



NEWSLETTER 2000, ICOM INTERNATIONAL GLASS COMMITTEE

ICOM International Glass Committee Meeting in Växjö, Sweden, 15-20TH August 1999
Conference Topic: Designer and Craftsman—Industry and Community

Report by the Chairman

The ICOM International Glass Committee Meeting 1999 was organised by the Smålands Museum, Växjö, in Southern Sweden.

In total about 43 people (including our primary Swedish hosts) attended this meeting. Participants came from: Australia, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and the U.S.A.

Our hosts at the Smålands Museum were: Karl Johan Krantz (Director), Gunnel Holmér (Senior Curator), Johan Gustafsson (Senior Curator), Lars Thor (Head of Research), Klaus Bengtner (Assistant).

The Programme

Sunday, 15th August

Registration

Monday, 16th August

After an introduction to the history of the Museum, the formation of its collections and its importance for the community by the Director, Karl Johan Krantz, the first day of the conference was reserved for papers, tours around the Museum and a business meeting.

Keynote Paper: Gunnel Holmér (Smålands Museum), *Swedish Glass: Designer and Craftsman—Industry and Community:*

Since the 1910s, Sweden has developed a tradition in which the artist/designer is working in close collaboration with the glassmakers within the factory. At present, most designers have a studio within the factory, close to the space where the glassblowers work. Almost all the artist/designers have been trained as glassblowers. They prefer, however, to rely on the greater skills of the expert craftsmen. In this way, high quality design can be translated into mass production, while maintaining a strong crafts (handwork) tradition. Aesthetically sound handmade glass is what Sweden produces. Machine-made glass is mostly imported. Because of the labour intensive nature of this production, the factories are vital to the local communities. In fact the glass industry in Småland was deliberately set up in the late 19th and early 20th century, with the intention to provide work and income for this depressed area. Glasshouses are strategically spread over the area and linked to the towns by rail- and waterways. Still today, all the small villages are very much dependent on the glass industry.

Other papers:

Kaisa Koivisto (Finnish Glass Museum), *100 Years Cut Crystal in Finland—Industry, Craftsmen, Designers*.

Jörgen Schou Christensen (Kunstindustriemuseet, Copenhagen, Denmark), *Tiffany from a Danish Point of View*.

Jan Kock (Assistant Professor, Department of Medieval Archaeology, Aarhus University, Denmark), *The Big Bang: The Danish designer Jacob Bang*.

Carola Bohm (National Heritage Board, Conservation Department, Stockholm, Sweden), *A Replica of a Viking Age Beaker in the Historical Museum Collections*.

Lars G. Henricson (PhD student, University of Stockholm, Sweden), *Miniature handles on glass beakers 6-16th century—a contribution to research on amulets*.

Anders Reihner (independent glass historian, Sweden), *The Agnes Hellner Collection of Orrefors glass at the Stockholm University*.

Anne G. Hauberg (member of the Board, International Glass Museum, Tacoma, Washington, USA), *Upcoming: The International Glass Museum: A museum for the 21st century*.

Visits to the Collections

Gunnel Holmér and Johan Gustafsson offered guided tours of the various Galleries in the Museum. Special attention was given to the newly opened extension of the museum, the brand new displays and plans for the future.

Visit to the special exhibition “Cyklone” of the work of Ann Wählström. The exhibition was introduced by the artist herself.

Glass & Community

In the early evening there was a guided tour of the famous cathedral of Växjö, especially its glazing, glass sculptures and church furniture. This was shown as an illustration of how important a role glass plays in the life cycle of the local communities.

Glass & Politics

In the evening there was a splendid dinner at Teleborg’s Castle, hosted by the Mayor of Växjö. The Mayor of Växjö spoke about the importance of the Glass industry, but also of the Glass Museum, for Växjö and Småland.

Tuesday, 17th August

Glass & Industry

Visit to the Glass Research Institute at Växjö, with a lecture by Director Stellan Persson and guided tours and demonstrations around the various research laboratories. This institute performs a key role in the local glass network, but has a much wider scope. The Institute, which was founded in 1945, is working nationally and internationally with research, development, technical support and education for glass manufacturers. It represents 50 glass manufacturers from the Nordic countries, Great Britain, Ireland, the Netherlands, Portugal

and the US, and it is heavily involved in cutting edge developments such as lead-free substitutes for traditional lead-crystal glass.

Glass & