Warm Welcome in Santiago
Directory Board Meeting and Symposium at the University of Chile

Join the Party, Visit and Explore
Sign up before July 25th for the Icebreaker and Post Conference Tours!

Museum Climate and Loans
Results Member Survey on the ICOM-CC Declaration for Loans

Time to Vote!
Elections of Directory Board and Working Group Coordinators

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ICOM-CC Triennial Conference Preprints Process

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Update from the Chair

By Kristiane Strætkvern, Chair of ICOM-CC

Since the previous newsletter, the Directory Board has held its 5th ICOM-CC Board meeting. This was hosted from 5 to 7 April by Vice-Chair Johanna Theile and her institution, the University of Santiago in Chile. We received a very warm welcome which formed the basis for a very productive meeting.

The meeting took place in Galería Atrium, an art gallery where our discussions were carried out surrounded by beautiful Chilean works of art; indeed, inspiring and constructive for our meeting. As described separately in this newsletter, on page 5, the Board members arrived several days before the meeting in order to give lectures at the University. The concept of having a Directory Board meeting combined with local presentations at a central institution was successful and is worth looking into for future Directory Board meetings.

The Santiago meeting was the last before we meet in Copenhagen in September. It was also our last chance to catch up with issues and projects we have been working on in this triennium. Updating and planning of the Triennial Conference had, of course, first priority. We were brought up to date on the current status and plans in Copenhagen during a Skype meeting with the Danish organizing committee and we can conclude that all parties are working passionately and intensely to create a successful conference with a great program from a professional point of view, as well from a social, cultural and logistical perspective.

The selection of papers and posters has been completed under the excellent management of Janet Bridgland who (again) is the editor of the ICOM-CC Triennial Conference Preprints. The process is never easy, the competition was close and as always, some very qualified papers had to be left out due to lack of time and space.

The list of selected contributions has been available on the conference website since mid-April and you can read more about the selection process on page 10. All paid-up delegates for the conference will have access to the full papers and the poster abstracts on the Conference website beginning in mid-July. If you are not attending the conference, you will be able to purchase a memory stick with the Triennial Conference Preprints after the conference. We also plan to make the preprints available online within one year after the conference.

If you have visited the conference website, you may have noticed that we have invited two very special, experienced and interesting key note speakers for the Wednesday plenary session, Eske Willerslev, who is an expert in ancient DNA and works with the application of modern technologies on ancient human and cultural heritage, and Salvador Muñoz Viñas, who is one of the most famous authors and speakers in the field of contemporary conservation theory. I am convinced that they will enlighten, provoke, and engage the audience and give food for thought and discussion outside the conference room.
The environmental discussion will also be continued in Copenhagen during lunch on Tuesday, between two Preventive Conservation Working Group sessions. We will follow up on the Survey Monkey questionnaire on the statement regarding museum environment, also presented on page 8, and debate the ICOM-CC current stand and direction on this issue.

We are celebrating ICOM-CC’s 50th anniversary and this will be marked in different ways in Copenhagen. The ICOM-CC 50th Anniversary book will be presented, and the ICOM-CC Triennial Lecture will be replaced by an ICOM-CC Anniversary Lecture to be presented Monday morning by a long standing and dedicated member, Kathleen Dardes from the Getty Conservation Institute. At the end of the week former ICOM-CC chairs will participate in a round-table discussion sharing their thoughts and ideas on some “hot topics” for the conservation profession. The audience will be given the opportunity to join in the discussion, developing perspectives for the future of ICOM-CC and our profession. Whether you come to Copenhagen or not, you can still contribute to the celebration by uploading your ICOM-CC images and sharing your ICOM-CC memories at the dedicated website. Take a look at the images which have already been uploaded at http://www.icom-cc.org/mymoment/.

Four post conference tours are also planned and are described on page 7. The tours go to different parts of Denmark and will give the participants a wonderful opportunity to see places and sites not so accessible to the general public. If you have the chance, I would recommend signing up for one. I cannot endorse one or the other; they are all interesting places. The NOC has also prepared several social events. Every evening will be busy except Wednesday when the delegates will be spread out in and around Copenhagen participating in technical visits.

If you want to attend a technical event, please remember to sign up if you haven’t done so already.

I am aware that it can be a costly affair for many of our members to attend the Triennial Conference in Copenhagen. However, some costs can be reduced by looking into alternative accommodations and early travel bookings. Once you get there, I am confident that the Triennial Conference week will be interesting, educational and fun.

