

ICME Newsletter 51, September 2008

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1. WORDSFROM THE PRESIDENT

Summer is drawing to an end and ICME has quite a bit of activity. First and foremost is our 2008 annual meeting scheduled in Jerusalem in November. We have a wide ranging number of papers from colleagues from many nations, each addressing some aspect of the theme - "Migration, Diaspora, Pilgrimage." Participants will also be introduced to museums and cultural sites which hold relevance to this theme every day. As always, the annual ICME meeting allows participants to get behind the scenes in the host museums. The preliminary program appears elsewhere in this newsletter. There is still room for ICME members and others to register to attend the meeting, although the post-conference tour is now fully booked.

As I wrote previously, ICME Board member Barbara Woroncow and I attended the ICOM Advisory Committee meeting in Paris early in June. Because of the availability of funding more national committee chairs were able to attend in the past, so it was quite a lively meeting with discussions of a number of topics relevant to the running of the organization. Much of the discussion centered on the working of the newly adopted long-range plan of ICOM and how it affects each of the national and international committees.

An additional meeting which Barbara and I attended was a discussion of the initiative put forward by Wiki to create a central platform to access ethnographic collections globally. Four members of ICME - the National Folk Museum of Korea, The Kulturhistorisk Museum in Oslo, and Iziko Museums of Cape Town have provisionally agreed to serve as pilots for this endeavor. The mechanics of the project are yet to be worked out. The group is also seeking an individual who will serve to coordinate the efforts. If you think you have the time and would like to become involved, please do contact me.

Finally, not to put the cart before the horse, last year while I received proposals for this year's annual meeting, I also received several excellent and compelling proposals for the ICME 2009 annual conference. After much deliberation by the ICME board members, it was decided to hold

next year's meeting in Seoul, Korea, hosted by the National Folk Museum of Korea. The meeting is scheduled for October 19-21, 2009 with the renowned ICME post-conference tour immediately following. Taking up from this year's meeting, the proposed topic for next year's meeting will be "Migration." More information about this meeting will be forthcoming.

In the meantime, I'm hoping that many of you will be able to join us in Jerusalem.

2. ICME ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN JERUSALEM 2008, PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

Sunday, November 16

ARRIVAL, PRE-CONFERENCE WALKING TOUR, OPENING RECEPTION

Pre-conference walking tour of the pilgrimage sites in the Old City of Jerusalem (separate fee applied, see below)

Begins at 8 a.m. at the St. James Armenian Church.

We follow the route from St. James Church on the Street of the Armenians to David Street, through the suq - the open air marketplace - to the Via Dolorosa and from there to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

After a break for refreshment, we will ascend to the Temple Mount and visit the museum and the mosques, then descend to the Kotel Ma'aravi the Western Wall of the Holy Temple.

Lunch is followed by a visit to the Karaite Synagogue and the compound of the Four Sephardic Synagogues.

A festive reception will be hosted by [The Isaac Kaplan Old Yishuv Court Museum](#), followed by a visit through the collections, then dinner in the style of the "Old Yishuv" sponsored by

the Berman's Bakery. ICME Annual Board meeting following opening reception

Monday, November 17

Breakfast at hotels

Visit to the Citadel, the Tower of David Museum of the History of Jerusalem.

Sessions at Tower of David Museum

Welcomes

Dorit Wolenitz, President, ICOM-Israel

Galia Gavish, Director/Curator, Old Yishuv Court Museum, Jerusalem

Annette B. Fromm, President, ICME

Paper Session I

Elena Marushiakova, Vesselin Popov, Ethnographic Institute and Museum at Bulgarian Academy of Sciences "Nomadism, Pilgrimage, Migrations, the example of a Gypsy group in Bulgaria"

Dr. Lothar Stein, retired

"Change of Migration patterns among the Shammar Bedouins"

Lunch at the Museum (at your own expense)

Presentation by National Folk Museum of Korea

Paper Sessions II

Laurie Beth Kalb, Peabody Museum of Archaeology and Ethnography, Harvard University

"Curatorial Migration Tales or Is the Museum Really a Final Resting Place?"

Lourdes. The object as a representative"

Lidija Nikocecic, Ethnographic Museum of Istria

"The unchanging present - a dilemma of representation"

Paper Session III

Piret Noorhani, Estonian National Museum

"Cultural heritage as a cornerstone of the cultural identity of the Estonian Diaspora"

Dr. Shelly Shenhav-Keller, The Academic College of Beit-Berl & Tel-Aviv-Yaffo

"Identity and Collective Memory in Two Ethnic Heritage Centers in Israel"

Noam Ben-Yossef, The Israel Museum

"Memories from the North African Diaspora"

Tour of the Armenian Museum.

