

# NEWS letter

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INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF GLASS MUSEUMS AND GLASS COLLECTIONS

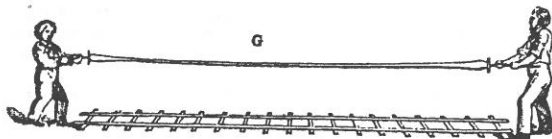
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September 1994

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15 - 21 May 1994  
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May 28 - June 3, 1995
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REPORT ON  
THE ICOM GLASS COMMITTEE MEETING  
GREAT BRITAIN 15 - 21 MAY 1994

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AND A BUSINESS MEETING

The ICOM GLASS Committee meeting was held in London this year, in order to celebrate the official opening of the new Glass Gallery of the **VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM**. A lecture was organized over 2 days (May 12 and 13) and many members of the ICOM attended to it.

After registration at the **MUSEUM OF LONDON** on Sunday 15 afternoon, and once we saw the recent excavated glass we had the first ICOM meeting (Monday, May 16) in the Glass Gallery of the **VICTORIA & ALBERT MUSEUM** where everyone could admire the new setting.

In the center of the alley, are the unavoidable masterpieces of glass history from Antiquity to nowadays. On each side, a chronological presentation of the most important aspects of glass realized by the big production centers. At the second floor, close rows exhibit objects intended to specialists and searchers. A huge and magnificent glass staircase, from Danny Lane gives an ultra contemporary touch to the gallery.

Elizabeth Esteve-Coll, the general manager, welcomed us there, very warmly, along with other curators gathered by Oliver Watson, curator of the Ceramics and Glass Department. Whereas Mrs. Olga Drakatova, curator of the Prague's Museum of Decorative Arts, introduced us to the "Bohemian Glass in the V & A Museum".

Lunch was served in the magnificent neo-Renaissance Poynter Room of the V & A Museum.

During the afternoon, different lectures were held, presenting the most recent researches of the ICOM members :

- . Wendy Evans and Veronica Tatton-Brown :  
"Dr. D.B. Harden, CBE founder member of ICOM Glass Committee - an appreciation"
- . Jan Kock and Torben Sode :  
"Traditional glass production in India"
- . Jorgen Hein :  
"A study with glass - The Neo-Renaissance study of Frederik VIII at Amalienborg Palace"
- . Hannelore Marschner :  
"Glass analyses of early 19th century Windows from Munich"

We all met for an evening party at **DANNY LANE'S GLASS STUDIO** in the northern suburbs of London where we had the opportunity of discovering and appreciating the large scale sculptures on which the artist and his team are still working.

On Tuesday, May 17 we went to Oxford and had a visit at the very rich and encyclopaedic **ASHMOLEAN MUSEUM**. This visit was wittingly led by Timothy Wilson and Martine Newby.

In the afternoon we were at Stourbridge admiring the ancient and modern collections made by the firm **STEVENS & WILLIAMS** (Royal Williams Crystal). The manager, Simon Williams, heir to a long known tradition in crystal of the firm, told us the saga of his family.

Roger Dodsworth, dynamic curator of Stourbridge led us in the **BROADFIELD HOUSE GLASS MUSEUM** directed by Charles Hajdamach, before presenting us the projects of extension of the museum and its moving to more spacious rooms at Himley Hall, a castle which was the seat of the Counts of Dudley.

Evening : short business meeting.

Elections were held during the course of the evening General Assembly and 3 new curators joined the Board of Directors : Jutta-Annette Bruhn, curator in the Corning Museum of Glass (Corning, USA), Catherine Vaudour, curator of Ceramics, Ironwork and Glass Museum of Rouen (France) and curator Gunnel Holmer, Smalands Museum Växjö (Sweden).

The proposal for the modification of the article 17, par. 4 of the ICOM statutes was accepted by the members with a strong majority (see our Newsletter, January 1994).

On May 18, we were still in Stourbridge, traditional city of british crystal firms, and Mrs. Rosemary Gorton, manager of **STUART CRYSTAL** organized a detailed visit of the firm while workers were still in, blowing glass (on a semi-automatic process) and cutting crystal with a grindstone. The old part of the factory has been turned into a museum with its oven and cone chimney.

