On Board is published by the Committee for Conservation of the International Council of Museums.
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ELECTIONS FOR ICOM-CC LEADERSHIP
How are you? Stay safe! Take care! These are the phrases I have repeatedly written during this strange, different and difficult period that started in January.
How are you? Stay safe! Take care!

These are the phrases I have repeatedly written during this strange, different and difficult period that started in January. The phrases that usually are just ordinary polite words we add to our mails, suddenly become serious and are written with greater concern than before. In a global organisation we have colleagues, friends and contacts all over the world and the question of well-being is not only about our physical health, it also regards the social and psychological consequences of being isolated; the worries about our museums and institutions where we are prevented from carrying out our daily work; and insecurity about financial consequences when the economic foundation of our workplaces disappears for months. What will be the aftermath when this crisis has abated and how long will it take until we are back on track?

When I started monitoring the Covid-19 figures in January, my focus largely was on the effects in the Beijing area, in view of our plans for the ICOM-CC Triennial Conference in September. The figures were reassuring, and by end of February, I was starting to get slightly optimistic. Then, a new reality became apparent: the spread of the virus to Australia, Italy, Iran, Austria, eventually my own country Denmark, and the rest of Europe, North and South America, the Middle East and Africa. Monitoring the stable situation in Beijing became less important when following the global development of the pandemic.

Many of you have been waiting for the ICOM-CC Directory Board to communicate what would happen to the Triennial Conference, and how we would complete our triennium. As the situation has been changing dramatically – at times on a day-by-day basis – it has been impossible to state more than: be patient – we are monitoring the situation closely and we don’t want to put the lives of our conference participants at risk. Any absence of communication is not a lack of concern, but reluctance to communicate something that very soon could be outdated or misinterpreted. Thank you for your patience.

On the ICOM-CC Directory Board we have discussed risks, precautions and mitigations amongst ourselves, with the Preprints Managing Editor, and with the National Organising Committee Beijing 2020 (NOCB 2020) in order to find a solution. We have had concerns and thoughts from the Working Group Coordinators. Together, we have tried to solve our shared dilemma: on the one hand we have our conference organisers in Beijing with amazing plans; Beijing offers a perfect venue and all logistical and transportation plans are in place. We have a tantalising menu of technical visits, a very fine social program, and solid superior support. We have the potential for an excellent program with more than 150 selected high-quality papers and 100 posters.

On the other hand, we have a global health crisis with no definite end date and great uncertainty regarding the financial aftermaths, as well as global travel restrictions and other consequences not yet foreseen. In this situation it is impossible to predict how long it will take until the situation is stable and we have reached a point where we are both able and willing to travel again to join in a conference.

This critical circumstance coincided almost precisely with the final selection of papers and posters constituting our conference program. In mid-March the ICOM-CC Directory Board had a very constructive video meeting with our colleagues in the Chinese National Organising Committee (Fig. 1) and shared our concerns that even if the Chinese Museum Association and the municipality of Beijing were ready to welcome and host the ICOM-CC Triennial Conference in September 2020, there was a great risk that ICOM-CC would not be able to deliver the content for the conference: the presentations of posters and papers that are the core of our conference.

Our colleagues in the NOCB 2020 listened very carefully to our concerns and we can now announce that: The 19th ICOM-CC Triennial Conference in Beijing in September 2020 will take place 17 to 21 May 2021.

We are still working on details regarding the final schedules but the main structure is in place. Important updates will be announced via e-blasts, but I strongly recommend visiting the ICOM-CC Triennial Conference website for a fuller picture and details about the conference.

In the wake of the postponement there are of course many issues and questions that need to be addressed, but a couple of important decisions are already made:


2) The ICOM-CC Triennial Conference Preprints process will be finalised in 2020.

We hope to have another a strong team to start the new triennium. May 25th 2020 was the deadline for sending in your candidacies. Voting for new Directory Board members and Working Group Coordinators starts on 31 August and ends on 15 September, 2020. Details on voting, eligibility and procedures are presented on page 24 of this On Board issue.

The format of the transition between the outgoing and incoming teams will be different than usual and more on this topic is explained in the section ‘From one triennium to the next – when the Triennial Conference is postponed’ (page 22). Triennial Conference Preprints will be finalized in 2020, but published in 2021 for several reasons. After September, the Working Group Coordinators (WGCOS) who participated in the ranking and selection of papers and posters will change for a number of groups. It will be very inconvenient and impractical for authors, the Managing Editor, and the Working Group
Coordinators, if seven to ten new WGCOs should jump into the editorial process without having participated in the ranking and selection process, or being familiar with using the designated platform applied for the Preprints process.

The Triennial Conference Preprints will be published in the Spring 2021 and will be posted and made available online for paying conference delegates prior to the conference where the authors will present their work (maybe with new updates to the contributions!). The slightly revised schedule also will allow more time for the Chinese translators to prepare for simultaneous interpretation during the Conference and to translate abstracts from English to Chinese. Some authors might feel the production time from idea to publication is a bit extended, but we hope for their understanding and forgiveness in light of the difficult times we are all going through.

We also are discussing with the Working Groups what we can do for our members while waiting for the Triennial Conference in 2021, hoping that social media, newsletters, and virtual events will continue to stimulate dialogues and networking. One important topic where we want to include our membership is the discussion on a new Museum Definition. This theme has been somewhat overshadowed by the world health crisis, but the topic is still relevant. It is still the aim of ICOM to have more views and suggestions to decide from in June 2021. On the ICOM-CC Directory Board, we plan to launch a discussion and collect your views over the next few months.

