

## **DEM HIST General Assembly Kyoto 3 September 2019**

### **23 signed in participants:**

Remko Jansonius, Frank Louhenapessy, Yvonne Ploum, Timna Seligman, Grete Holmboe, Carl Nold, Vicky Kruckeberg, Hillary Walker, Maria de Jesus Monge, Henry Sherman (non-voting member), Tekemi Kuresama (non-voting member), Kelsey Brow, Naomi Collick, Carmen Jimenez Sanz, Roberto Andreu, Gianluca Kannès, Daniel Ronan, Maki Tokugawa, Narimasa Tokugawa (non-voting member), Ruggero Ranieri, Elsa Rodrigues, Amilcar Vargas, Lei Yin  
Some people attended but did not sign in, including Yoshihiro Nakatani, María Inés Madinaveitia Ramírez, Vasilij Pankratov, and others.

Minutes taken by Timna Seligman

Meeting started with delay of 20 minutes

• **Welcome** by Elsa Rodrigues – DEMHIST Chair

• **Approval of 2018 General Assembly minutes (Baku)** – Motion to approve by Carl Nold.  
Minutes approved

• **Chair Report – 2018-2019 (Elsa Rodrigues)**

Elsa gives a short summary of report that had been sent to all members before the Assembly as she wishes to leave time for the National Group reports.

• Over past year an emphasis was placed on establishing partnerships and networking opportunities for DEMHIST with other International and National committees. This is fundamental because this is way to overcome lack of financial resources.

• Travel Grants: The 2019 Jeannie Watson Bursary was given to Hilary Walker from Canada. The 2019 ICOM travel bursary was awarded to Homa Khourasani from Iran.

• Publications: 1. Proceedings from 2016 Milan conference. 2. Second – DEMHIST Portugal – 10 years of meetings. Now investigating possibilities of English translation. All proceedings are online on DEMHIST website.

• Communications – website is up and running. Still need to complete some sections.

• **National Groups**

Have been very active this past year, working on local themes and establishing partnerships with their National Committees.

We need to not just to show what they are doing but also to encourage the creation of new national groups:

- Mexico – María Inés Madinaveitia Ramírez, Chair of ICOM MEXICO for Maria de Lourdes Monges (DEM HIST): The group has been active for 12 years. New meeting in Guadalajara in September 2019.

Question – Naomi Collick: do you have touring exhibitions between the museum or groups?

María – yes, we try to encourage this. Naomi – different types of houses with collections? María – Yes.

- Portugal – Maria de Jesus Monge: The book was published to coincide with a summit which was attended by over 80 participants. It celebrated 10 years of reflection. The summit, organized in cooperation with ICOM Portugal and ICOM Europe, was held at the location of our first meeting. Over the decade we have covered the geography of the land. The publication covers the themes on debate through those years, updated by colleagues that made presentations on the different events, with the aim of providing more literature and research in the area. The publication and meeting had the support of ICOM International, of DEM HIST and of the Direção Regional de Cultura do Norte/Ministry of Culture and allowed foreign colleagues to join us. The book is currently for purchase online in Portuguese. We hope to translate it soon.

- Italy – Gianluca Kannès. We can be proud of work we have done. Over the past 2 years we have held annual congresses on the themes of Kitchen and Bathroom. We are now in the process of working on the publication of the proceedings. We wish to create a manual with bibliography for curators of houses that have preserved the kitchens or bathrooms. This is rarer for us than in the UK or America. This information will help with identifying and dating equipment. We have 20 core members. Distance is hard as people have to independently pay for travel. 100 participants were able to attend the second part of the Kitchen congress in Milan this year.

- Israel – Timna Seligman: The first meeting of Israel National Group met in December 2018 at the Ticho House in Jerusalem (where I am curator) with 18-20 participants. It was an informational meeting about what DEM HIST is, why we need a historical house organization in Israel when we have a very active heritage site organization that is the umbrella organization for most house museums and the differences between them. I wish to thank DEM HIST for supporting that meeting. Our second meeting was held in June 2019 in the Hadera region in the center-north of Israel. The meeting concentrated on the use of new technology in traditional permanent displays. We visited 2 museums in the area that are both sites of early Jewish settlement (late 19<sup>th</sup> century). We hope to continue with 2 meetings a year.

