

Welcoming letter from the ICR Chair, Irena Žmuc

Dear colleagues and ICR members,

the ICR Board is very eager to re-introduce the newsletter of the Committee, after a short break of a few years, and here you have the first edition for 2017! In order to reach as many readers as possible – not only ICR but also ICOM members, museum theorists and professionals in general – our aim is to deliver it twice a year, on spring-time and after the ICR Annual Meeting, usually in autumn. Please stay tuned for appealing museum news, events, and publications of our Committee!

From Milan 2016 to Kyoto 2019

The Triennial period 2013 - 2016 ended with the ICOM General Conference in Milan, this last July. We all enjoyed a well-organised conference with inspiring visits in historical venues and museums, joyful social events and excellent keynote speeches from important thinkers, professionals, and artists. Even the weather was great!

The theme of the Conference was «*Museums and Cultural Landscapes*». ICR hosted a session under the specific title “**Museums, Landscapes and Horizons – Understand what you have, know where you are, see where you are going**” and welcomed many interesting papers from museum professional and ICR members from all around the world. It also co-organised a joint session entitled “**Museums and landscape communities**” with the International Committee for the Collections and Activities of Museums of Cities (CAMOC), and altogether spent a fascinating day visiting new museum developments in Bologna.



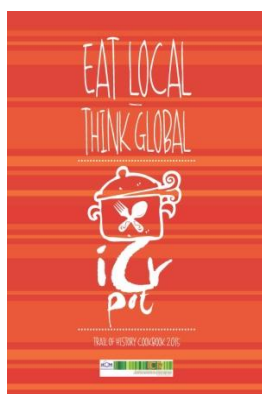
Visiting the Museum of the History of Bologna

During the Conference **three new ICR publications** were presented: firstly, the proceedings of the 2011 and 2012 Annual Meetings in Norway and Serbia under the title “*Regional Museums and Local Gastronomic Heritage*”

(http://network.icom.museum/fileadmin/user_upload/minisites/icr/pdf/REGIONAL_MUSEUMS_AND_LOCAL_GASTRONOMIC_HERITAGE-_E_01.pdf). Secondly, the Proceedings of the 2013 ICR

Conference in Rio de Janeiro “*Reshaping Regional Identities - Making New Memories, Preserving the Old*”

(http://network.icom.museum/fileadmin/user_upload/minisites/icr/pdf/RESHAPING_REGIONAL_IDENTITIES-_MAKING_NEW_MEMORIES.pdf).



The third publication is a recipe book with 26 traditional recipes with historical background from 13 countries, entitled “Eat Local – Think Global: Trail of History Cookbook 2015”

(http://network.icom.museum/fileadmin/user_upload/minisites/icr/pdf/think_global_eat_local.pdf).

In the near future the ICR digital library will also include the Proceedings of the “International Workshop On Museum Standards” in Taiyuan, China (2013), the Proceedings of the ICR Annual Conference in Taiwan (2014) and the Proceedings of the Special Project “Regional Museums’ role in assisting the rebuilding of local communities after an earthquake” that took place in

Kathmandu in January 2017 (check below for more).

Autumn 2016 - February 2017

After Milan the ICR board faced new challenges. The first was to organize the Special Project **“Regional Museums’ role in assisting the rebuilding of local communities after an earthquake”**. The goal of the project was to effectively contribute in the preservation and reformation of Nepalese museums after the disastrous earthquake of 2015. It was the first ever symposium organized in Nepal on museums and museology and it was highly appreciated by local heritage professionals and academics.

ICR will continue to support efforts for the development of Nepali museums. Following discussions with Nepali representatives, and since the first and only legal document on the protection of cultural heritage dates back in 1956, ICR will put effort in co-organizing, apparently with the crucial contribution from the government, a second workshop regarding the issue of a new Museum Law in Nepal.

Before the start of the Conference the **first annual Board Meeting** for 2017 was held in Kathmandu on 17 January. An effective meeting concluded with the Committee’s future planning and important decisions like the revival of the ICR newsletter, an effect that you already see in front of you.



