Registration now open!
ICOM-CC 18th Triennial Conference, September 4-8, Copenhagen

Sharing Experiences
What it’s Like to Be a DB Member and a WG Co-ordinator

Adapting to Climate Change
GCI Managing Collection Environment Initiative

The Preprints Online Project
A Major Contribution to the Dissemination of Conservation Knowledge
Update from the Chair

ICOM-CC 18th Triennial Conference, Copenhagen
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Update from the Chair

By Kristiane Strætkvern, Chair of ICOM-CC

The ICOM-CC Directory Board held its 4th meeting from 7 to 9 September at the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) in Los Angeles. Once again, the GCI provided us with facilities and services required to carry out good, relaxed, and constructive discussions and work for the benefit of our members. While there we were also given the opportunity to have lunch with Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators working at GCI and the Getty Museum. This was very useful and nice for the Board members; we don’t frequently have the opportunity for a direct dialogue.

It is now less than one year to the end of this triennium that culminates with the Triennial Conference in Copenhagen. The Directory Board is busy with projects we wish to accomplish and with the Triennial Conference planning. Concerning the latter, there is a short update from National Organising Committee (NOC) in this newsletter. The Danish NOC is responsible for all the logistics, practicalities and social events, whereas ICOM-CC will deliver the content; the papers and the posters. After 18 November 2016, which is the deadline for submitting papers and posters, the next steps are the review and final selection of contributions by the Coordinators and external Peer Reviewers. This process represents a great amount of work from all persons involved and we are extremely grateful to authors, Working Group experts and external experts who contribute so much of their time to ensure that the quality of our contributions continue to remain at a high level. A preliminary program for the Conference will probably be published in April 2017.

Currently, we are planning the plenary sessions including General Assembly, keynote speakers, plenary discussions, the ICOM-CC Medal ceremony, and the celebration of the 50th anniversary of ICOM-CC.

With respect to keynote speakers, the ICOM-CC Triennial Lecture and themes for plenary discussions will be announced on the conference website as soon as they are confirmed, and I am confident you will find them interesting and relevant. By the end of this year, we will invite all our members to nominate candidates to receive the ICOM-CC Medal. This is your opportunity to promote a person who has been active in the field and served ICOM-CC in an extraordinary manner over a long period of time. You can find the previous medal recipients on the ICOM-CC website.

As this triennium approaches its end, another issue to consider is finding Working Group Coordinators and Board Members for the 2017 to 2020 triennium. In this newsletter you will find a short piece describing what it is like to be member of the Directory Board. We have also asked the Working Group Coordinators to contribute with their thoughts and experiences from working for ICOM-CC. I hope some of you will find this inspiring and consider standing for office. More information on the various roles and duties will be available when the calls for nominations are announced in the beginning of March 2017 (six months prior to the Triennial Conference).

One topic the Directory Board has been investigating and discussing since 2014 has been the possibility to organise a joint conference with IIC in 2020, the next time the conferences of the two organisations coincide in the same year. ICOM-CC and IIC have had several meetings and kept up regular correspondence to explore the possibilities. Notwithstanding the good faith efforts on both sides, we experienced difficulties in reconciling the formats of the two organisations (conference week/ selections of contributions/ Working Group sessions). The decision of the Directory Board is not to proceed with the idea of a joint meeting for 2020. The reasons for this decision are ICOM-CC concerns about:

- the considerable extra load of work connected to the project
- the complex financial structure and feasibility of a successful financing outcome
- the differences in the publication processes
- the administrative support capabilities on both sides.

For the present, ICOM-CC has no lawyer in ICOM to sort out and monitor the various legal aspects associated with this type of collaboration.

Although our efforts did not result in a joint conference in 2020, it is important that ICOM-CC and IIC continue to collaborate in the future – for example on thematic approaches – such as the environmental project or other issues of concern to the conservation community. For the time being, ICOM-CC and IIC are considering how the two organisations can collaborate in planning individually for their 2020 conferences.

The Directory Board at the Getty Conservation Institute.
At the Directory Board meeting in Los Angeles, the museum environment theme was approached in different agenda points; Foekje Boersma and Michal Lukomski from GCI presented the Getty Managing Collection Environments programme, a research, monitoring and training initiative that has been going on for several years. The project could be of relevance to a wider audience, so the Directory Board invited a summary of the presentation for this issue of OnBoard.