Related to the pandemic, ICOM-CC has collaborated with the ICOM Communications Department to post Recommendations for the conservation of museum collections on the ICOM website, also presenting other topics related to how to operate and act in museums in times of pandemic.

This On Board includes a somewhat longer update from me. The full and final triennial report from the Chair will be published on the ICOM-CC website in September and be part of the Triennial Conference Preprints. Some major outcomes from the 2017-2020 triennium are presented in this issue (see page 9 and onwards).

We plan to publish a special supplementary issue of On Board as soon as a new Directory Board and a new team of Working Group Coordinators have taken their positions to bring ICOM-CC through the 2020-2023 triennium. So this is also the time and place for me to say thank you to all who have contributed to our Committee over the triennium; to our engaged and enthusiastic Working Group Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators, to my collaborative and inspiring fellow Directory Board members, and to ICOM-CC mentor and always helpful ICOM-CC secretary Joan and our brilliant Preprints Managing Editor Janet. We have achieved so much together this triennium. My gratitude also goes to individuals who contribute with in-kind work to help carry out projects, raise funds, and help promote our Committee. ICOM-CC could not function were it not for the generosity of institutions and organisations that continuously support us all by giving hundreds of working hours, covering travel costs, paying for printer ink, paper, phone bills and internet connections. A fuller list of all we are deeply indebted to can be found at the end of the triennial report.

It feels strange to convey this message in a letter, so I really hope to see many of you in person in Beijing for yet another excellent and unforgettable ICOM-CC Triennial Conference where we will reunite in plenaries and Working Group sessions, gather and discuss through the wide spectrum of conservation topics, ask questions and share ideas transcending boundaries – as we always do in our Triennial Conferences. In the meantime, thank you for all your understanding and patience, and please take care and stay safe.

Best regards,

Kristiane

Chair, ICOM-CC Directory Board
PLANS FOR BEIJING
17-21 MAY, 2021

Fig. 3: A view of the Great Wall, China. Photo: Tannar Ruuben
The National Organization Committee (NOC) of the ICOM-CC 2020 Triennial Conference has been working hard to make the upcoming triennial a huge success. A programme for the conference, technical visits, conference venue, and more had all been finalized. The information was appearing apace on the Triennial Conference website. Then suddenly a disease related to a viral infection unknown to the entire world appeared. In the initial days of the outbreak, there was no impact on the preparation of the Triennial Conference. However, when attempts to understand this Coronavirus which results in COVID-19 swirled in confusion and the disease transformed into a pandemic, the NOC and the ICOM-CC Directory Board (ICOM-CC DB) began weighing the options in front of us. We had been witnessing postponement of important festivals, sport events, conferences, and all large gatherings, and we realized it was not possible to proceed with the Triennial Conference in September 2020, and have it be the robust and vibrant meeting we had planned.

The ICOM-CC Directory Board would like to acknowledge here the important role of the NOC in agreeing to the postponement of the Conference to 17-21 May, 2021. Making a change in dates comes with the substantial additional requirement of energy, time, and money on top of the already invested resources.

The NOC has not wasted any time during the pandemic, and all the important milestones for the Triennial have been achieved regarding the preparation of preprints, website design, and regular updating of website content, and much, much more. The ICOM-CC DB, with regular input from all the Coordinators, Assistant Coordinators, and the Managing Editor of the Pre-Prints also has worked with the NOC to meet all the targeted deadlines in a timely manner.

It is important to put on record that this change in date will have brought immense inconvenience to all who were planning to attend. This inconvenience, caused by these unprecedented circumstances, is deeply regretted. It is hoped that the ICOM–CC membership will continue to support and participate in the re-scheduled Triennial Conference. We particularly look forward to seeing all the authors in Beijing to present their papers. By the time this article is published, it is likely that COVID-19 will have subsided around the globe. Or in today’s all too familiar parlance, the plateau will have been reached globally, and the curve will have started moving downward in all affected countries.

As has been mentioned in previous newsletters during this triennium, this Triennial Conference is exciting for the fact that it will be held in China for the first time. The country has immense cultural treasures with a long history. Modern China in the last 20 years has flourished in the field of culture in general, and in conservation activity in particular. This is the occasion for west to meet the east, to share each other’s experiences, and learn from a richly diverse community during one week in Beijing in 2021.

Let us come together and make this Triennial Conference a success in our freshly reunited post-pandemic world. Stay tuned for new announcements, including information concerning the post-pandemic “new normal”, through the conference and the ICOM-CC websites.

Stay Safe, Stay Healthy, and Take Good Care.
The starting point for this triennium was the very successful 18th Triennial Conference in Copenhagen, 4 to 8 September, 2017, with the theme "Linking Past and Future".

Fig. 4: The Miaoying Temple, also known as the White Stupa Temple, Beijing, China. Photo: Tannar Ruuben
The starting point for this triennium was the very successful 18th Triennial Conference in Copenhagen, 4 to 8 September, 2017, with the theme "Linking Past and Future". The 50th Anniversary of ICOM-CC was celebrated with 1,000 delegates participating in the conference.

The conference signalled the official conclusion of the 2014-2017 ICOM-CC triennium, and the commencement of the 2017-2020 triennium. We ended the conference with an invitation from Dr. AN Laishun, ICOM Vice President and Secretary General of the Chinese Museums Association, to organise the 19th ICOM-CC Triennial Conference in Beijing, China, from 14 to 18 September 2020. Because of the world health crisis and the unknown consequences of the corona pandemic, the ICOM-CC Directory Board and the National Organising Conference in Beijing have recently agreed to postpone the conference to 2021.

