

## **CHAIR REPORT - 2019**

This report is based on the 2019 report submitted by Elsa Rodrigues, DEMHIST Chair until April 2020 to ICOM SAREC.

### **Activities – symposiums and conferences**

During 2019 the following events were held – these were either DEMHIST events or collaborations in which DEMHIST was a partner

#### **Historic Houses and Sites Summit, 3-5 February 2019**

«Sustainability: Governance, Relevance and the Environment»

Co-organized by American Alliance of Museums Historic House & Sites Network, American Alliance of Museums Environment and Climate Network in collaboration with DEMHIST.

Hosted by Vizcaya Museums and Gardens, Miami, United States of America

The summit was attended by 100 participants (25 participants ICOM members and 75 were Non-ICOM member). The programme combined keynote speakers, visits and workshops on conservation, programming, interpretation, technology and governance.

#### **Hygiene and Bathrooms in the House-Museums of the Twentieth Century: Objects, Spaces, Practices, 15th March 2019**

Commission of ICOM Italia, in partnership with Fondazione Adolfo Pini and FAI (The National Trust for Italy)

Hosted by Milano at Villa Necchi, Campiglio, Milan

The meeting was attended by about 100 people and was open to the general public. The purpose of this meeting was to cover examples that could not be shown in the previous meeting and to further discuss examples of recent restored toilets, restoration approaches and the outcomes from historical research.

There is a planned publication, compiling the research done and shared during this meeting and the previous one held in November 2018.

#### **Memorial Spaces in Museological Contexts, 2-4 May 2019**

The seminar was co-organized by Ducal Palace of Guimarães, Regional Directorate for Culture - North of Portugal, ICOM-Europe, DEMHIST, ICOM-Portugal and DEMHIST-Portugal with the support of Guimarães and Vila Nova de Famalicão municipalities.

Hosted by the Ducal Palace of Guimarães, Portugal

Themed around the ICOM Kyoto conference "Museums as Cultural Hubs: The Future of Tradition". The seminar concentrated on interpreting, programming, innovating Memorial Spaces in museological contexts. The goal of this joint event was to expand a national meeting to a wider audience and to explore common ground. The seminar combined paper presentations with guided tours.

About 110 participants took part. The activity languages were Portuguese and English with simultaneous interpretation provided at all times.

### **Forms of presenting historical narrative for a wide audience, 24 June 2019**

Event co-sponsored by DEMHIST and ICOM-Israel

Hosted by Khan Museum, Hadera and the Mizgaga Museum, Nachsholim

A one-day seminar at two locations exploring forms of presenting historical narrative for a wide audience with a concentration on new technology in traditional houses museum displays. This was the second Israeli national group meeting. The meeting was attended by 12 people.

### **"Museum and (in)visibility", 3-6 July 2019**

Event organized by the São Paulo Literary House Museums Net, in coordination with DEMHIST and ICOM Brazil, with the financial support of POIESIS and São Paulo Government.

The host institutions were Casa Mário de Andrade, Casa das Rosas – Espaço Haroldo de Campos de Poesia e Literatura and Casa Guilherme de Almeida.

120 people attended the meeting (about 20 were ICOM or DEMHIST members). The meeting promoted the exchange of experiences between institutions focused on novelists and poets, through museum professionals who work in literary house museums or through other attendees whose professional career is linked to this subject, such as museology students, archivists, librarians, language teachers and translators or through attendees coming from tourism, history and fine arts background. Both, academic and museum professionals, benefited from this exchange.

### **Palace Day: Gardens, 19 July, 2019**

Launched in 2016, #PalaceDay came back for a fourth year.

The event was organized by ICOM-France and ARRE (Network of European Royal Residences) and financially supported by DEMHIST and co-funded by the Creative Europe Programme of the European Union.

Individual and Institutional DEMHIST members took part of this digital initiative. It was an international, digital event that brought attention to Palaces through strategic social media (Twitter, Instagram and Facebook) targeting to raise awareness of heritage.

Participating palaces from the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, France, Hungary, Italy, Monaco, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Sweden, United Kingdom.