We had lunch at **HARVEY'S WINE MUSEUM** in Bristol. This former spirits factory is devoted now to tourism of wine and wine accessories. We were welcomed at the **BRISTOL CITY MUSEUM** by Karen Walton who took us for a visit of the collections of Roman, Chinese and British glass.

We ended at Bath, with a pleasant visit of a museum-factory where they used to fill soda bottles.

Then we had a step at the famous John Wood architecture (the Assembly Room and the Town Hall) were we admired the famous cut glass chandeliers. A civic reception held at the Town Hall ended the day.

Back to London, on Thursday, May 19 we had a detailed visit of the different departments of the **BRITISH MUSEUM** : Egyptian Antiquities with Carol Andrews, Greek and Roman Antiquities with Veronica Tatton-Brown, Oriental Antiquities with Rachel Ward, Western Asiatic Antiquities with Simpson St John, and in the afternoon the Department of Medieval and Later Antiquities.

A reception took place at the end of the day at **CHRISTIE'S** by invitation of the European Ceramics Department.

On Friday, May 20 we left London and headed for BEDFORD CECIL HIGGINS ART GALLERY, which is a private home kept as it stood at the death of the art collector Cecil Higgins. Before welcoming us with a lunch, the curator Halina Graham revived for us the memory of the owners's daily life at the beginning of the XXth century.

Julia Poole, curator of Decorative Arts at the FITZWILLIAM MUSEUM in Cambridge University, presented us a diversified collection which ended a whole week of intensive visits covering all different aspects of the history of glass, from origins to today.

In the course of the dinner that was held at the crypt of St Mary, at Bow Church, Wendy Evans, curator in the Museum of London and Reino Liefkes, curator in the V & A Museum, were both warmly thanked for the excellency of the organization of this meeting.

The next annual meeting of the ICOM committee will to take place in La Granja at Segovia (Spain), an important ancient site devoted to glass and which is today the seat of the CENTRO NACIONAL DEL VIDRIO.

Catherine VAUDOUR  
Curator in the Museums of Rouen



Elevation of the furnaces, and interior view of the Glass-house and working operations.

Donald HARDEN in memoriam :

Those of us who knew Donald Harden personally fondly remember him as a good friend, colleague and teacher, but all who work on glass of any period owe him a tremendous debt. As we have heard, he was instrumental in setting up this committee, which remains to this day unique in ICOM being devoted to a single material. It is one of many memorials to the greatest glass scholar the world has ever known. His excellence was recognised by the dedication of volume 17 of the Journal of Glass Studies to him for his 75th birthday, by the presentation to him in 1983 of the first Rakow Award for Excellence in the History of Glass, and by a seminar held in his honour in London in 1987, organized by the Society of Antiquaries of London and the British Museum. The International Association for the History of Glass, as it is now known, also owes much to his energies. Founded in Liège in 1958 as the Journées Internationales du Verre, Donald Harden was the natural Choice to speak on behalf of congress members at its first conference held the same year. He went on to become Vice-President and then, in 1965, President of that organisation.

I find it incredible to think that he was already officially retired when I came to work with him at the British Museum in 1974. He devoted himself to that glass collection for about 17 years. The greater part of his working life, 1929-1956, was spent at the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford, which we will visit tomorrow. He then came to London as Director of the London Museum, overseeing its amalgamation with the Guildhall Museum and subsequent transformation into the Museum of London, Wendy's home. He officially retired in 1970.

I think few of us will ever know as much about the whole history of glass as he did, and it is no exaggeration to say that he has done more than anyone to establish it as a subject to study. Sitting with him while he went through envelopes of glass fragments brought in by an excavator, I was always impressed by the way he identified every little piece, and I still use the sketches he made for me to show the development of wine bottles. This is but one example of his great generosity in sharing his knowledge. I could continue for ages describing the amount of his work I use every minute I work on our glass collection, but perhaps the best and most significant recent memory of his is the occasion of his 90th birthday party at the Society of Antiquaries of London, when he reaffirmed his theories of the 1930s. Indeed, the more I work on our material, the more I appreciate his great wisdom.