Since our conference in Copenhagen, ICOM-CC has been tremendously busy in different fora and at various levels. It is not possible to give all the details in this report, but as the Working Groups constitute the main body of ICOM-CC, it is the obvious place to start.

The ICOM-CC Working Groups

At the ICOM-CC Triennial Conference in Copenhagen, a number of new Working Group Coordinators were elected and a number of incumbents remained in place. Many of the coordinators organised seminars and interim meetings during the 2017-2020 triennium. They produced newsletters, were active on social media, and many of their activities generated publications.

In March 2018, we organised a meeting between the Directory Board members, all Working Group Coordinators and professionals from the ICOM Secretariat and Headquarters in Paris. The aim of the meeting was to give them as well as new Directory Board members a thorough introduction to and understanding of how ICOM works in general, to learn about policies and processes within the organisation, and to introduce them to members of the ICOM Secretariat.

After various requests and based upon initiatives from some of the Working Groups, the Archaeological Materials and Sites Working Group was established on a trial basis in 2018 and accepted as a fully participatory Working Group at the 5th Directory Board meeting in March 2020. The Group has demonstrated its viability with newsletters, regular communication with members on social media, and a sufficient number of contributions for two sessions at the 19th Triennial Conference in Beijing.

The Legal Issues in Conservation Working Group was discontinued because of long-term lack of activity. Themes addressing legal, ethical, moral, and similar issues in conservation will in the future be covered by other Working Groups. The Theory, History and Ethics Working Group was encouraged to emphasise the ethical aspects in conservation and was also renamed the Theory, History and Ethics in Conservation Working Group. In 2019 the ENAMEL subgroup of Metals, and Glass & Ceramics decided to leave ICOM-CC and form its own individual network. Issues concerning conservation aspects of enamel-based objects will still be covered by the ICOM-CC Working Groups for Metals and for Glass and Ceramics.

In the 2017-2020 triennium, 14 of our Working Groups organised specific activities for their members such as meetings, conferences, roundtable discussions, training, and so on. These events, as well as other types of activity carried out within the Working Groups, are reported by the individual coordinators in the Triennial Conference Preprints. The contributions to our network from the Working Group Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators are invaluable assets to the conservation network. ICOM-CC relies on this work and we are deeply grateful to them and their supporting institutions.

Social Media

ICOM-CC has had an active presence on Facebook since 2015 and in the beginning of November, ICOM-CC launched an individual, general [ICOM-CC Facebook Page] moderated by Renata Peters, Vice Chair Directory Board. The page has steadily grown in visibility and popularity; from 927 likes and 984 followers in December 2018, to 2615 likes and 2788 followers in April 2020.

Thirteen of the twenty-one ICOM-CC Working Groups have a presence on the Facebook platform. Four of the Working Groups also use LinkedIn pages as an alternative or supplementary platform to Facebook. The moderators are either Working Group Coordinators or Assistant Working Group Coordinators.
ICOM-CC Publications, Newsletters, Promotional Materials

Publications
ICOM-CC has produced the following publications in the 2017-2020 triennium in connection with conferences and meetings.

2018:
Editors: Emily Williams and Emma Hocker

2019:
Title: The Essence of Conservation? Materials for a discussion.
Editors: François Mairesse, ICOFOM and Renata F Peters, ICOM-CC
Editors: Claudia Chemello, Laura Brambilla, Edith Joseph
Editors: Janis Mandrus and Victoria Schussler

Newsletters
From September 2017 to May 2020 the ICOM-CC Directory Board has published six issues of On Board, all edited by Directory Board member Nora Kennedy, with the first four layouts by Mollie Anderson, the last two by Aleya Lehmann, at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. In the same period, the Working Groups have collectively published 20 newsletters.

Promotional Materials
The ICOM-CC brochure has been translated into Chinese, given an appropriate layout, and printed for distribution in China.

An ICOM-CC poster highlighting the ICOM-CC Working Groups was produced, printed, and presented at the joint poster session at the ICOM General Conference in Kyoto.

Printed copies of the publication, “ICOM Committee for Conservation: Fifty Years 1967–2017”, published in September 2017, were distributed to our partners and loyal supporters. The publication was uploaded to the ICOM-CC website and the open access link to the digital version distributed with seasonal greeting cards. Additionally, the link to access the publication was sent to ICOM committees, alliances and organisations.

The ICOM-CC Website
The ICOM-CC website has been updated with the new 2016 ICOM-CC logo, with information about the Working Groups, Coordinators, Assistant Coordinators and their programmes. News and important messages have been posted and several newsletters and similar documents have been uploaded. As the current website is becoming outdated and difficult to maintain and sufficiently update, we have moved forward to find a new website provider and developer. Based upon a list of requirements, two companies made their bids on designing and hosting a new website. In 2020, the Directory Board will be moving forward on a recommendation for this work.

Publications Online Project
2018: Final permissions from all publishers have been received. Preparation of Triennial Preprints for upload continues. We started a survey identifying status, numbers, and formats of Working Group Publications to include these in the project.

2019: We continued the digitisation of the oldest Preprint volumes, and uploaded the majority of the Triennial Conference Preprint to the ICOM-CC Publications Online Platform. A survey identifying Working Group Interim Meeting publications has concluded. The survey revealed that since 1981 the Working Groups have produced at least 100 publications representing close to 3000 individual contributions.