Another museum environment initiative developed from the ICOM general conference in Milan. ICOM-CC was approached by individuals as well as other international committees (COMCOL and ICAMT) to work on a resolution addressing storage of collections. A resolution on storage would urge ICOM and its bodies to develop strategies to help museums in improving storage conditions. The issue is important and the project is pertinent to the ICOM-CC strategy and work. The Directory Board will continue in the direction of this resolution over the next few months. The idea is to have a proposed resolution ready for presentation and hopefully approval at the ICOM General Assembly in Paris in June 2017.

The ICOM-CC joint declaration with IIC on climate guidelines for museums and loans was also discussed in Los Angeles, in particular the role and involvement of conservators and how to approach this issue in a broader and more inclusive way. The considerations led the DB to formulate a statement that is presented below on this page. The membership will be asked to comment on this statement.

The Working Groups are still busy. Since the last issue, the Metal Working Groups, Photographic Materials and the Art Technological Source Research Working Groups have held interim meetings. The Education and Training in Conservation Working Group will be meeting early December 2016 and this will be the last of the 16 Working Group activities for 2016. These events require a lot of planning, dedication and resources and I am impressed by and grateful for the great work carried out by the Coordinators, Assistant Coordinators, their helpers and institutions. These events keep the wheel running; this is how we maintain and renew the professional network and why we remain important to the conservation community. An important project, also updated on in this issue of OnBoard, is the Preprint Online Project. The Board presence at GCI in Los Angeles also provided us with the opportunity to speak and make arrangements with the persons at GRI who will actually digitalize a number of prior preprints. We will need individual permissions from all authors of ICOM-CC Preprints contributions over the years and currently, we are compiling names and information to assist in contacting our authors. We are also preparing the ICOM-CC website to host our Preprints.

You have probably noted the new logo for ICOM and for ICOM-CC. The ICOM International Committees were able to choose their individual logo colours, and we have chosen dark red for our committee. The new logo will now be implemented to our website, on letterheads, publications and announcements of events. From January 1st, the new logo should appear on all documents and postings coming from ICOM-CC. Guidelines on the use of the new logo will soon be available for Coordinators.

I will also remind you to upload your best memory photos onto the website. The My Moment page is open to all and the more photos we receive from the different types of ICOM-CC events, parties, discussions, workshops, excursions, the merrier the page will be. During 2017, our focus will be on the Triennial Conference and in such a very busy year, with this the last newsletter for 2016, I will take the opportunity to wish you all the very best for 2017 – when I hope to see a lot of you in Copenhagen.

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Proposed Statement on Climate Guidelines for museums and loans.
Comments and feedback from the membership will be collected in 2017.

‘Climate recommendations for loans should be based on knowledge of the collection, climate data from the display and storage environments, and local climate.
Decision-making regarding collection care should be an inclusive process among conservators, facility managers, collection managers, conservation scientists and other cultural heritage professionals.’
Registration for the conference will open at the beginning of December 2016!

We envision that the contributors and colleagues who were selected to write full papers for the ICOM-CC conference have been working hard to finish their contributions. The final selected contributions will form the scientific programme for the Triennial Conference and the Preprints. The deadline for final papers and the poster abstracts was on the 18th of November 2016. The final programme for the working groups will be announced at the end of April 2017.

The National Organising Committee together with its partners and the ICOM-CC Directory Board are also working hard these days to finalize the schedule and events around the coming 50th Anniversary Conference as we want to open registration to the conference by beginning of December 2016. An extensive programme of technical visits to a variety of relevant workshops and cultural heritage sites are nearly finished. The programme includes visits to Roskilde Cathedral – a UNESCO heritage site – to museum conservation labs in and around Copenhagen as well as monument, architectural and wall painting tours. All visits will of course be presented by professional colleagues and focus on issues relevant to conservation and preservation of cultural heritage. We are also planning pre- and post-conference tours to relevant places around Denmark.

We are also focussed on the important social programme of the conference. We have received an invitation by the Mayor of Copenhagen to hold a reception at the Town Hall, and the Conference Dinner at the National Museum of Denmark is organized. Other possible social events, such as a farewell beer at the Christian 4thBryghus (Brewhouse), are being planned and will be announced on the conference website as soon as they are confirmed.