Opening speech by the ICR Chair

ICR is involved as a partner, along with the Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM), in another ICOM Special Project **“Migration: Cities (Im)migration and Arrival Cities”** in which CAMOC is the leading partner. In early February 2017 I attended the inaugural workshop in Athens. Following that ICR members are welcome to contribute with short films (max. 6 minutes) on the experience of regional museums on phenomena of dislocation and migration. I have started a relevant project in my museum, the City Museum of Ljubljana, entitled **“Museum objects as witnesses to historic migrations”**.

ICR Board Members Carrie-Ann Lunde and Jane Legget will contribute to CAM's “Migration: Cities” session that will take place in Calgary, Canada in June. Carrie will co-moderate the session and Jane will present **“Lessons from a Migration Museum Microcosm: A Case Study**

from Aotearoa New Zealand". Relevant ideas are more than welcome while a further discussion could take place during our Annual Conference.

Challenging Projects 2017

The ICR Board has decided to celebrate the **International Museum Day**, on the 18th of May (<http://network.icom.museum/international-museum-day>), with a web presentation around the 2017 theme "Museums and contested histories: Saying the unspeakable in museums"

This year **annual meeting** is going to take place in Finland and preparations have started. Great work has been done by our local ICR member Tuulia Tuomi and her team. Please check our invitation for Finland, which is celebrating 100 years' of independence.



Look to the (Near) Future

We hope that the **ICR Annual Meeting 2018** will be held in Auckland, New Zealand in late October. Jane Legget, ICR Board member and interim Chairperson of ICOM New Zealand is investigating what might be possible and will report to our Annual Meeting in Finland in August 2017. The suggested topic is "**Regional museums and training of personnel for new realities**", potentially in partnership with ICOM New Zealand, ICTOP, ICOM Australia, CAM, and the Pacific Islands Museums Association.



The triennial period will be closed with the ICOM General Conference in Kyoto, Japan on September 1– 7, 2019. The theme is already announced "**Museums as Cultural Hubs: The Future of Tradition**" and the ICR meeting will be organised by ICR Board member Kenji Saotome.

Dear friends, these were some of the past and future activities of ICR! I sincerely hope that you find them interesting and I would like to kindly invite you and happily welcome you to our events.

With best regards,

Irena



ICOM-ICR Special Project Kathmandu, Nepal: “Regional museums role in assisting to rebuild their local communities after an earthquake”

The 18th of January 2017 marked the opening of an International Conference in Kathmandu related to museums. It was a historic event for Nepal as it is possibly the first time that a conference of an international level regarding museums was hosted in the country. The conference has been initiated by the International Committee for Regional oMuseum (ICR) as a special project after the devastating earthquake in Nepal on April 2015. It was supported by the International Council of Museum (ICOM) while ICOM Nepal and UNESCO Office Kathmandu, the National Committees of ICOM China, ICOM Japan and the Association of the Chinese Museum of Taiwan were the partners of this project.

The conference theme was “Regional Museums’ Role in assisting to rebuild their local communities after an earthquake” and the main objective of the conference was to collect suggestions and feedback from international and local museum experts and archeologists, in order to help the community to rebuild its museums after the 2015 earthquake.

The conference lasted four days, 18-21 January 2017, the first two focusing on paper presentations by 16 Nepali and foreign scholars and museum experts, while the rest two days included field visits in Kathmandu valley, mainly the heritage sites and museums of Basantapur Durbar Square, Patan Durbar Square, Bhaktapur Durbar Square and Changunarayan. 55 participants from museums and the archeology sector attended the conference coming from the Nepalese Army, the Nepali Police and the Armed Police Force. Ten participants from private museums also attended.

The Chief Guest, honorable Minister of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, Mr. Jiwan Bahadur Shahi, initiated the conference by lighting the butter lamp. High level officials from the civil service, the Nepalese Army, the Nepali police, the Armed Police Force, ambassadors, the representative of the UNESCO Office in Kathmandu, scholars, and others dignitaries were present on this Opening Ceremony. The closing ceremony was held in Bhaktapur Durbar Square heritage site area on 21 Jan 2017 and certificates have been distributed to all

participants. Dr. Triratna Manandhar, the renowned professor, former vice-chancellor and historian was the Chief Guest in this ceremony. As an afterword the conference participants supported as a whole the four (4) recommendations suggested by Nepali colleagues:

The National Museum in Kathmandu



- _ Support for a new building for Ethnographic Museum in Kathmandu
- _ A new sustainable legislation on museums of Nepal
- _ Museology should be part of education of Nepali museum professionals
- _ Repatriation of stolen cultural objects.