2020 status: As of April 2020, the ten most recent Conference Preprints are available in open access on the online platform. The importing of ICOM-CC Triennial Conference contributions for years 1987, 1984, 1981, 1978, 1975 and 1972 will be completed within the first six months of 2020. The two earliest Triennial Conference Preprints (1967 and 1969) require more work than originally estimated, and are planned to be done before the end of 2020.

Eight Working Group publications will be imported to the platform in 2020 and serve as pilots for future work with the Working Group publications. If successful, a further seven to ten born-digital WG publications will be imported to the platform early in the 2020-2023 Triennium. The project will continue into the 2020-2023 triennium, and a future Directory Board will guide the completion of it.

The project has received financial support by ICOM Special Projects and the Stichting ICOM-CC Fund with a large portion of the work carried out by the ICOM-CC Secretariat, Board members and Working Group Coordinators. The completion of the project requires further financial and in-kind support.
ICOM-CC Activities at the ICOM General Conference in Kyoto 1 to 7 September 2019

Joint Session 1: How far can we come with traditions? was jointly organised by ICOM-CC, INTERCOM (International Committee on Museum Management) and ICOM SEE (South East Europe).

Joint Session 2: Storage of Collections - Prepare for the Future was jointly organised by ICOM-CC and ICAMT (International Committee on Architecture and Museum Technique), and ICMS (International Committee on Museum Security).

Joint Session 3: What is the essence of Conservation? was jointly organised by ICOM-CC and ICOFOM (International Committee on Museology). Papers discussing the topic were submitted prior to the conference and published prior to the meeting. The full publication can be found on the ICOM-CC and ICOFOM websites.

The Offsite Meeting to Nara, Japan, took place at Nara National Research Institute for Cultural Properties (Nabunken). Purpose: to address the conservation of objects that were damaged by the March 2011 Tsunami.

The post-conference tour in the Tohoku Region of Japan had as its purpose a four-day tour to visit museums and meet with museum staff who were at the heart of the devastating earthquakes and tsunami that hit the Tohoku region on March 11th, 2011.

International Meetings and Collaborations

In China September 2017: The Chair of ICOM-CC represented ICOM-CC at the second TAIHE Forum which took place at the Palace Museum in Beijing, China. The theme of the forum was "Echoes of the Ancient Civilizations". A cooperation framework agreement was signed by Song Jirong, Deputy Director of the Palace Museum, Beijing, China, and ICOM-CC Chair Kristiane Strætkvern.

In China November 2018: The workshop ‘Care of collections – a global journey of concerns and approaches’ was organised in Fuzhou, China, in collaboration with the Chinese Museum Association and ICOM China, and coordinated by Prof. PAN Lu, Conservation Centre, National Museum of China, Beijing. The event culminated with Dr. AN Laishun, Director General of the Chinese Museum Association and the ICOM-CC Chair Kristiane Strætkvern signing the agreement of collaboration towards the 19th ICOM-CC Triennial Conference in Beijing, September 2020.

ICOM-CC and ICCROM: In November and December 2017 and 2019 ICOM-CC was invited as an observer to the 30th and 31st General Assembly of ICCROM in Rome. In the ICCROM General Assembly, delegations from ICCROM’s 135 Member States participate to discuss and endorse the strategic directions and work plan and elect its governing Council. In 2017, the ICOM-CC Chair and Secretary participated. In 2019, the Chair was prevented from attending, but the Secretary represented ICOM-CC. Attending the ICCROM General Assembly from the observatory position opens up possibilities for collaboration on specific projects as the organisations can be complementary in the field of Cultural Heritage protection and conservation.

ICOM-CC and the Getty Conservation Institute: ICOM-CC and the Getty Conservation Institute (GCI) have had a collaboration agreement since January 2015. This agreement was renewed to cover the 2017-2020 triennium. The relationship between ICOM-CC and GCI and their strong support is very much appreciated. Their commitment also includes GCI providing resources for its staff to take responsibilities in ICOM-CC as Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators as well as hosting ICOM-CC Board meetings.

ICOM-CC and the Getty Foundation International Program: For the 18th ICOM-CC Triennial Conference in Copenhagen, September 2017, the participation of 24 conservation professionals from category 3 and 4 countries was enabled through the Getty Foundation International Program grant. A special meet and greet event was organised prior to the conference week for the grant recipients, the ICOM-CC Board, Working Group Coordinators, and the local National Organising Committee. For the 19th ICOM-CC Triennial Conference, the Getty Foundation International program will allow approximately 20 professionals from ICOM Category 3 and 4 countries to attend the upcoming Conference in Beijing and will include a similar program. The generous grants from the Getty Foundation play a vital role in the global impact of the ICOM-CC Triennial Conferences, making them accessible for professionals who otherwise would not have the opportunity to attend and participate.

The Stichting ICOM-CC Fund: ICOM cannot provide full funding for all the ongoing ICOM-CC projects. The purpose of the Stichting ICOM-CC Fund is to raise funds and use them to finance projects in the best interests of ICOM-CC. Following the end of term for the former members of the Stichting ICOM-CC Fund Board, new Fund Board members were approved by the ICOM-CC Directory Board and the Fund Board started functioning as of 1 May 2019. The new Fund Board consists of
Chair Sanneke Stigter (University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, The Netherlands), Treasurer Louise Wijnberg (Louise Wijnberg, Art & Conservation, Amsterdam, The Netherlands), and Secretary Annelies van Loon (Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam, The Netherlands). As ICOM procedures for payments, financial transactions and rules in general have been revised since the Fund was established in 2004, a new collaboration agreement between the ICOM-CC Directory Board and the Fund specifying the roles, responsibilities, procedures and work modes for both parties was made in 2020.