The National Organizing Committee is also very proud to announce that Her Majesty the Queen of Denmark, Margrethe 2nd, has accepted to be protector for the ICOM-CC 18th Triennial Conference. We consider this to be a great honour for the Triennial Conference and for ICOM-CC.

We are planning to open registration to the conference as well as hotel reservations and events around the conference in beginning of December 2016. We hope that you will take the opportunity to visit the conference website, http://www.icom-cc2017.org/, and stay informed.

On behalf of the National Organising Committee we wish you a warm welcome to Copenhagen in September 2017. We are looking forward to seeing you next September in this marvellous city!

The Conference Venue. Tivoli Hotel & Congress Center in Copenhagen.
What’s it like to be a member of the ICOM-CC Directory Board

By Luiz Souza and Achal Pandya, Members of the ICOM-CC Directory Board

We are pleased to write about what it is, according to our experience, to be a member of the Directory Board of the ICOM-CC. As almost every member of the ICOM-CC knows, our International Committee has the largest membership within the ICOM International Committees. Being the biggest International Committee of ICOM has imposed some particularities to our Committee, such as having our Triennial Conferences separate from the ICOM General Conference, which also happens every three years. The last ICOM General Conference took place in Milan, Italy, in July 2016. Another particularity of our Committee is the way our Triennial Conferences are organized, involving several parallel sections organized around our different Working Groups. So if from one perspective the ICOM-CC Directory Board has to devote a great deal of Board time discussing the organisation of our Triennial Conferences, from other perspective, as the Directory Board of an ICOM International Committee, it is also the task of the Board to make sure that there is indeed a great deal of collaboration between our Committee and other ICOM entities.

The regular business of the ICOM-CC Directory Board begins with the election of new office holders on the Directory Board, e.g. a Chair, two Vice-Chairs, a Treasurer and a liaison between Directory Board and Working Group Coordinators. Once these positions are assigned within the Directory Board, for the next three years the new Board is ready to perform its tasks and functions, which are indeed vast and diverse, until the next ICOM-CC Triennial Conference.

The ICOM-CC Directory Board regularly meets twice a year, in a different geographical location, depending on the countries where the Board members come from and institutions to which they are affiliated. In addition to this, for the past four trienniums, Board meetings have also been held at least once every triennium at The Getty Conservation Institute (GCI), in Los Angeles. This has helped in strengthening close collaboration of ICOM-CC with GCI. Included in the business of the Directory Board deals with are: to overview and help the execution of the triennial programmes of the ICOM-CC Working Groups, as approved by their respective membership during the Triennial Conference; the overview of each programme, the organisation and execution of the Triennial Conference in close cooperation with the National Organising Committee, the overview and organisation of the Preprints production in close contact with the Preprints Editor, which includes the paper and poster selection criteria process and communication with the membership through the OnBoard newsletter.

It may be noted here that all the activities of ICOM-CC are done under the umbrella of ICOM in Paris, which is our parent body and we are obliged to follow the laws and internal regulations governing ICOM. All our contracts and copyright issues are thus a result of the requirements from ICOM.

In our opinion, being a member of the Directory Board of the ICOM-CC is not just an important responsibility, but also a chance that we all get to be very close to the ICOM-CC membership on a worldwide level. This international focus contributes deeply to our understanding of the complexity of conservation of cultural heritage as one of the most important mechanisms in promoting the understanding of our society. As human beings this creates significant challenges in facing and trying to work within an interdisciplinary environment, where culture, economy, international affairs, scientific research and innovation, social inclusion and respect to diversity, progress and development, are all part of our work and profession. It is indeed an honour to be part of this very important office.

