneekistemaker@ahm.amsterdam.nl or vanessavroon@ahm.amsterdam.nl

November 30-December 4: "Bringing the Past into the Present", 104th Annual American Anthropological Association Meeting, Washington DC, USA. <http://www.aaanet.org/mtgs/mtgs.htm>

December 2-3: "The Museums of the City" International Conference, Rome, Italy.

<http://host.uniroma3.it/centri/croma/>

<http://rspas.anu.edu.au/heritage/>

January 9-12 2006: "Sustainable Heritage Development: Cultural Diversity - Heritage Tourism - Cultural Economics", The 2006 Sustainability Conference in Hanoi and Ha Long Bay, Vietnam. Including the participation of ICOM Vietnam and UNESCO Hanoi.

<http://sustainabilityconference.com/>

February 9-10, 2006: "Material Culture, Identities and Inclusion", PhD Student Conference, Department of Museum Studies, University of Leicester, UK. Deadline for abstracts: 15 June. Further information from Konstantinos Arvanitis <ka43@LEICESTER.AC.UK>.

March 22-26, 2006: Seventh Mediterranean Social and Political Research Meeting (MSPRM), Florence & Montecatini Terme, Italy. 13 workshops are scheduled, including: Spaces of Memory and Practices of Restoration; From Local to Global - Visual Arts in the Eastern Mediterranean between

International Markets and Local Expectations. Proposal deadline: July 15, 2005.

<http://www.iue.it/RSCAS/Research/Mediterranean/mspr2006/>

April 10-14, 2006, "Cosmopolitanism and anthropology", Association of Social Anthropologists (ASA) Diamond jubilee conference 2006, University of Keele, UK. <http://www.theasa.org/asa06>

April 12 - 15, 2006: "WORLD'S FAIRS & EXPOSITIONS", Joint Conference of the Popular Culture / American Culture Association, Atlanta, GA, USA. Proposal deadline: October 15, 2005. <http://www.h-net.org/~pcaaca>

April 25-27, 2006: "The Museum: A World Forum", Department of Museum Studies, University of Leicester, UK. <http://www.le.ac.uk/museumstudies/professional/conferences.htm>

May 17-20, 2006: "Cultures and Colonization in French Africa", French Colonial Historical Society 2006 annual meeting, Dakar, Senegal. <http://www.frenchcolonial.org>

June 17-18, 2006: "Passion, play and the everyday: Oral history and the consumer society", Annual Conference of the Oral History Society, Sheffield, UK. Proposal deadline: December 2, 2005. <http://www.oralhistory.org.uk/conferences/>

July 2006: ICME annual conference, Miami, Florida, USA. (Tentative dates: July 10-12 2006. Further details in the next issue of ICME news)

September 7-9, 2006: "'Of Asian Origin' : Rethinking Tourism In Contemporary Asia", Singapore. Proposal deadline: December 1, 2005. <http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/conf2006/tourism.htm>

September 18-21, 2006: European Association of Social Anthropologists, Biennial Conference 2006, Bristol, UK. <http://www.nomadit.co.uk/~easa/easa06/>

October 11-14, 2006: "Textile Narratives and Conversations", Textile Society of America Symposium, Toronto, Canada. Proposal deadline: December 1, 2005. <http://www.textilesociety.org/>

5. WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

Salutations! I have just returned, much refreshed, from a short break walking in the hills and by the wonderful peaceful coast with family and friends in Northumberland.

It seems to rain every day in Northumberland but this much-needed rest is helping me to recover from 7/7. Thanks to dear old British rail, where as many of you know, trains rarely run on time, 2 colleagues and I narrowly missed catching the Piccadilly Line underground train that was bombed. In London on 7/7 we found a wonderful calming sense of community spirit, people were sharing maps, food and ideas for traveling home. Most importantly, in peoples conversations the "terrorists" were held at a distance from the "Muslim" community of which they purported to be a part. It was heartening that no-one was heard voicing any hostility against Muslims generally, although in more recent weeks this is sadly not the case and the Muslim community is experiencing acts of violence against property and verbal assault here in the UK.

My saddest moments were hearing that the 7/7 terrorists were British- born. Perhaps these awful experiences of division and disaffection might make us value our common humanity, our freedom and democracy even more. In ICME we stand shoulder to shoulder against injustice, we work together for greater tolerance and intercultural understanding. It is a positive, healing group for me to be part of. I am especially pleased to see part of my own mixed heritage celebrated in this Newsletter by Beate's article. My maternal grandpa was a Roma and Beate has highlighted some important events for me to consider. Thank you Beate!

I send you all my best wishes for what promises to be another wonderful conference. Keep well everyone.

Viv Golding, Editor of ICME-news

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The deadline for the next issue is **1st November 2005**. Please send your news to any of the above contact addresses, although email is preferred.