ICOM-CC Involvement and Collaborations in ICOM Initiatives

Resolution No. 4, 2019 ICOM: “Measures to safeguard and enhance collections in storage throughout the world”, a collaborative project to increase the focus on inappropriate and inadequate storage of collections worldwide, to discuss tools, practices and methodologies to improve the situation resulted in a document with recommendations for the global museum community. The project was carried out in collaboration with the International Committee on Museum Techniques and Architecture (ICAMT), the International Committee on Museum Security (ICMS), and the International Committee on Collecting (COMCOL). The resolution ‘Measures to Safeguard and Enhance Collections in Storage Throughout the World’ was one of five resolutions approved by the ICOM General Assembly in Kyoto, Japan, in September 2019. The resolution is available on the ICOM-CC website and can be downloaded from the Resolutions Adopted by ICOM’s 34th General Assembly along with the other four resolutions that were approved.

Protection of the Slav Epic artwork: ICOM-CC collaborated with ICOM Headquarters to support the efforts of the Mucha Foundation to prevent further loans of the artwork Slav Epic, a series of 20 monumental canvases representing the history of Slavic civilisation. The works of art will be secured and safeguarded by putting them on permanent display in a dedicated structure. These efforts were coordinated by the ICOM Headquarters. In Prague, they are now planning to build a museum dedicated to Mucha’s Slav Epic masterpiece.

The EU ban on in-situ generated Nitrogen: Since 2012, the European Union Ban on Nitrogen - REGULATION (EU) No 528/2012 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 22 May 2012 - has increasingly challenged European museums and heritage organisations using nitrogen for Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for the preservation of monuments and museum objects. Since early 2019, ICOM-CC has been involved with ICOM Headquarters and ICOMOS in campaigns to change the European policy. ICOM and ICOM-CC appointed an IPM advisor and conservator, Michael Højlund Rasmussen, from Denmark to assist in this matter. In 2019 a statement urging the reversal of the classification of nitrogen as a biocidal active substance in EU was sent to European National Ministries and to the European Parliament and Council. Towards the end of 2019, Austria sent an application for derogation from the Nitrogen Ban. This led the EU commission to commence a consultation period from mid-December 2019 to mid-January 2020 in which ICOM-CC members were encouraged to participate in this initiative. The EU commission received almost 1500 answers and only 3 (three) of them argued against the derogation. Following this, ICOM Headquarters, ICOMOS and ICOM-CC discussed the next steps, namely two options. Either: 1) to apply for full inclusion of in situ generated nitrogen into Annex I of EU Regulation No. 528/2012 (the Biocidal Products Regulation) in accordance with EU Regulation No 88/2014, or 2) to make another attempt to remove nitrogen from the Regulation.

The International Committees Working Group: Since January 2018, the Chair of ICOM-CC has led a special working group, the International Committees Working Group (ICWG), established by the ICOM President and ICOM Executive Council to evaluate all the International Committees in ICOM. The work, which aims to clarify the role and future of the ICOM International Committees, requires collecting information from all the International Committees, from the National Committees and the general ICOM membership. The ICWG gave a full report on its findings and recommendations at the ICOM General Conference in 2019 and in January 2020 the ICWG was asked to continue its work.

ICOM-CC and the Museum Definition: In January 2020, the ICOM-CC Chair was appointed to be member of the Museum Definition Prospects and Potential 2 (MDPP2), the new ICOM Committee that was created by the ICOM President and Executive Board to continue the discussions that emerged between 2016 to 2019 and to work on a new museum definition. The core responsibility of MDPP2 is to “facilitate and support ICOM members, committees and decision-making bodies in generating the best possible proposals, representing the different positions, perspectives, and divergent viewpoints which the organization contains”. The work is planned to end in June 2021. In May 2020, the strategy for discussions and collecting information will be communicated as soon as these are approved by the ICOM Executive Board.

Blueprint on Cultural Heritage: In 2019 ICOM-CC was invited and encouraged by ICOM Paris to participate in the European Union project, to apply as a full member for funding of “Cultural Heritage Action to Refine Training, Education and Roles” (CHARTER), whose goal is to create a sustainable cultural heritage sector skills strategy in Europe. It was decided that participation as a full member in CHARTER would be very difficult for ICOM-CC, as entering into this would mean imposing a large workload at the start of the new triennium
in September 2020 onto a new Directory Board and Working Group Coordinators without yet knowing the resources, interests and priorities for the 2020-2023 triennium. As we value the intentions and outcomes of the project, ICOM-CC has written a letter of support for the application, also indicating that ICOM-CC would like to have a role as affiliated member to the CHARTER project.

Special Initiatives and Collaborations

Since 2018 we have collaborated with ICOM US. Directory Board member Nora Kennedy is the assigned contact person for ICOM-CC in the US. We have participated on an annual basis in the ICOM-US membership campaign by providing ICOM US a letter promoting ICOM-CC and which is forwarded to all ICOM US members.

A questionnaire from the ICOM Working Group on Sustainability was distributed in spring 2019 and ICOM-CC responses were sent to ICOM Headquarters.

In early 2018, ICOM-CC Vice-Chair, Renata Peters, represented ICOM-CC in C-Word, the Conservator’s Podcast (http://thecword.show/). The podcast was based upon a list of questions received and responded to by the ICOM-CC Directory Board.