Again, and for the ninth time, the Getty Foundation has generously supported attendance from professionals from emerging economies and developing market countries. In Copenhagen, we will meet 23 young conservation professionals coming from 14 countries in Africa, Asia/Pacific, Latin America, East Europe and the Middle East. The individuals have been carefully selected to attend the conference after sending in their applications and professional records in conservation. The names and Working Group interests of the selected individuals will soon be posted on the ICOM-CC website. We are proud to have them attending our conference in Copenhagen, and we are grateful to the Getty Foundation for providing this opportunity to conservation professionals working in countries where the economies do not allow participation in our conference. This gives us all a chance to exchange experience and knowledge with professionals working outside our usual radius.

The Copenhagen conference is also the time and venue to say goodbye to the 2014-2017 Working Group Coordinators, assistant Coordinators and Directory Board. Whether or not they continue to take on the task for another triennium, I would like to take the opportunity to thank them all for their dedication, their work, their resources and all efforts given to our Committee. With its 2800 members, ICOM-CC is still, and by far, the largest of all ICOM international committees. This is due to the work carried out by and in our Working Groups. The activities, meetings, discussions and communication carried out by the Coordinators are crucial for ICOM-CC and are the main reason that we continue to be a relevant, dynamic and attractive professional organisation. However, as time is running out for this triennium, we need to elect both Working Group Coordinators and Directory Board members for the 2017-2020 triennium. I hope that you will all use your vote as members of ICOM-CC, and participate in this process which is described on page 9.

This is also my last 2014-2017 “report from the Chair”. The next On Board will come out towards the end of 2017, edited and written by the members of the 2017-2020 ICOM-CC Directory Board. It has been a pleasure to be the ICOM-CC Chair these three years. Some projects have been completed, and others will be continued, but I can assure you; there has never been a dull moment. The Directory Board members and I look forward to meeting as many as possible of you in Copenhagen. And if we don’t meet in Copenhagen, I hope that we will meet somewhere else in a passionate conservation context.
ICOM-CC Directory Board Presentations at the University of Chile

By Tiarna Doherty and Johanna Theile, Members of ICOM-CC Directory Board

The ICOM-CC Directory Board organized a symposium for students, faculty and local museum cultural heritage professionals for the Faculty of Arts and the Faculty of Sciences at the University of Chile. Professor Johanna Theile, ICOM-CC Board member, was the main organizer of the event. Senior administrators of the University were present among an audience of about 80 people. Johanna introduced the program and thanked the senior administration of the university for their support in hosting the symposium.

The presentations included overviews of research and department missions as well as specific projects. The more general presentations included an introduction to ICOM and ICOM-CC by Directory Board Chairperson Kristiane Straetkvern.

Examples of student projects in the conservation of contemporary art at the Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences Degree Program in Art Conservation were presented by Senior Lecturer and Head of Paintings Conservation, Tannar Ruuben.

An overview of the Lunder Conservation Center programs and work of the conservation department of the Smithsonian American Art Museum was given by Tiarna Doherty.

Luiz Souza focused his presentation on the actual situation of training and research in conservation in Brazil, at the undergraduate and graduate level. The presentation included recent research and training activities led by LACICOR – Conservation Science Laboratory and CECOR – Center for Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Heritage, at the Federal University of Minas Gerais, Brazil.

Kriste Sibul, Director of Preservation and Photography at the Nationalmuseum, Sweden spoke about the climate studies undertaken for the renovations of the Nationalmuseum. Considerations regarding the impact of the exterior environment on the interior galleries were shared.

Achal Pandya, Conservator at the Indira Ghandi National Center for the Arts, presented the recently completed reorganization of museum storage at Assam State Museum, Guwahati, Assam, using the “Re-org” methodology developed by ICCROM in March 2016.

Bill Wei, Senior Conservation Scientist at the Amsterdam conservation laboratories of the Cultural Heritage Agency in the Netherlands presented a lecture on the effects of vibrations on objects of cultural heritage.

To close the program Kristiane Straetkvern presented work on the conservation and display of a Viking longship, which can be easily dismantled and shipped to exhibition venues.
ICOM-CC Triennial Conference opening reception and Post Conference Tours

By Marie Vest, on behalf of Danish National Organising Committee

The National Organizing Committee (NOC) will host the opening reception for the ICOM-CC Triennial Conference in The Black Diamond on Monday, 4 September at 6 PM. The NOC and the National Danish Library welcome all delegates and their paying spouses to this significant architectural landmark on the Copenhagen waterfront and within walking distance of the conference hall.

The Black Diamond opened in 1999 as an extension to the Royal Danish Library’s older building complex. The name refers to the outside cover of polished black granite and irregular angles. The black cube is divided in two by a slit with an eight-story high atrium, and white and wave-shaped walls and balconies on each floor. The atrium’s exterior wall is made of glass which provides visitors with a wonderful view over the harbor from the inside.