Evening tour from the Old City of Jerusalem to the Yemin Moshe neighborhood

Reception at Mishkenot Shaananim, sponsored by The Jerusalem Foundation.

Tuesday, November 16

Breakfast at hotels Visit Yad Vashem, The Heroes' and Martyrs' of the Holocaust Remembrance Authority, a site of present-day pilgrimage.

Short lunch break (on own expense)

Tour through the L.A. Mayer Museum for Islamic Art

Sessions at L.A. Mayer Museum for Islamic Art

Paper Session IV

Ruth Kark, Noah Perry, Department of Geography, Hebrew University of Jerusalem

"Multiculturalism and Museums in Israel"

Henry C (Jatti) Bredekamp, Iziko Museums of Cape Town "The Genadendal Moravian Mission Community (South Africa) and the Museum: pilgrimage site of a special type"

Paper Session V

Sari Alper, Arizona State University "New Approaches to Jewish Identity: Reclaiming the Galut in the Museum"

Bonnie Harris, Jewish Historical Society of San Diego

"Jews in Phillipines, history & pilgrimage site in Israel"

Judith Stauber, University of New Mexico

"Communicating New Worlds: Jewish Museum Narratives"

Middle Eastern dinner followed by a nighttime tour through Rehavia and Talbieh neighborhoods of Jerusalem, where "Houses Tell their Tales."

Return to hotels

Wednesday, November 19

Breakfast at hotels

Walking tour to Museum of Italian Jewish Art

View exhibit, presentation by staff members including visit to the laboratory for wood preservation

Sessions at U. Nahon Museum of Italian Jewish Art

Paper Session VI

Patricia Davison, Iziko Museums of Cape Town

"Migration, material culture and identity in South Africa: a case study of museum exclusion"

Victoria Phiri, Livingstone Museum, Zambia

"Need for museum to deal with topics of immigrants"

Ester Muchawsky-Schnapper, The Israel Museum

"Costume in Exile - The Hasidic Dress"

Paper Session VII

Dr. Mihai Fifor, The Regional Museum of Oltenia Romaina

""Home, sweet home" - several remarks on the idea of "migration" in a globalised world

Transnational identity, Romanian immigrants/migrants"

"Descendants of the "Alexandrian Women" - Revisits and pilgrimages tracing the migration of Slovene women to Egypt"

Paper Session VIII

Dr. Russell E. Brayley, George Mason University

"Museums as a Window into the Sacred World"

Brittany Wheeler, Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site

"The Museum's Tentacles: Family, Regionalism and Academic Pilgrimage at Philipse Manor Hall"

Chile

"Textiles and the Recreation of Sacred Elements"

Tour of the Ohel Moshe neighbourhood, one of Jerusalem's earliest neighbourhoods built outside the Old City walls during second half of the 19th century.

Lunch in the Machane Yehuda Shuk - Israel's largest outdoor market (at your own expense).

Visit to the Museum of Underground Prisoners

Closing dinner of the conference at the Museum. Return to hotels

Post-Conference Tour

Thursday, November 20 - Morning bus from Jerusalem.

Travel north to the city of Haifa, the site of the World Baha'i Center Gardens, a holy place and pilgrimage site for the [Baha'i religious](#) community is the next stop.

Then travel to the Museum of German Speaking Judaism in the Tefen Industrial Park in Ma'a lot.

Lunch and visit to the Pioneers Museum in Kibbutz Yifat in the Yizrael Valley

Then visit the [Church of the Annunciation, Nazareth](#),

Spend the night at Guest House at Kibbutz Kfar Giladi.

Friday, November 21 -

We'll start the day with a tour of Kibbutz Kfar Giladi. The next stop will be the Meiri [Museum in Safed](#), the early center of kabbalists and Kabbala. We'll continue to the Yigal Allon Museum, Kibbutz Ginnosar on the shores of the Sea of Galilee and the Nebi Shu'eib (Jethro) Tomb, holy to the Druze Community. The final stop will be the Yardenit Baptism Site on the Jordan River.

Then head back to Jerusalem through the Jordan Valley

The program may be subject to changes.