Prior to the ICOM General Conference in Kyoto, Japan, September 2019, ICOM initiated questionnaires and discussions on repatriation of cultural heritage in which ICOM-CC participated.

In April 2019 ICOM-CC collaborated with the ICOM Communications Department to post Recommendations for the conservation of museum collections on the ICOM website, also presenting other topics related to how to operate and act in museums in times of pandemic.

Concluding Figures and Remarks

For 2018 and 2019 there have been 1635 participants in the Working Group activities and at least 519 of these were ICOM members (students with ICOM membership not always counted). In addition, we had around 430 ICOM members attending ICOM-CC sessions and tours in Kyoto and other ICOM-CC events! This adds up to almost 2000 individuals attending ICOM-CC events between the 18th and 19th ICOM-CC Triennial Conferences. More than 900 of the participants were ICOM members.

Activities are not only about attracting members or potential new ones; the activities must also engage and educate; they must provide access to information and practices and strengthen the network. I am proud to present this Triennial Report on behalf of ICOM-CC, demonstrating the extent and quality of activities, publications, communications and collaborations that have taken place over the 2017-2020 triennium.

The completion of our activities is based on numerous hours of dedicated work carried out by the ICOM-CC Secretary, the members of the Directory Board, the Working Group Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators, and our members and collaborative partners contributing to our Committee, and I am enormously grateful to them all.

ICOM-CC Directory Board Members 2017-2020

Chair: Kristiane Strætkvern
Department of Conservation and Science, National Museum of Denmark, Copenhagen, DENMARK

Vice-chair: Achal Pandya
Conservation Division, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi, INDIA

Vice-chair: Renata Peters
Institute of Archaeology, University College London, London, UNITED KINGDOM

Treasurer: Tannar Ruuben
Conservation Degree Program, Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki, FINLAND

Directory Board-Coordinator Liaison: Kate Seymour
Stichting Restauratie Atelier Limburg (SRAL), Maastricht; University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam, THE NETHERLANDS

Yacy-Ara Froner
Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Belo Horizonte-Minas Gerais, BRAZIL

Nora W. Kennedy
Photograph Conservation Department, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Johanna Maria Theile
Facultad de Arte, Departamento de Teoría, Universidad de Chile, Santiago, CHILE

Appointed as special Chinese conservation expert: PAN Lu
Conservation Centre, National Museum of China, Beijing, P. R CHINA
Directory Board Meetings and Hosts

**DB1:** Paris, France, 21-23 March 2018. Hosted by: C2RMF, Joint meeting with ICOM-CC Board and Working Group Coordinators. Attendance by ICOM Secretariat and President

**DB2:** Fuzhou, China, 19-21 November 2018. Hosted by the Chinese Museum Association (CMA)

**DB3:** Helsinki, Finland, 24-26 April 2019. Hosted by Metropolia University of Applied Sciences, Helsinki

**DB4:** Goa, India, 6-8 November 2019. Hosted by Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts

**DB5:** Maastricht, The Netherlands, 18 to 20 March 2020. Virtual meetings due to global travel restrictions

**DB6:** Replaced by virtual meetings spread over the final 6 months of the triennium

Additional Skype & Zoom meetings: On a flexible schedule

Working Group Coordinators and Assistant Coordinators 2017-2020

Special thanks go to the Working Group Coordinators, the Assistant Coordinators and their institutions for continued generous contributions and support in the ICOM-CC 2017-2020 triennium.

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Maria João Petisca (Independent, Portugal)
Rui Filipe Teixeira Xavier (Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Lisbon, Portugal)
Supporting Organisations and Institutions 2017-2020

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**Abegg-Stiftung**, Riggisberg, Bern, Switzerland

**Agency for Cultural Affairs**, Government of Japan in the fiscal year 2019, Tokyo, Japan

**American Institute for Conservation** (AIC Photographic Materials Group), Washington, DC, United States of America

**British Museum**, London, United Kingdom

**Chinese Museum Association**, Beijing, China

**Centre for Research and Restoration of the Museums of France** (C2RMF), Paris, France

**Conservation Centre**, National Museum of China, Beijing, P. R China

**Fukushima Cultural Property Centre**, Shirakawa Branch “Ma-horon”, Shinshirakawa, Japan

**The Getty Conservation Institute** (GCI) Los Angeles, United States of America

**The Getty Foundation**, Los Angeles, United States of America

**Haute Ecole Arc Conservation-Restauration** (HE-Arc CR), Neuchatel, Switzerland

**Helsinki Metropolia University of Applied Sciences**, Helsinki, Finland

**Historic England**, London, United Kingdom

**ICON (The Institute of Conservation Ceramics and Glass Group)** London, United Kingdom

**Indira Gandhi National Center for the Arts** (IGNCA), New Dehli, India

**Iwate Cultural Promotion Agency**, Morioka, Japan

**Iwate Prefectural Museum**, Morioka, Japan

**Kunstmuseum Basel** (Conservation Department) Münchstein, Switzerland

**Louise Wijnberg, Art & Conservation**, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**The Metropolitan Museum of Art**, New York, United States of America

**Marco Verheul**, Corneel Online, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**Mary Rose Trust**, Portsmouth, United Kingdom