- Brazil – Maria de Jesus Monge (for Ana Cristina Barreto de Carvalho): Brazil has a long tradition of working on house museums. In the meetings organized by the Palaces of the Government of Sao Paulo and CECA colleagues from all over the country are brought together and, as part of the working program, there are many site visits, such as heritage buildings, collections and palaces. Last year, during the XIIth Meeting of Palaces, House-Museums and Historical Houses, we visited Campos do Jordão, as part of a young professionals training course.

- **Budget Report – (Frank Louhenapessy, Treasurer)**

At the end of 2018 we had a solid balance 12.000 Euro. This gave us the ability to fund additional events during the year (we need to spend surplus funds).

- 2019 budget – most line items are the same every year.

Special costs in 2019 are for the Kyoto conference and the joint session (Multi partner session) with ICOM Netherlands etc. We had some additional funds from ICOM Paris for this year.

We supported affiliated events. Income is only 6000 Euro.

We expect to have some money saved from the budget to roll over into 2020. The board members have discussed some extra programming for 2020. We will have 9 -10 thousand Euro for this. Then we will go back to the base standard budget in 2021.

- Budget proposal 2020 will be sent within a month by email, if you don't respond it will be accepted.

Question – How much will be available for national groups this coming year? Frank: 3000 Euro, 500 per group.

Question – Ruggero Ranieri: regarding why cost of mailing Italian proceedings aren't included in budget. Frank: Because DEMHIST hasn't paid back the Italian group yet, it is pending for end of 2019.

Comment – Remko: We invite members to apply for special projects. There will soon be the call for 2020. Money is available, so please respond.

#### • **Feedback to Kyoto conference:**

Carl – thanks friends from Japan for organizing and doing such a fantastic job.

Amilcar Vargas – new ICOM and DEMHIST member from Casa Batlló (Barcelona). Recognizes the need to contact and networking with other house museums. Thanks DEMHIST for providing the framework for this.

#### • **DEMHIST 2020 conference (Yvonne Ploum and Frank Louhenapessy)**

Proposal for 2020 conference in Netherlands for October 2020.

Theme: Sustainability in House Museums. The subject is on trend now, an important catch phrase across cultural and political discussions.

Partners – ICOM NL /Dutch Heritage Academy / National cultural heritage agency support from its sustainability budget. We are also considering talking to Iconic Houses and other IC committees.

The conference will be based in the historical city of Amersfoort in heart of the Netherlands. The city is the home to most of the country's heritage organizations. It is centrally located with a direct line from Schiphol and close to Amsterdam.

3 day conference Monday-Wednesday. It will include Keynotes speakers/ approx. 20 papers/ cultural programme of houses visits connected to sustainability. The conference will be held in a different venue every day.

2 day post conference tour – Amsterdam and castles. This depends on number of international participants (if mainly Dutch, don't need Amsterdam) we still need to decide this.

Day 1. Amersfoort.

Day 2. Baarn. Royal palace. about 15 minutes by train but if enough participants register, we can charter a bus for convenience. Keynote speaker then workshops. Afternoon in Spakenburg. If possible will return by boat to Amersfoort.

Day 3. Utrecht Central museum. Greenkey project. Visit historical sites such as Reitveld-Shroeder house. Evening event at Pope House.

Weather is unclear.

Look forward to comments and wishes.

Question – Grete Holmboe (Norway): I have been away from DEMHIST for 10 years. It is nice to be back, you are doing a marvelous job. I remember the discussion on HHM definition – can we make sure we see the wide range of types of houses? Frank: This will be part of cultural tours from 15.00-18.00 every day

Comment – Carl: Iconic Houses will have their 2 year museum conference in Rotterdam May 2020 – is it right to duplicate location?

Comment – Maria de Jesus Monge: In Malta (2006) we discussed sustainability relevance and financial sustainability, would be interesting to see feedback following the Malta conference.

Comment – Carl: It is harder for international visitors to get to more rural areas. It would be good to focus on this

Motion to confirm conference – Roberto Andreu. Approved

### • **Future Conferences**

Elsa passes around information sheets for Prague triennial 2022.

• We are looking for proposals for 2021. Please be in touch, talk to us, email us. Keep in mind that the National Committee needs to support the proposal.

• Comment – Elsa: It is an honour to have Maria de Lourdes Monges as a candidate for the ICOM executive board. Voting process still ongoing, I hope to have good news.