On the third floor a bridge connects The Black Diamond with Preben Hansen’s building from 1968 and H.J. Holm’s library building from 1906. Here visitors can enjoy a 210 m² ceiling painting, painted in oil on wood by the renowned Danish artist, Per Kirkeby.

At the opening reception, we will celebrate the 50th anniversary of ICOM-CC. Together with the ICOM-CC Directory Board, we are planning how to make this evening a memorable birthday for all of us. On this first evening of the conference there is also time to meet old and new colleagues for an informal chat. There will be a stand-up finger-food buffet, and one drink is included. There will also be a cash-bar available. A warm welcome to all of you!

In order to attend the opening reception, you must revisit your conference registration and indicate your interest in this particular event.

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Combine your conference stay with a post conference tour!

Four very special post-conference tours in four beautiful parts of Denmark are open for delegates and spouses. During each tour you will learn about special topics and conservation challenges, and your hosts will be Danish conservators with professional knowledge in the fields presented.

**Tour 1:** Visit the Art Conservator at Skagens Art Museum and experience the atmosphere of the Artists’ colony of Skagen painters. Learn about the issues around conservation and restoration of the entire collection of paintings from this artist colony, and about their homes with interiors and private belongings.

**Tour 2:** Visit the Cultural Heritage Center, Vejle, and the Shared Storage Facilities and learn about the construction principles of a low-energy museum storage building. The tour also includes a visit to the UNESCO World Heritage Viking age monument in Jelling with two giant mounds and several large runic stones.

**Tour 3:** Visit the Conservation Center, Ølgod, and the Tirpitz Post. They give an impression of the latest trends in Danish museum architecture, building and exhibition principles, as well as a glimpse of the rough cultural and natural landscape of the Danish west coast.

**Tour 4:** Visit the island of Bornholm with historic monuments and the preservation of the ceramic tradition. Experience several thousand years of history through extraordinarily rich sites and monuments dating from the Bronze Age to Medieval times. Bornholm is a center for craftsmen and designers.

**Registration deadline: July 25, 2017.**

For more information, go to: [http://www.icom-cc2017.org/postTours](http://www.icom-cc2017.org/postTours)
Ongoing considerations regarding museum climate

By Tiarna Doherty, Member of ICOM-CC Directory Board

In the spring of 2017 the Directory Board sent out a three-question survey to the membership via Survey Monkey. The text of the original email and the three questions were:

Call for membership feedback

The ICOM-CC Board would like your feedback on the topic of museum climate. In 2014 a joint statement called the Environmental Guidelines ICOM and IIC Declaration was published online. See: http://www.icom-cc.org/332/-icom-cc-documents/declaration-on-environmental-guidelines/#.WJKN9LYrJmA.

At the last Triennial Conference in Melbourne in 2014 it became clear to the current board that the membership would like to continue discussions on the topic of environmental guidelines in the field of conservation. In the years since the Declaration was made the ICOM-CC membership have raised some concerns about the Declaration. Concerns include the lack of sensitivity to climates in desert and tropical environments in the Declaration. A lack of collaboration amongst the disciplines of conservation, science, collections managers and facilities managers has also been related to the board by the membership. Based on feedback from ICOM-CC member conservators working in museums, museums do not seem to have adopted expanded guidelines for loans since the Declaration was made.

In response to the membership the board has proposed that an updated statement be shared with museum professionals through the ICOM-CC website. The statement does not provide a specific guideline but rather encourages a methodological approach of collaboration to determine what is best for an individual institution. A recent Smithsonian publication on the Museum Preservation Environment advocates for every institution to determine their own guidelines. See: http://opensi.si.edu/index.php/smithsonian/catalog/book/111.

Proposed new ICOM-CC declaration for loans:

“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”.

We would appreciate your feedback on the following questions:
1. Would you like to see the 2016 Declaration adopted by ICOM-CC?
2. Would you like to see reference materials on the ICOM-CC website?
3. Would you like there to be a discussion period for members on this topic at the Triennial meeting in Copenhagen?

Survey Results

161 members responded to the survey. This response rate is consistent with the response rate for voting in on-line ICOM-CC elections.

1. 76% of respondents said they would like to see the 2016 Declaration adopted. 12% said they would not and 12% said they had no opinion.

2. 71% of respondents said they would like to have reference materials regarding museum climate available on the ICOM-CC website.

3. 92% of respondents said they would like to have a discussion at the Triennial meeting on this topic. 4% responded no and 4% had no opinion.

Maybe you didn’t have the opportunity to answer the SurveyMonkey? Maybe you want to discuss the issue further?

At the Triennial Conference in Copenhagen there will be a chance to follow up on the Survey Monkey, the proposed declaration and the questions asked.