**Miguel Mertens**, UseIt, Lisbon, Portugal

**Musée du quai Branly – Jacques Chirac. Centre de Recherche sur la Conservation**, Paris, France

**National Museum of Denmark**, Copenhagen, Denmark

**Reiko Sakaki**, The Tobacco and Salt Museum in Tokyo, Japan

**Rias-Ark Museum of Arts**, Kesennuma, Japan

**Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam**, The Netherlands

**The Rikuzentakata City Museum**, Rikuzentakata, Japan

**SEAHA, The EPSRC Centre for Doctoral Training in Science and Engineering in Arts, Heritage and Archaeology**, London, United Kingdom

**Stichting Restauratie Atelier Limburg** (SRAL), Maastricht, The Netherlands

**Technische Hochschule Köln, Cologne Institute of Conservation Sciences**, Cologne, Germany

**Tohoku History Museum**, Tohoku, Japan

**Tomar Polytechnic Institute**, Tomar, Portugal

**Universidad de Chile**, Santiago, Chile

**Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais**, Belo Horizonte-Minas Gerais, Brazil

**University College London**, London, United Kingdom

**University of Amsterdam**, Amsterdam, The Netherlands

**University of Applied Sciences and Arts of Southern Switzerland (SUPSI)**, Manno, Switzerland
Reflecting on theory, history, and ethics in the conservation of paintings: from sources to the wider social context.
Theory, History, and Ethics of Conservation Working Group & Paintings Working Group

Hélia Marçal, Tate, London; and Instituto de História da Arte (FCSH/ NOVA), Lisbon.
Susana Coentro, VICARTE – Glass and Ceramics for the Arts (FCT/NOVA), Caparica.
Elisabeth Ravaud, Centre de Recherche et de Restauration des Musées de France, C2RMF, site Carrousel, Paris
6-7 February 2020 NOVA University, Caparica, Portugal

What can we find at the intersection of paintings conservation with theory, history, and ethics of the discipline? This question was expanded in the first joint interim meeting of the Paintings and the Theory, History, and Ethics of Conservation Working Groups of the Committee for Conservation of the International Council of Museums, which took place at the NOVA University of Lisbon, Portugal, on the 6th and 7th of February, 2020 (Fig. 5, page 19).

The meeting intended to explore the ways in which the culture of paintings conservation has changed throughout the years, and how it continues to evolve in light of recent theoretical advancements and social shifts. Ahead of ICOM-CC’s 19th Triennial Meeting, to be held in Beijing in 2021, it focused on various aspects of conservation practice, starting with how we get to know the artworks we conserve, and exploring how our ways of seeing are influenced by both the context of their creation and the contexts and conditions in which conservators operate.

The meeting was formulated around five key sessions, which were intertwined with panels focusing on case-studies and short poster presentations. It started with an inspiring keynote lecture by Leslie Carlyle, who explored the long-standing divide between theory and practice. Drawing on her extensive experience in the field of conservation, Carlyle delivered an engaging argument for enhanced criticality in conservation practice, illustrated by examples of misinterpretation of both experimental results and models of understanding the multiple interactions that are part of painting systems. The first day continued with four panels, mostly focused on historical perspectives on the conservation of paintings, focusing on a range of approaches, from traditional conservation and technical art history methods to oral sources. These panels brought together ideas on the use of historical sources in the study of conservation practice, the importance of studying past treatments, and the new perspectives that come together by merging different methods in the study of the same object.

The second day was structured around theoretical perspectives on the conservation of paintings. The first panel of the day interrogated some of the ways ethics could be theorised in conservation practice. The last panel provided a diverse and thought-provoking set of communications approaching how social contexts impact conservation theory and practice. The day ended with technical visits to the painting conservation labs of the Department of Conservation and Restoration, and the glass-making studios of the research unit VICARTE, both at NOVA University of Lisbon (Fig. 6). The visits were followed by a roundtable on the affordances of theory to conservation ethics (Fig. 7). The roundtable raised very pertinent questions, namely, on the understanding of what ‘theory’ means. The prevalence of this topic during the discussion between the conference participants makes a point for the nature of research on theory to be further developed in upcoming events and other fora.

Overall, the conference provided a safe and constructive space to discuss topics that sometimes can be hard to share. The conference was well attended by participants of different conservation specialisations. The interdisciplinarity of conservation was evident in the programme and was further propelled by the short presentations in the format of ‘provocations’ that started each of the main panels of the conference. These were presented by local conservators and scholars, working with a wide range of materials, from ceramic tiles and glass, to contemporary art, and polychrome sculpture. They brought their own perspectives to the conference, indicating, as well, how the themes explored in those two days resonated with their practice. In the end, it was evident how much the dilemmas and challenges faced by paintings conservators are related to those experienced in other fields of this profession. This joint interim meeting further highlighted the importance of interdisciplinarity in debating ideas across different fields of conservation as a path to follow in future conferences.
Fig. 6: Visit to the Paintings Conservation Lab, NOVA University of Lisbon. The visit was hosted by Raquel Marques (left), a PhD Candidate in the Department of Conservation and Restoration. Photo: Kate Seymour.

Fig. 7: Overview of the main conference auditorium, at NOVA University of Lisbon. The image was taken during the panel discussion on the topic “Integrated approaches to researching objects and histories”. Photo: Kate Seymour.
Like so many other events in 2020, this is a first. A Triennial Conference has never been postponed in ICOM-CC’s 53-year long history.
Going from one triennium to the next – when the Triennial Conference is postponed – transitioning from 2017-2020 to 2020-2023

Kristiane Strætkvern
Chair, ICOM-CC Directory Board

Like so many other events in 2020, this is a first. A Triennial Conference has never been postponed in ICOM-CC’s 53-year long history. The Triennial Conference is typically where the “torch of leadership” is passed from one Directory Board to the next and from one cohort of Working Group Coordinators to the next. The conference postponement means that we will need to find new ways of doing things that used to be the “same procedure as every triennium”.