### • **Strategic Plan (Elsa)**

The current strategic plan was conceived by a previous board (2014-17). The strategic plan should be built upon by new boards and members. The current plan is a good base, and is the backbone of our work. Nonetheless, the current board is now considering new points:

#### • Current Strategic Plan:

- Annual conference and publication of proceedings
- encouraging new and existing national working groups
- supporting events on subjects of interest to DEMHIST
- training for young and new professionals
- strengthening social media platforms
- strengthening membership communication and engagement.

• We are looking to add networking and partnership and also building relationships with existing and new members. We don't always get immediate notification of new members because of issues with the with ICOM database. The Secretariat says that the DEMHIST database is not updated because the National Committees do not always send the information about new members to the Secretariat.

Comment – Timna: According to the new ICOM website you do not need to go through the NC to join an IC, it can be done in the Memberspace, so hopefully this problem will solve itself.

• (Elsa) In the Advisory council meeting, chairs were told that it is important for IC strategic plans to reflect ICOM's overall strategic plan. ICOM recommends that we strengthen outreach not just in Europe (83% of membership) but also in other parts of the world. Especially in category 3 and 4, the developing countries (Asia, Pacific, Africa). So this should be an ongoing goal for us.

- For better communication we would like the consent of members especially European members to share your emails with the board members. (Of course these will not be shared with a third party).

Comment – Roberto: On that note. I am taking many photographs throughout the conference. The photographs I have taken during the conference will be available to everyone, but I cannot send them as I do not have contact emails.

Comment – Timna: Perhaps we can create a post on the Facebook page saying that if you were at the conference and think you are in Roberto's photographs, please contact us for the link to the images (for private use only)

### • **Museum Definition Discussion**

Ruggero Ranieri: I understand the negative stance against the museum definition. What was the discussion that led to the vote, why was this decision made and by who?

Elsa: The new proposal of the ICOM definition vote is 7 September so it has not been approved or rejected yet. There was a reaction to this proposal and the way it was formulated and published. The DEMHIST board is also split on this. We have been receiving opinions from members because it was discussed by National Committees. There was also an Italian proposal. DEMHIST has to take a position.

Hilary Walker: Can you explain why that position was taken?

Elsa: The position is not decided yet. The rejection was to postpone the extraordinary GA in order to let committees discuss this. We received a letter from Peter Keller (ICOM Director) and Suay Aksoy (ICOM President) on 31 August that the vote would take place.

Gianluca: I followed plenary discussion. It is difficult to take a position but I think it needs to be rejected. At least postponed because the committee that proposed the definition were not representative of the museum population but of minority groups and they have a clear political agenda. It needs to be discussed with major institutions which was not possible because the proposal was pressed for a vote here at Kyoto. The new proposal is too ideological and political. It works against the museum law in Italy. It breaks with the definition that is the basis for the law. If this goes through it will cause many problems. Although we all work in Museums, we are not of the same opinion. There is a need for more discussion. The new definition mixes traditional museums with educational centers that generally do not have a collection. It is a place for discussion. The new definition must split these two institutions. In Italian law a museum is an institution with a permanent collection.

Kelsey Brow: I am new to DEMHIST and ICOM, I represent the Emerging Museum Professionals Network. We are against the definition. There is a problematical line on repatriation. It is also long and full of jargon that says very little. It has become clear to me here that the people who will work in the museums into the future are not here or represented in this discussion. How can we create a new definition going into the future without including the younger people in the discussion?

Elsa: Many National Committees are concerned about new proposal because national legislation is based on ICOM definition and the new definition doesn't include reference to in/tangible heritage, education, research, etc. Just vague concepts are left. In my opinion it is just suggestions for management mission or vision but not a real definition. They are just phrases strung together. It doesn't make us any different from any other cultural institutions.

- **Any other business**

Maria de Jesus Monge: Passes around postcard – museum journal has upcoming edition on "home". We should be involved. Elsa: I did not know about this.

Frank: Wants to bring attention to "icomfamily" Let's Connect website. A network to connect and find contacts while you travel and visit other cities/countries. Connecting together.

- Yoshihiro Nakatani: Welcome to Kyoto. Thank you for your cooperation with the conference tours and offsite visits. If someone hasn't paid, please contact me. We will meet tomorrow at Nijo-jo Castle 08.50.

- Elsa: next GA – we will see you next year at the Netherlands conference.

- There will be board elections next year. Start thinking if you wish to be a candidate. It is not easy but rewarding.

**Meeting adjourned.**