The program will be available soon at the [ICME website](#)

3. "TUDILUKENU": DISCOVERING 'THE OTHER' IN AFRICAN MUSEUMS

I attended the "Museum Experts Meeting" in Amsterdam in May this year where young museum professionals from different parts of the world met to discuss museum programs. During the deliberation there was an observation from mainly African participants that in Europe most museums have displays and exhibitions on different parts of the world, especially Africa. For instance the Tropenmuseum in Amsterdam has big exhibitions on "Africa", "Asia" etc. European museums have the capacity (in terms of objects) to exhibit about the "other" such that museums become a place where local people can discover other parts of the world. However, African museums only exhibit about themselves for the purpose of mainly foreign tourists. In fact most African museums have been experiencing low numbers of visits by local tourists. And can they be blamed if the museums are not places of discovery- most local things displayed are just "ordinary" things to them. My question is: can museums in Africa be places of discovering the other world by way of displaying say European, Asian, Latin America etc. cultures? Can we also display what maybe considered "ordinary" things in Europe or other parts of the world in African museums? For instance I was fascinated by the bicycle culture of the Dutch people. In my community

only poor people use bicycles and Europeans are not considered "poor"! Thus a display on ordinary Dutch life would be a source of discovery and awe to ordinary Zambian people. It is for this reason that I would like to call for exchange of culture exhibits from different countries. It is a project that I would like to work on and I call it "Tudilukenu" a Zambian term meaning "let's know each other". I would like to hear from what others say on this topic and how to go about it.

Victoria Phiri

Curator, Ethnography and Art, Livingstone Museum, Zambia

4. NEW PUBLICATIONS

'Utimut' - new publication on re-patriation

The International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA) and the Greenland National Museum & Archives (NKA) have released a publication on repatriation of cultural heritage:

Mille Gabriel & Jens Dahl (eds)

UTIMUT

Past Heritage - Future Partnerships

Discussions on Repatriation in the 21st Century

The publication stems from discussions taking place at the 2007 Conference on Repatriation of Cultural Heritage in Nuuk, Greenland from February 12-15, 2007. The book can be purchased from at the [IWGIA](#) website or in the USA at [Transaction Publishers](#)

More than ever before, ethnic groups, peoples and nations are fighting to regain control of their lost cultural heritage and ancestral human remains and this raises questions as to the Western museums' ownership of their foreign collections. This book, however, identifies a need to move beyond discussions of ownership, power and control in favour of exploring new kinds of partnerships between museums and the peoples or countries of origin, partnerships based on equitability and reconciliation. The 22 authors, who are engaged in cultural heritage management, indigenous rights, museums and cultural politics in different parts of the world, explore a wide variety of different cooperative approaches such as knowledge sharing, capacity building, and physical as well as virtual repatriation.

Brochure on endangered Egyptian cultural assets

I would like to inform you that a digital copy of the Brochure of the first phase of a project concerning "The preservation of the endangered cultural assets of the traditional Egyptian storyteller's heritage and its instruments and tools", launching in cooperation with the International

Council of Museums-Committee for Conservation-Wood, Furniture and Lacquer (ICOM-CC-Wood, Furniture and Lacquer), The UNESCO Office in Cairo, and International Storytelling Center in Jonesborough, Tennessee, in the United States of America within the framework of the "Museum to Museum / Museum Partnership Programme".

With my best regards.

Prof. Dr. Hany Hanna

- Coordinator, ICOM-CC- Wood, Furniture and Lacquer.
- General Director, Department of Conservation, Helwan El-Saf and Atfeh Sector, Supreme Council of Antiquities, Egypt- Professor, Institute for Coptic Studies in Cairo.

5. UPDATE ON IP AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

At its 12th session in February 2008, the WIPO Intergovernmental Committee requested the WIPO Secretariat to prepare a draft "gap analysis" describing existing levels of protection for traditional cultural expressions at the international level, what gaps exist, considerations relevant to determining whether those gaps need to be addressed, and what options exist to address any identified gaps.

The Secretariat was required to make available a draft of the analysis before May 31, 2008 and participants the Committee were invited to comment on it by June 30, 2008. The Secretariat was then required to make available a further draft of the analysis for discussion at the upcoming 13th session of the Committee (October 13 to 17, 2008).

In parallel terms, a gap analysis concerning traditional knowledge was also requested in the same manner.

The next draft of the analysis on traditional cultural expressions is now available at [wipo](http://wipo.org).