The small inter-departmental exhibition, "Colour", that you will see at the British Museum on Thursday, is but a token reflection of Donald Harden's "Masterpieces", but I hope it will remind us of him and his work. Thank you.

Veronica TATTON-BROWN  
May 16, 1994

**PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME  
ICOM GLASS COMMITTEE MEETING  
LA GRANJA, SPAIN, MAY 28 - JUNE 3, 1995**

<b>Sunday 28 May</b>	Arrival and Accommodation
<b>Monday 29 May</b>	9.00 am Registration
	9.30 am Official opening ICOM Glass meeting Presentation of the National Glass Center Mr. Eliseo de Pablos, Director of C.N.V.
	11.00 am Pause
	11.30 am Visit of the Royal Glass Manufacture Visit of the exhibition "China Crystal"
	2.00 pm Lunch in La Granja
	4.30 pm Session "Historical spanish glass"
	5.30 pm Colloquy
	6.00 pm Visit to Segovia
	9.00 pm Dinner in Segovia
<b>Tuesday 30 May</b>	9.00 am Session "Today's glass sector situation"
	10.30 am Colloquy
	11.00 am Pause
	11.30 am Session "Activities for the promotion artistical and craftsmanship glass"
	Presentation of the "Avanced Telecommunication Services Bureau"
	2.30 pm Lunch
	4.30 pm Visit of VICASA's factory
	9.00 pm Dinner

<b>Wednesday 31 May</b>	9.00 am Project "Glass Formation in Europe"
	11.00 am Pause
	11.30 am Conference "The restauration technics for antique glass windows" Prof. Carlos Munoz de Pablos
	Presentation of the NAUMEJEAN Collection
	2.30 pm Lunch
	4.30 pm Conference "Glass through painting" Prof. Jose M. Fernandez Navarro
	6.00 pm Visit of the Riofrio Palace, Hunting Museum
	9.00 pm Dinner
<b>Friday 2 June</b>	Excursion to the Copper Drop Hammer of Navafria Castles Route (Pedraza, Castilnovo, etc...) Lunch at the Castilnovo Visit of Sepulveda
<b>Saturday 3 June</b>	10.00 am Final Session Departures

**PLEASE, FOR BETTER PLANNING OF THE MEETING, DO BE SO KIND AS TO  
RETURN THE ENCLOSED PRELIMINARY BOOKING FORM**

FINAL PROGRAMME AND FINAL BOOKING FORM WILL BE MAILED TO YOU  
JANUARY 1995

PRELIMINARY BOOKING FORM to be returned to :

CURATOR OLGA HEIN  
FUNDACION CENTRO NACIONAL DEL VIDRIO  
PASEO DEL POCILLO, 1  
SP-40100 LA GRANJA DE SAN ILDEFONSO  
SEGOVIA  
SPAIN  
Phone : 34 21 47 17 12  
34 21 47 18 37  
Fax : 34 21 47 15 72

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YES, I intent to participate in the ICOM GLASS MEETING at LA GRANJA,  
Spain, May 28-June 3, 1995

WITH : ..... person(s)

NAME : .....

INSTITUTION : .....

ADDRESS : .....

ZIP CODE AND CITY : .....

COUNTRY : .....

THE BOARD :

Since 1994 the ICOM GLASS board has been composed of the following :

Chairman : Jan Kock, Denmark  
Secretary : Margrit Bauer, Germany  
Sirrka Kopisto, Finland  
Reino Liefkes, United Kingdom  
Oliver Watson, United Kingdom  
Jutta-Annette Bruhn, U.S.A.  
Catherine Vaudour, France  
Gunnel Holmer, Sweden

Chairman : Jan KOCK  
Aalborg Historical Museum  
Algade 48  
DK-9000 Aalborg, Denmark  
tel. : (45) 98 12 45 22  
fax : (45) 98 16 11 31  
private tel. : (45) 98 38 31 07

Secretary : Margrit BAUER  
Museum für Kunsthandwerk  
Schaumainkai 17  
D-60594 Frankfurt, Germany  
tel. : (49) 69 21 23 55 17  
fax : (49) 69 21 23 07 03

Fig. 189.

