

Report for DEMHIST/CECA „Relevance 2017: Are we trying hard enough?“

ICOM young members grant receiver: Milja Stijović PhD

Belgrade, October 31, 2017

To the DEMHIST, ICOM, organizers, donors, directors and every person who was involved with The DEMHIST/CECA conference,

My professional interest in museology, musealisation of private life, theory of collecting, artists'

homes and historic houses are also the reason I applied for ICOM young members grant so that I can attend annual **DEMHIST conference**. First, I would like to express my deepest gratitude for the received grant. Having this opportunity was a big moment for me. Not simply because of austerity measures in my country and financial aspect, but principally because of the opportunity to visit (some of them for the first time) the houses and the collections I only read about.

I would like to express that it was such a good idea to merge CECA and DEMHIST members. I invite ICOM to that more often, because mixing experience from other committees is good for the ICOM community. London was a good place to be and held DEMHIST conference so I thank you for your good choice.

The organization of this joint conference was flawless. Girls from Relevance team gave their best for each of us to feel at home. They daily strived to meet our needs and stay aware of the obstacles. Mr. John Barnes was a great director of the course. I was really looking forward hearing keynote lecture by Mr. Vagnone and his lecture still rings in my head as a constant reminder. I already decided that his lecture will be my the focus of my text for DEMHIST website.

The programme of the conference was in some parts spectacular and in some parts not so much. Maybe it is my fault, but I did not want to submit paper because I did not whether or not I will receive the grant. So my suggestion to ICOM next time please bear in mind the deadline for submitting papers for some ICOM conference and results for grants. Because, some of us even if we pass with our papers, posters or other we would not have any money for conference fee, transport etc. This year I got my result after the deadline for DEMHIST conference and normally it was too late to submit a paper.

As a museologist, I missed narratives of private life. Historic houses are so much more than architecture and I thought it was a pity that only one aspect of these historic places was explored in details. My main complaint was that we had a little time in Oxford so we did not have enough time to see museums that were meant to be seen. We had two visits in a day and just half an hour. For such great examples of museums in the world, it would be better next time to organize tours and to do the talks in situ rather than at University. In conclusion, I would like to thank you all once again for this unique experience and I do hope that we will have an opportunity to collaborate in the future.



Milja Stijović, PhD.

Curator

Yugoslav Film Archive

Uzun Mirkova 1, Belgrade, Serbia

T: +381 11 262 25 55 ext 126

M: +381 62 889 23 18

@: milja.stijovic@kinoteka.org.rs