If we may, we would like to personally encourage those members of the ICOM-CC who see themselves as possible contributors to the field of conservation of cultural heritage on a broader perspective, such as the one given by being a member of the ICOM-CC Directory Board, to present their candidacies for the next triennial our ICOM International Committee for Conservation.
Experience from a Working Group Coordinator

By Mag. Dr. Sigrid Eyb-Green, Coordinator, Art Technological Source Research Working Group

Art Technological Source Research has its roots as a rather informal group of scholars and researchers involved in Technological Source Research and was inaugurated at a meeting at the Instituut Collectie Nederland in Amsterdam in 2002 by Ad Stijnman, Mark Clarke, and others. The integration of the Art Technological Source Research as a working group within the International Council of Museums – Committee for Conservation (ICOM-CC) in 2006 provided the group an internationally established platform in the field of conservation. This association has probably significantly contributed to the growth of interest for art technological source research and strongly embedded this discipline into the conservation research community. I got involved with the ICOM-CC group Art Technological Source Research in 2008 in Glasgow, where I presented my PhD thesis. After I organized the interim meeting in Vienna in 2010, I took over as Coordinator of the group in 2012, following Coordinator Stefanos Kroustallis. I was involved in organizing interim meetings in Amsterdam (2014) and Stuttgart (2016), prepared the Art Technological Source Research Working Group session of the ICOM-CC Triennial Meeting in Melbourne (2014) and was part of the editing team of the post-prints of our interim meetings. It has been a valuable learning experience for me to work on one side with such a large organization as ICOM-CC and on the other side with a rather small, highly specialized group of scholars. Being an ICOM-CC Coordinator gave me the opportunity to learn from very involved colleagues who are well respected in the field as well as to gain experience in the art of editing and publishing; it also truly challenged my organizing skills!

These have been work- and learning-intensive years that brought me into contact with a number of interesting people, highly professional researchers, and admirable scholars, and some of them became true friends over the years. After the Copenhagen Triennial in 2017, I will no longer be Coordinator of the group, but I will surely stay involved in its activities.

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ICOM-CC/Getty International Program

ICOM-CC 18th Triennial Conference - Copenhagen, Denmark 4–8 September 2017

Since the 10th Triennial Meeting in Washington D.C. in 1993, support from the Getty Foundation has enabled ICOM-CC to offer grants to museum and/or conservation professionals from emerging markets and developing economies to participate in the ICOM-CC Triennial Conferences.

For the ICOM-CC 18th Triennial Conference in Copenhagen, Denmark, September 2017, the Getty Foundation will once again generously support the participation of professional colleagues from ICOM Category 3 and 4 countries as part of the ICOMCC/Getty International Program.

The application guidelines and form will be posted and available for download on the ICOM-CC website (www.icom-cc.org) in early December 2016. Questions should be sent to: secretariat@icom-cc.org.
Managing Collection Environments Initiative

By Foekje Boersma, Getty Conservation Institute, Senior Project Specialist

The challenges of adapting to climate change and an uncertain future with regard to the availability and affordability of energy resources have a direct impact on how cultural heritage institutions care for their collections, now and in the future. Even though it is recognized that the issue of sustainability is much broader than the discussion on environmental standards alone, institutions should seek to reduce their carbon footprint and environmental impact to mitigate climate change by reducing energy use and examining alternative renewable energy sources, as stated in the 2014 ICOM-CC and IIC Declaration.

These challenges have initiated a fervent debate on whether (or not) and to what extent environmental standards for cultural heritage collections should be adapted, especially since the broadening of the acceptable range of climate fluctuations is seen as an effective way to reduce energy consumption. The conservation field has indicated that it needs more support in developing and implementing sustainable climate control strategies. ‘The issue of collection and material environmental requirements is complex, and conservators/conservation scientists should actively seek to explain and unpack these complexities.’ (2014 ICOM-CC and IIC Declaration)

It is with this approach in mind that the Getty Conservation Institute’s Managing Collection Environment initiative (MCE) was set up (http://www.getty.edu/conservation/our_projects/education/managing/). This multi-year initiative combines scientific research with fieldwork and education in an effort to address outstanding issues and questions relating to managing collection environments. MCE’s research investigates the response of hygroscopic materials to climatic fluctuations and the monitoring of objects in situ. Measuring the mechanical properties of naturally aged, historic materials will help to gain a better understanding of climate induced damage mechanisms, which in turn will inform long-term strategies for the preservation of collections.