### **Las casas-museos como ejes culturales: el futuro de la tradición / Museums as cultural hubs: the future of tradition, 19-21 October, 2019**

Co-organized by DEMHIST-Mexico, Guanajuato, V National House Museums Meeting / V Encuentro Nacional de Casas Museo

Organized by Red de Casas Museo - México, DEMHIST and by ICOM-Mexico. Mexican National Group organized the III National Meeting in Guanajuato, Hosted by Casa Museo José Alfredo Jiménez  
Over sixty museum professionals and students (mostly from Mexico City and from Guanajuato) attended the event, mostly ICOM members. This meeting raised awareness of house-museums in Mexico and on the preservation of the traditions. Therefore, focused on local traditions, sustainability, on the security and conservation of house-museum collections. It also focused on Guanajuato local music, local gastronomy, local wineries and intangible heritage such as cemeteries.

**Tradiciones: preservar para o futuro / Traditions: preserving for the future, 18th - 19th November 2019**

The partner institutions were ICOM-Brazil and DEMHIST and the meeting was financially supported by DEMHIST and by the Cultural Government of São Paulo.

In October 2019, Brazilian cuisine was celebrated in a national festival. Taking part in this gastronomic event, the meeting that took place in São Paulo on the 18th and 19th November, explored and debate this intangible heritage in two thematic round tables on "How can House Museum preserve local traditions?" and inaugurated the exhibition "At the table: history of food in São Paulo".

On the first day of the XIII Brazilian meeting on Palaces, Houses Museums and Historic Houses attendees were hosted by Memorial América Latina e Países Iberoamericanos, a cultural centre designed by the architect Oscar Niemayer. On the second day the host institution was the Ema Klabin Foundation.

During both days there were thematic round tables and a workshop focused on "How valorise local traditions as identity and new opportunities for museums?" The meeting also explored institutions' engagement with their cultural landscapes, stimulating tourism, income generation, employment and local communities' development. Communications were delivered by Brazilian and Portuguese museum' professionals that focused on the responsibilities and role of house museum preserving intangible heritage, local culture, folklore, gastronomy, traditional dances, festivities of Brazilian territory as well as to see house museums as mediators with their communities, interpreting that intangible heritage.

The meeting was attended by 130 people mostly from Brazil but also attendees from Ecuador, Paraguay and Cuba. 13 participants were ICOM members from DEMHIST, ICOFOM and INTERCOM and 117 were NON-ICOM members.

**Publications**

DEMHIST launched four publications this year:

**1. The proceedings of the Milan conference "House Museums and Interpretation of the Cultural, Social, Urban Landscape"** were published in January.

Printed and PDF versions. The PDF file of this publication is available on the DEMHIST website <https://icom-demhist.org/> ISBN 978-92-9012-425-2. 164 pages.

**2. 10 anos de reflexão sobre Casas-Museu em Portugal.**

Editor: Direção Regional de Cultura do Norte - Ministério da Cultura (The Regional

Director Northern Culture - Ministry of Culture).

This volume gathers the presentations made by some speakers during the past 9 years of DEMHIST-Portugal annual meetings (from 2009 to 2018) but with a contemporary and critical reflection on the themes discussed on those annual meetings.

Authors: Ana Cristina Carvalho Mattei Faggin, Ana Mercedes Stoffel, António Nunes Pereira, António Ponte, Elsa Rodrigues, Maria de Jesus Monge, Rosanna Pavoni, Rosário Correia Machado and Rui Carreteiro.

Editorial Committee: DEMHIST-Portugal, Luís Sebastian, Direção Regional de Cultura do Norte, Maria de Jesus Monge. Editorial Coordination: Maria de Jesus Monge.

Number of pages: 104. Publisher: Direção Regional de Cultura do Norte. Collection: Património a Norte; Number: 1. ISBN Identifier: 978-989-54450-0-4. Electronic and printed version. Number of printed copies: 2000. The publication of this volume was made possible by the sponsorship of Direção Regional de Cultura do Norte / Portuguese Republic and was partnership between DEMHIST, ICOM-Portugal, DEMHIST-Portugal.

The PDF file of this publication is available on DEMHIST website.

### **3. Le cucine nelle case museo Kitchens in House-Museums**

edited by Rosanna Pavoni and Emanuela Scarpellini. 143 pages. This volume presents the proceedings of the conference Kitchens in House-Museums 16.10.2015, Foundation Adolfo Pini, Milano. With the contribution of DEMHIST. Book editor: Valentina Chiminelli. English / Italian version. The PDF file of this publication is available on DEMHIST website.

### **4. Encontros Brasileiros de Palácios, Museus-Casas e Casas Históricas: 2014-2017, v.4., (2018: São Paulo,SP).**

The publication covers the proceedings of the DEMHIST-Brazil meetings 2014-2017. 184 pages. This publication was supported by ICOM-Brazil and DEMHIST and it is available in a print and digital version. ISBN 978-85-67686-06-6. The PDF file of this publication is available on DEMHIST website.