The debate will take place during lunch on Tuesday 5 September, between two Preventive Conservation Working Group sessions and we hope that those who engage in these issues will come to discuss the ICOM-CC current stand, initiative and direction.
Elections for ICOM-CC Directory Board and Working Group Coordinators

By Joan Reifsnyder, Secretary of ICOM-CC

Voting for the 2017-2020 Directory Board and Working Group Coordinators will open on Monday, 21 August 2017 9:00 (CEST) and will close on Monday, 4 September 2017 at 14:00 (CEST) for Directory Board, and 18:00 (CEST) for Coordinators.

This is an on-line vote. No paper ballots will be available at the Triennial Conference.

**Directory Board Voting:** You must be an ICOM-CC Voting Member and have an OPEN ICOM-CC web account at [www.icom-cc.org](http://www.icom-cc.org). You will receive an e-mail* through your ICOM-CC web account with a link allowing you to access the ballot with the candidates standing for the Directory Board.

**Working Group Coordinators:** You must be an ICOM-CC Voting Member and have an OPEN ICOM-CC web account showing the Working Group(s) for which you have signed up. You can see the Working Groups you have chosen on your “My Account” record. You will receive an e-mail* through your ICOM-CC web account with a link allowing you to access the ballot(s) to vote for a Coordinator in the Working Group(s) you have chosen. If you are signed up for more than one Working Group, you may vote in each of your Working Groups.

Go to [http://www.icom-cc.org/351/about/elections](http://www.icom-cc.org/351/about/elections) to see who the candidates are and read their candidacy statements.

Eligibility to vote is based on:
- Your current 2017 ICOM membership;
- If you wish to vote in a Working Group election for Coordinator, you must have selected and added the Working Group to your account **BEFORE** voting begins on 21 August 2017;
- Your ICOM-CC web account is active.

The voting period is from **21 August – 4 September 2017.** During the voting period, no voting member accounts will be opened or renewed.

Verify **NOW** that your account is open and you have selected the Working Groups you want! Do **NOT** wait to open or check your account until the last minute! Do it now to make sure your voting status is up-to-date.

For any questions on membership status, web accounts or Working Groups, please contact secretariat@icom-cc.org.

*NB: The e-mails are electronically generated. Some servers – especially government and institutional servers – filter this e-mail as spam. In order to make sure you receive access to the ballots, please consider changing the e-mail address on your account to a private address **BEFORE** the voting period opens in August.

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The Committee for Conservation (ICOM-CC) is part of the International Council of Museums. It is the largest International Committee with 2,800 members.
ICOM-CC Triennial Conference Preprints
Process

By Jean Brown, Member of ICOM-CC Directory Board and Janet Bridgland, Preprints Managing Editor

There was a great deal of interest in presenting either a paper or a poster at the 18th ICOM-CC Triennial Conference in Copenhagen.

A total of 540 abstracts were submitted out of which 214 were short-listed to be developed into papers. Of those, 159 papers were finally selected and accepted. This was the most difficult part of the process. At this stage, most of the papers were excellent and if time and space at the conference had allowed, we would have included more papers to be presented and published. The number of papers selected for each Working Group was related to the total number of papers submitted to the Working Group.

The criteria for numbers of posters were different. There were 211 poster submissions out of which 105 were selected and accepted. Rather than going by the number of contributions, it was decided to invite the Working Groups to select the four or five best posters in their Working Group for presentation. The number of posters finally accepted was later adjusted as some Working Groups had fewer acceptable posters, whereas others had more. Papers and posters were all ranked against the criteria listed below by an external reviewer and the Coordinator of the respective Working Group. The review process was managed by an editorial team which strived to ensure that the process was fair and consistent. On occasion, a compromise had to be found when the opinions of the external reviewer and Coordinator differed.

The full process extending from preliminary abstracts for papers through double peer review, editing and publication was undertaken thoroughly and professionally by Janet Bridgland who has been the Managing Editor of our Triennial Conference Preprints seven times (including Copenhagen).

Papers and posters were all ranked against the following criteria:

O Originality and innovation of the work presented (Does it advance the field? Has this work been published before in substantially the same form?)

A Application to conservation practice (Practicality of application? Who can use the results of this work?)

T Technical merit (Are the conclusions of the paper/poster valid? Does it reach a conclusion?)

R Relevance to Working Group aims/triennial program (For details, see: www.icom-cc.org/9/working-groups/)

S Logical structure, good argumentation and clear writing style (This relates to organization of content, not to the author’s proficiency in the English language.)

C Demonstration of collaboration between disciplines (e.g. conservation, science, art history, humanities) or of public engagement.

The programme that has emerged is exciting and innovative, and when combined with the technical visits and social events, promises to deliver an excellent 18th Triennial Conference for ICOM-CC in Copenhagen.