MCE’s education and dissemination work supports the role of the conservator in the decision-making process towards more sustainable strategies. MCE’s courses will demonstrate the holistic approach of balancing building, collection and human-comfort needs with risks, and explore the implementation of passive solutions sympathetic to local climates. Yet as important as this type of technical knowledge is within a conservator’s ‘tool kit’, the nature of managing collection environments—which necessarily involves working with a range of colleagues both within and beyond the museum—requires interpersonal skills that will facilitate decisions, requiring the support of other museum professionals. It also requires a broader understanding of the contexts in which conservation operates. For this reason the MCE courses examine the development of pragmatic environmental management solutions alongside strategies for effective communication, influence and leadership.

In a world in which museums and other collecting institutions arguably should be implementing sustainable strategies, the role of the conservator becomes even more crucial in the development of what will need to be both pragmatic and creative solutions. While the issue of collection environments may still be prone to debate and division, museum directors and other professionals look to the conservation field for guidance on matters of sustainable preservation approaches for collections. MCE takes the stand that in light of the uncertainties and complexities of the museum environment, and notwithstanding open research questions, conservators should be equipped to use the best available knowledge and thinking to provide leadership on sustainable environments for collections.

Conservator Julie Wolfe, Sr. Project Specialist Foekje Boersma and Research Lab Associate Ashley Freeman work together in attaching acoustic emission sensors to research objects in a study to better understand the response of hygroscopic materials to climatic fluctuations. (Wooden drum courtesy of the UCLA/Getty Program in the Conservation of Archaeological and Ethnographic Materials).
The ‘Preprints Online Project’

By Kristiane Strætkvern, Chair of Directory Board, and Kriste Sibul Vice-Chair of Directory Board, ICOM-CC

During the present triennium the Directory Board has been working on a project to digitalize our previous Triennial Conference Preprints and providing unrestricted online access to them. ICOM-CC has published 17 Preprints from its Triennial Conferences in different formats since 1967 (see table below) and most of the publications are no longer available for purchase.


During 2016 the Directory Board’s work has continued with the tasks listed in the project plan (see On Board 10-2, 2015).

Permissions from publishers
Over the years, several publishing houses have been involved with the publication of the ICOM-CC Triennial Conference preprints. Some of these publishing houses have closed down, merged with new organisations, been sold or in other ways changed their organisation. Nevertheless, they needed to be contacted and permissions established. At this stage we have managed to collect permissions for 13 of the 17 preprints and are currently negotiating regarding the four remaining publications.

Collecting permission from authors
All authors need to give their permission to have their work uploaded to the Internet. This requires an overview of all titles, authors’ names and contact information. The Getty Research Institute (GRI) has kindly provided collated lists of titles and authors, now the contact details remain. As soon as we have authors’ contact information, emails and/or letters with permission forms will be sent out. Additionally, permission forms will be uploaded to the ICOM-CC website. We also need help and collaboration from our members to contact the authors. We plan to start contacting authors around February 2017.

Availability of the preprints, investigation of scanning procedures and formats
We have been able to localise scan-able versions of all Preprints. Most of the non-digitalized versions are at the GRI and will be scanned by GRI personnel. The ICOM-CC secretary will scan the very first editions. The final format of the scanned preprints is still being established; we might end with full volumes or we might be able to separate the volumes into separate articles. This will be coordinated with GRI but will also depend on the costs required and resources available.

Searchability of articles and platform for publications
The searchability of the articles is closely related to the format of the digitized preprints (full volume or separate articles). Nevertheless, a naming convention for all articles from all Conference Preprints will be established and the link to Working Group will be recognised. All Conference Preprints will be hosted on the ICOM-CC website and currently the Directory Board is investigating website structure, procedures for uploading, costs and funding options. At this stage, a dedicated page is under construction on our ICOM-CC website. This page will not only address the Preprint Online Project, but also provide information about how contributions to the Preprints are selected and the Peer Review Process works. The Preprint Online Project is a huge undertaking that we would probably not be able to take on if it were not for substantial support from the Getty Conservation Institute and the staff at Getty Research Institute. We will not be able to accomplish this by the end of this triennium, meaning that the Preprint Online Project will require dedication and work by the 2017-2020 ICOM-CC Directory Board. That said, the importance of the project is immense. A successful outcome will be to the benefit of the conservation community worldwide. It will also enable ICOM-CC to manage, maintain and share all Triennial Conference Preprints published since its foundation in 1967.

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