In June 2020 a virtual meeting was organised between the current team of Working Group Coordinators and the Directory Board to discuss how to manage the continuity of projects and discuss new ones for the next triennium, how to prepare for the Triennial Conference in the spring of 2021 and how to help new WGCOs starting up when a physical meeting cannot take place.

ATTENDEES: all current Directory Board members 2017-2020; all current Coordinators 2017-2020; Joan Reifsnyder (ICOM-CC Secretary).

Under consideration is the organisation of a separate joint meeting between the new ICOM-CC Directory Board and the new team of Working Group Coordinators in conjunction with the Triennial Conference in Beijing 2021.

The information given above also will be communicated in future news and announcements.

We truly hope that the postponement is a once in a lifetime experience for all of us, and we will do our best to make the transition between the triennia as smooth as possible. The election of a new Directory Board and new Working Group Coordinators continues according to the original schedule (see page 24), but where we normally have a representative from ICOM (i.e. the President) physically present to confirm the results of the electronic voting, we need to have the results approved and confirmed via ICOM head offices in Paris before they can be made public. We aim to publish all results on the ICOM-CC website by 18 September, 2021. Once the results are ready, all those who have been elected will receive information and invitations via email to attend the following meetings:

New members of the ICOM-CC Directory Board 2020-2023: On Saturday 19 September from 5 to 7 PM (UTC+2) in Copenhagen, 8 to 10 AM in Los Angeles, 11 to 13 AM in New York, 4 to 6 PM in London, 8.30 to 10:30 PM in New Delhi (times are indicative for planning purposes and do not necessarily reflect actual new Board member time zones).

In this meeting the new Directory Board will constitute itself and elect a Chair and the other officers. This is carried out in the presence of the outgoing Chair and the ICOM-CC Secretary. The outgoing Chair conveys recommendations from the outgoing Directory Board and supervises the establishment of the new Board.

ATTENDEES: all new Directory Board members elected for 2020-2023; Kristiane Strætkvern (out-going Chair); Joan Reifsnyder (ICOM-CC Secretary).

ICOM-CC Working Group Coordinators 2020-2023: On Sunday 20 September, the new Directory Board and the ICOM-CC Secretary will meet with the new team of Working Group Coordinators from 5 to 7 PM (UTC+2) hours around the world as above).

The Board will present itself to the Working Group Coordinators and vice versa. This meeting will include important information on how to start the triennium, where to find information, internal communication practices, and crucial dates and deadlines.

ATTENDEES: all new Directory Board members elected for 2020-2023; all Coordinators elected for 2020-2023; Joan Reifsnyder (ICOM-CC Secretary).
Elections for ICOM-CC Directory Board and Working Group Coordinators

The Voting for the 2020-2023 Directory Board and Working Group Coordinators will open on Monday 31 August 2020 (09:00 CEST) and will close on Tuesday 15 September 2020 (23:59 CEST).

After 1 June 2020 you can go to: www.icom-cc.org to see who the candidates are and read their candidacy statements.

The new Triennium (2020-2023) will begin in late September 2020. This means that a new Directory Board and new Working Group Coordinators must be elected and in place to take up the activities and begin work in the new Triennium.

In order to be eligible to vote, you need to verify that:

- Your 2020 ICOM membership is current
- You have formally chosen ICOM-CC as the ICOM International Committee in which you vote
- Your ICOM-CC web account is active*
- If you wish to vote in a Working Group(s) election for Coordinator, you must have selected and added the Working Group(s) to your account by 15 August 2020 to allow the system to roll over your updates in time to generate ballot links for you.

Voting for the Directory Board candidates and the Working Group Coordinator candidates follows the same procedure and requires you to have an ACTIVE ICOM-CC web account:

1. A link to access the ballot with candidates’ names will arrive to the e-mail address you have associated with your ICOM-CC web account.**
2. There will be one link and one ballot to vote for Directory Board Candidates.
3. If you have signed up through your web account for one or more Working Groups, you will receive a separate e-mail with link for EACH Working Group you have chosen.
4. You may use each link only once to vote Directory Board and Working Group(s). Multiple voting of the same ballot will result in voided ballots.

Have you forgotten which Working Group(s) you have chosen? You can see the Working Groups you have chosen on your “My Account” tab on the ICOM-CC home page.

Verify NOW that your account is active and that you have selected the Working Groups you want!

For any questions on membership status, web accounts or Working Groups, please contact: secretariat@icom-cc.org. The secretariat cannot guaranty help on any web account or voting issues after 15 August 2020.

Do NOT wait to activate or check your account until the last minute! Do it now to make sure your voting status is up-to-date.

During the voting period (31 August – 15 September 2020) no voting member accounts will be opened, renewed or Working Group selection modified or added.

* Your ICOM-CC web account is unique; it is not the same as other ICOM accounts you may have (ex: ICOM general member account and/or your ICOM National Committee account).

** The e-mails are electronically generated and sent to the address connected to your ICOM-CC web account. Some servers – especially government and institutional servers – may filter this e-mail as spam if it goes to your work address. In order to make sure you receive access to the ballot links, please consider changing the e-mail address on your account to a private address, BEFORE the voting period opens in August.
ICOM-CC is the largest committee of the International Council of Museums, with members from every branch of the museum and conservation profession. ICOM-CC aims to promote the conservation of culturally and historically significant works and to further the goals of the conservation profession.