A promising project was admittedly implemented in a successful way and offered us valuable outcomes!

Bijaya Kumar Shahi

Chair of ICOM Nepal



Invitation to participate in ICR 2017 Annual Conference in Finland

Dear ICR members and colleagues from all ICOM Committees and museums,

It would be an honour to welcome you to ICR's 2017 Annual Conference in Finland, Helsinki and Tampere that will take place between **28 August and 1 September 2017**. The conference is organized by ICR in cooperation with Helsinki City Museum, Central Uusimaa Provincial Museum, Hämeenlinna City Museum, Regional Museum of Kanta-Häme, and Vaipriikki Regional Museum of Pirkanmaa.

Finland celebrates 100 years as an independent state on 6th December 1917. The focus of Finland's centenary celebration year is **"TOGETHER"**. The idea is *"To succeed in a constantly changing world, you have to change as well. Finland has reinvented itself in just one short century. Their national character and Northern heritage have boosted them to the top of all kinds of country rankings from quality of life to freedom of speech. The mindset that drove them to build a new society is still hardwired into them – and it continues to drive them forward today."*

Therefore in 2017 we will gather in Finland to celebrate the theme "Together". The anniversary gives us an opportunity to discuss important issues relevant to regional museums in many countries that face important changes in their political systems. Museums serve as stewards of the cultural capital of diverse communities. We are looking for answers on the integrity of museums, which retain different

Helsinki City Museum



"former identities", now superseded by a "new reality". We are also looking for examples of museums that thrive in their new reality while retaining and documenting their past.

1. What are the new realities of museum work after major political change?
2. How are museums involved in these new realities?
3. In what ways "new reality" has an impact on museums' ability to maintain their independence?
4. What changes have you made to adopt new professional practices or attract new partners and new audiences?
5. How has immigration or internal migration changed your community?
6. What are the impacts on the management or collection policies of the museums?
7. Why are some issues in museums presented and others neglected?

The 2017 International Museum Day theme: *"Museums and contested histories: Saying the unspeakable in museums"* will also be considered.

Call for papers

ICR is accepting proposals for presentations on the topic: ***"TOGETHER! Regional Museums engaging with the new realities"***.

Please send us an abstract of 200 to 300 words, as well as a short CV. Abstracts should include the following:

- Title
- Name and institution of the author (ICOM number if applicable)
- E-mail address
- Any special technical requirements

Presentations have to be given in English.

Presentations have to be limited to 15 minutes, while posters to 5 minutes.

Deadline for submission of abstracts: **15 May 2017**, to be sent to:

Kenji Saotome, kenji_saotome@hotmail.com and

Tuulia Tuomi, tuulia.tuomi@hameenlinna.fi

Announcement of approved proposals: **30 June 2017**.

Final text submission: **15 August 2017** (max. 15.000 characters, bibliography and footnotes included; font size 12 points, line spacing 1.5; max. 5 photos in high-resolution in tiff. or jpg. format), to be sent to

Kenji Saotome, kenji_saotome@hotmail.com

Tuulia Tuomi, tuulia.tuomi@hameenlinna.fi

For queries or further information contact:

Tuulia Tuomi, local organiser, tuulia.tuomi@hameenlinna.fi

Irena Žmuc ICR Chairperson, irena.zmuc@mgml.si

Further details on registration, payment methods, accommodation, and travel grants will be soon posted on ICR website: <http://network.icom.museum/icr/>.

Conference Program

“To succeed in a constantly changing world, you have to change as well.”

Finland has reinvented itself in just one short century – and we’re still at it.

Our national character and Northern heritage have boosted us to the top of all kinds of country rankings from quality of life to freedom of speech.

The mindset that drove us to build a new society is still hardwired into us – and it continues to drive us forward today. The Arctic climate gave us guts – or ‘sisu’ as we call it. We always look for a practical solution – turning setbacks into steps forward. We’re pragmatic and focused on functionality – making sure that things work and keep on working. Our unique relationship with nature means sustainable thinking comes naturally to us.