6. UP-COMING CONFERENCES

October 15-17, "Representing Climate Change: Ecology, Media and the Arts", Cambridge <http://www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/546/>

October 15-18, "Being Seen: Paradoxes and Practices of (In)Visibility", fourth annual Ethnographic Praxis in Industry conference, Copenhagen. <http://www.epic2008.com/>

November 19-23, "Inclusion, Collaboration and Engagement", the 2008 Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association, San Francisco
<http://www.aaanet.org/meetings/>

November 21-23, "Technovisuality and Cultural Re-enchantment", Hong Kong, Shue Yan University <http://www.hksyu.edu/english/2008Techno/home.html>

November 26-28, "New Voices, New Visions: Challenging Australian identities and legacies", The InASA Conference 2008, Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Australia, <http://www.inasa.org/>

April 4 - 7 2009, "Traditions and Transformations: Tourism, Heritage and Cultural Change in the Middle East and North Africa Region", Amman, The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. <http://www.tourism-culture.com/>

March 16 - 18 2009, "Culture, Politics, Ethics: Aesthetics, performance, oppression, resistance", 1st Global Conference, Salzburg, Austria
<http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/ci/transformations/cpe/cpe1/cfp.html>

7. CALL FOR PAPERS

November 3-6, "Digital Media and its Applications in Cultural Heritage", Petra University, Amman, Jordan
<http://www.csaar-center.org/conference/DMACH2008/>

November 5-9, "Cultural and Event Tourism: Issues and debates", International Tourism Conference 2008, Alanya, Turkey.
<http://www.akdeniz.edu.tr/alanya/conference08/>

November 28, "After effects: Trauma, memory, performativity", Sydney, Australia. <http://aftereffects-symposium.blogspot.com/>

January 8-10 2009, "International Conference on Heritage in Asia: Converging Forces and Conflicting Values", National University of Singapore. http://www.ari.nus.edu.sg/events_categorydetails.asp?categoryid=6&eventid=814

January 5-7 2009, "Sustainability", 5th International Conference on Environmental, Cultural, Economic and Social Sustainability, Mauritius
<http://s09.cgpublisher.com/welcome.html>

February 9-10 2009, "Subjectivity, Creativity and the Institution", Perth, Australia. <http://subjectivitycreativityandtheinstitution.com/>

March 28-30 2009, "Being, Becoming and Belonging: Multiculturalism, Diversity and Social Inclusion in Modern Canada", the British Association of Canadian

Studies Annual Conference, St Anne's College, University of Oxford

<http://www.canadian-studies.info/main/content/view/163/28/>

30 May - 1 June 2009, "Sharing Cultures 2009", International Conference on Intangible Heritage, Pico Island, Azores, Portugal.

The call for papers and registration for this Conference is now open through October 31, 2008 at the website -

http://sharing.cultures2009.greenlinesinstitute.org/index.php?page=scientific_co\mm

8. WORDS FROM THE EDITOR

This is the last newsletter before this year's annual meeting in Jerusalem. It's good to know that the meeting has attracted a number of really interesting papers, and a good number of participants as well. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the meeting myself, so I will have to settle with wishing all participants a good meeting.

In this issue of ICME News Victoria Phiri raises a very interesting discussion on the possibility of presenting 'ordinary things' from Europe or the rest of the world in African Museums. Victoria's observations on the lack of such presentations in Africa suits very well, I think, with the papers presented at ICME's annual meetings in which Western museums are occupied with 'representing the other', while African and Asian museums to a large degree seem to be more interested in representing the 'post-colonial self'. Of course there are complicated political and economic issues at stake here, but I think ICME News could be a perfect space for accepting Victoria's open invitation for a discussion of how to represent ordinary 'non-African' collections in Africa. At the museum where

entitled 'The Unesco Collections' since the mid-1960s. At the moment the Unesco Collections comprises 26 collections of about 200-300 everyday objects from 19 different countries all over the world (see <http://www.moesmus.dk/page.asp?sideid=403&zcs=4> - unfortunately the site is only available in Danish). These collections circulate at schools all over the country as hands-on collections supplemented by a rich amount of texts, photos, sound recordings etc. When we meet with the teachers affiliated with project a question often is raised whether it would be possible to make Danish collections for students in other countries. Up till now, the answer has been that each class can make a collection of their own everyday life - simply to be aware of the limitations of such collections, and the kind of image they create of everyday life - but that there is no network available at present to make such collections circulate. But with Victoria's suggestion I think the time may be ripe to

consider whether we might actually go further and consider making collections from Denmark - and elsewhere! - for circulation in Africa and other places.

I hope more people will go into this discussion: is it really a good idea? What are the economic and human resources needed? How could such a project be framed? For one thing I think such a project would stress that ethnographic collecting and exhibition is not simply a matter of colonial enterprise but also a reflection of a general intercultural curiosity.

Peter Bjerregaard

The deadline for the next issue is December 19 2008. Please send news and contributions to: editor@icme.icom.museum

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