## **Collaborations**

### **During 2019 DEMHIST collaborated with the following ICOM organizations:**

DEMHIST collaborated with the ICOM Regional Alliance: ICOM-Europe; with the ICOM National Committee: ICOM-Portugal, ICOM-Israel, ICOM-Italy, ICOM-Brazil, ICOM-Japan, ICOM-Netherlands and ICOM-Mexico; with the ICOM International Committees: CAMOC and ICAMT; with the Affiliated organization: EXARC.

### **During 2019 DEMHIST collaborated with the following non-ICOM organizations:**

DEMHIST collaborated with AAM (American Alliance of Museums) organizing the Summit on «Sustainability: Governance, Relevance and the Environment» that took place in Miami in February 2019.

## Annual Conference – Kyoto 2019

### Museums as cultural hubs: the future of tradition

The 2019 annual conference was hosted by ICOM Japan, Nijo-jo Castle, Murin-an

We would especially like to thank Yoshihiro Nakatani, Curator of Nijo-jo castle and DEMHIST board member for hosting, planning and facilitating the conference.

Having collaborated with so many national and international ICOM committees was a challenge but also contributed for its success because members from those committees could talk about common ground issues while also seeing museum issues from different angles. All in all, it was a fruitful conference.

Briefly, the Conference schedule was:

#### DEMHIST pre-conference tour (1 September 2019)

Visits to Chochikukyo House in Oyamazaki, Asahi Beer Oyamazaki Villa, Museum of Art and Sugimoto House in Karasuma, Kyoto

#### DEMHIST Session 1 (Paper presentations) 2 September 2019

Theme: Preserving the past creating the future

This session had 5 speakers moderated by Yvonne Ploum and 48 participants from all over the world.

#### DEMHIST Session 2 (Lightning talks) 2 September 2019

Theme: Museums as cultural hubs: the future of tradition in a local context

Moderated by Remko Jansonius. This session gave the opportunity to 6 DEMHIST members to introduce their work in a brief but highly prescribed format.

53 participants attended this session.

#### DEMHIST - CAMOC joint session, 3 September 2019

Theme: City and House Museums in the context of revising museum definition

3rd September, 13:30 - 18:00

Moderated by Timna Seligman for DEMHIST. This session explored the idea that museums are no longer merely about something but they are mainly for their cities and their communities.

10 speakers presented their papers and 80 participants attended this joint session.

#### Multi-Party session with DEMHIST, ICOM-Netherlands, ICOM-Japan and EXARC, 4 September 2019

Theme: "Large impact to by joining forces"

4 speakers (Kris Schiermeijer, Mijuki Yamaguchi, Joy Hendry and Gail Lord) were moderated by Léontine Meyer van Mensch. The lecturers focused on the historical Dutch-Japanese ties as backdrop to discuss how museums can function as hubs. The two countries have a four-century old connection in trade, military and knowledge exchange. However, the session looked beyond the museum sector and defined their ambitions for the future of museums and their role in society.

The key moment was the case study of Dejima that answered to the questions "What were the specifics of Dejima as cultural hub, centuries ago?" and "How do these connections still play a role today?"

74 participants attended this session.

DEM HIST - ICAMT joint session at Nijo-jo Castle, 5 September 2019 (morning)

The programme started with three paper presentations giving practical examples of technical aspects of building and collections conservation followed by a technical guided tour. The tour included the Ninomaru Goten Palace (six connected buildings of the shoin-zukuri architectural style designated as a National Treasure); the Painting Gallery where a few original paintings are exhibited; and to the Painting Panels Storage where all other original paintings are stored.

86 participants from both committees participated in this joint session.

Off-site visits, 5 September 2019 (afternoon)

Lunch was held at the classical Taisho Period residence of the Old Mitsui Family Shimogamo Villa. Then participants could stroll in the garden for a moment of relaxation and contemplation. The visits continued to Komai Residence and to Kita Residence, two modern houses, in different levels inspired by the European style. Finally, participants could enjoy a walk on the gardens of Murin-an and listen to Saki Yamada talking about the philosophy behind Japanese gardens and the care involved in the maintenance of Murin-an's garden. The conference ended with a reception hosted by Murin-an that included an artistic table of contemporary Japanese appetizers and toasts all around with sake

50 participants from DEM HIST and ICAMT participated in this off-site programme.

We are currently working on editing the conference proceedings for publication in a digital form.