The only thing we have a lot of is trees and water. People, not so much. That’s why we believe in equality and take good care of each other – and know the value of doing things together. We’ve always known that that to stay ahead you have to make the most of what you have, including people.

*We can change and succeed **together**.*

Monday 28 August Helsinki: Helsinki City Hall and Helsinki City Museum

Tuesday 29 August

Helsinki: Helsinki City Hall and World Heritage Site Suomenlinna



Wednesday 30 August

Hämeenlinna: Hämeenlinna City Museum, Birthplace of Composer Jean Sibelius, and Hämeenlinna Medieval Castle



Thursday 31 August

Tampere: Museums in Tampere: Vapriikki, the Industrial Heritage of Tampere, the Finnish Labour Museum Werstas, and the Lenin Museum



Friday 1 September

Tampere: Adopt a Monument –project, Archaeological Site Tursiannotko, Iron Age Village.

Tampere–Pirkkala Airport at 15:05 / Tampere Railway station at c. 15:30 / Helsinki Airport at c. 18:00

Conference Fees:

Early bird, until 30 June 2017	400 €
After June 2017	450 €
1 day fee	100 €

Post-conference tour (not included in the conference fee):



Friday 1 September Night train from Tampere to Rovaniemi

Saturday 2 September Reaching Rovaniemi in the morning, Arcticum, Museum and Arctic Centre, Forest Science Center Pilke

Sunday 3 September The Santa Claus Village at the Arctic Circle in Rovaniemi



Monday 4 September Morning about 3 hours drive to Tankavaara Gold Village

Visit the Gold Village and Gold Panning Session. In the evening about 1 hour drive to Inari Hotel and Dinner at Kultahovi



Tuesday 5 September Siida, the Sami Museum and Cultural Center. Dinner at campfire

Wednesday 6 September Visit Sami Village. Flight from Ivalo Airport.



There have to be **minimum six (6)** participants in order for the tour took place. For 6 participants the fee will be **c. 1030 € per person** while for 10 participants it will be c. 850 €. The fee includes:

- Night train from Tampere to Rovaniemi in double cabins (1/9 - 2/9)
- Hotel Vaakuna, twin rooms incl. breakfast (1/9 - 2/9)
- Bus trip from Rovaniemi to Tankavaara and Inari (4/9)
- Hotel Kultahovi in Inari, twin rooms incl. breakfast (4/9 – 6/9)
- Flight Ivalo – Helsinki (6/9)

Lunches and dinners are not included.

The Cruise at Lake Inari is optional.



OBITURY

Jean April Aase

April 15, 1935 – April 14, 2017



It was a huge shock to many of us when we were told that Jean Aase had a serious illness in her home in Kragerø, Norway; and the grief was great when the family later reported that she died at the hospital in Skien on Friday 14 April, the day before she had turned 82 years old.

In Kragerø, Jean became famous for her long-standing work as a conservator and general manager at the Berg-Kragerø Museum and for her involvement in local art and building protection. However, as a professional, she also made contributions on a regional, national and international level. For those who had the opportunity to work with her or otherwise become familiar with her, she will always be remembered and missed as an exceptionally good, warm and generous person as it was always nice and interesting to talk to her.

Jean April Aase, born Lindholm, grew up in a Finnish-American family in the small town of Cloquet, Minnesota, near the port city of Duluth, in a community strongly influenced by Finnish and Swedish immigrants. She began studying at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. While continuing with "Scandinavian Studies" there, she met the Norwegian Einar Aase. In 1956, they married in Oslo and settled there together.

Jean worked for a while in the library at the Electric Bureau, while also raising her children - Trine (born 1960) and Knut (born 1963). After the family had moved to Skien, she began part-time work in 1976 at Telemark Museum in Brekkeparken. She continued this as a mother with two teenagers after her husband died too early the following year. The children can tell about a close and good team of the little family, and Jean was a worker of the rare. A few years later, she also started studying while still working in Brekkeparken. After the children became adults, she worked for cultural heritage recordings for a number of different projects in different parts of the country for several years. Between this, she finally completed her cultural history education with a PhD degree in ethnology at the University of Oslo in 1989. The theme of the dissertation was "Goldsmedhushold i Skien 1700-1870". the position as a

conservator at Berg Museum became available, Jean moved to Kragerø. She joined the position in 1993 and carried out major changes there.

