

Report of Hans Manneby, Bohusläns Museum:
ICR's annual conference 2002 in Croatia
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Dear colleagues and ICR members,

our Annual ICR Conference 2002 in Croatia is over. It was an intensive week together with 60 delegates from 14 countries and innumerable impressions from museum visits and travelling in different parts of Croatia. The conference was perfectly organised by Goranka Kovacic and her colleagues and it was a true privilege to be a guest in Croatia. Stubicke Toblice, a spa in Hrvatsko Zagorje, were the center for our conference. There, at the hotel, we could end our extensive days of meetings, lectures, discussions, and excursions, with late evening bath in a warm outdoor pool with water from thermal springs. Even if we had some persistent rain during the first part of the week, I think all of us have sunshine in our minds when we reflect on what we experienced during the conference week.

ICR started Museum Quality as a long term theme in 1999 in Athens. After workshops in Nairobi 2000 and Barcelona 2001, we now finalised the theme with the Croatian conference on Museum Quality and standards on a practical level. The opening day was filled with interesting key note speakers, such as Jane Legget from New Zealand, Harald Mehus from Norway, Stephen Harrison from Isle of Man, Taja Cepic from Slovenia and Zarka Vujic and Tomislav Sola from Croatia. After this day of introduction to the theme, we visited around 15 museums and discussed with many Croatian colleagues during the following days. A wide spectra of museums was presented to us; museums of art, ethnography, insects, local history, open air museum and others.

Our excursions took us out on the country side of northern Croatia, as well as to museums in the cities of Zagreb and Varazdin. The last part of the week we travelled down to the coast, to Istria and Porec. Among several sights and museums, we also visited Eufrasiana Basilicas, a marvellous complex placed on UNESCOs World Heritage List.

Just a few days before the conference we published our new book - Guidelines to Improve Museum Quality and Standards. The book is based on the result from our last three annual conferences. Ideas and conclusions presented in the book was now "tested" in reality in a series of practical quality workshops at the museums we visited. The book is on sale and can be ordered from our secretary.

As we shortly announced in the last Newsletter, our Annual Conference 2003 will be held in Mexico, last week in October. The conference will take place in the city of Mérida in Yucatan and it will be arranged in cooperation with ICOM Mexico. The new theme will be: Museums and Regional Development. More information on theme and practical issues will come in our next Newsletter. But mark the week in your calendar already now, because we can guarantee a conference with stimulating intellectual challenges as well as unforgettable sights.

Hans Manneby
Chairman