When Jean came to Berg, there was already plans for a significant expansion of the administration and exhibition building from the 1970s, and funding for this stage was about to come into place. In the following years, much of Jean's time was spent on detailed planning, until the new building could begin in 1997, which was completed in 1998. Then Jean directed the effort to fill this modern museum building with content, move into the beautiful new space and constantly created new changing exhibits in highly expanded exhibition halls. When Jean resigned as a conservator at Berg at the turn of the year 2002-2003, she left behind a modern museum with better space in the magazines and better order in the collections than at other museums in the county, and local and regional museums in most of the country. In Jean Aase's time as a conservator at Berg, she was keen on changing art exhibitions, with partly large amounts of substantial artwork from other museums and private collections that attracted visitors. In this connection, Jean established a permanent exhibition committee of volunteers with considerable artistic competence.

In the extension of this work with the art exhibitions at Berg and Kittelsenhuset in the center of Kragerø, which the museum took over in 1987, Jean also engaged in volunteer work for art in Kragerø through the Kragerø art association. She was a period board member and secretary there. In addition, she contributed with several valuable local historical articles in the yearbooks of Kragerø and Skåtøy historielag and Telemark history law. In particular, an article from 1999 on the farm settlement in Kragerø in the Middle Ages and the plague and the ages of the late Middle Ages will be emphasized as an important local breakthrough work, based on the methods of the great Nordic desert project in the 1970s.

Jean did not at all slow down the pace even though she chose to "retire" from the position at Berg at the end of 2002, at almost 68 years old. It was rather that she now had more time to embark on her significant academic and organizational talents in other arenas. From her younger years, before completing her education, Jean had a lot of work as a professional translator, especially to and from English. With English as a mother tongue and good Norwegian knowledge, she had good prerequisites for this, and with her education background, she received many great translation assignments in the field of cultural history. In this way, she provided important contributions to the dissemination of Norwegian history and cultural history - and cultural history literature - to an international audience.

Jean raised an ancient interest in medieval history and traveled several times to attend long and demanding summer courses in Cambridge. In addition, in recent years, she devoted much time to international museum work through the world-wide organization ICOM - The International Council of Museums.

In 2011, Jean Aase became a member of ICOM's International Committee for Regional Museums (ICR), and was the secretary of the board from 2013 to 2016. This post involved enormous amount of highly qualified work, especially with posting, writing museum articles and editing Contributions of others to the reports of the Committee's annual conferences. It also meant a significant travel business to virtually all corners of the world at these conferences and other meetings. Both parts were impressive in themselves, and far more than most people in their eighties would be able to do. We do thank her for her high professional standards and quality sense, and for practically working around the clock for the three years she was acting as a secretary of ICR.

She was a monument in cultural life that is now gone. Jean was a distinguished team player. Jean was admittedly not unnecessarily diplomatic, sometimes harsh and direct, with a rather low tolerance for hesitation and empty talk. However, just for that reason we always knew where we stood with her and

that we could trust her in everything. Catching a glimpse of her eye-laughter and knowing a quick reply was never far away made her dear to us all. She was a force to be reckoned with, a staunchworthy ally, and a mentor to many people. Her warmth, humour, advice, and pragmatism were of a rare and admirable quality.

All of this will be missed after Jean's passing. She got a long life and managed to accomplish a lot. Still, she died too early while still in full activity, for the benefit of herself and others. We share the sadness and the loss with Jeans two children and their families. At the same time we remember her with joy over everything she gave us as humans and professionals. She will be in our hearts forever!

Rune Holbek

Carrie-Ann Lunde

Stefanos Keramidas



For our next Newsletter we would be more than happy to include short notes on exhibitions, events, new publications etc. from the ICR community and beyond. Please share your knowledge and practice with us!



ICR session and tours in Milan General Assembly, July 2016

Contributions: Rune Holbek, Chen Jianming, Jane Legget, Carrie-Ann Lunde, Bijaya Kumar Shahi, Orit Shamir, Tuulia Tuomi, Eddie Wei-Chun Lai, Irena Žmuc

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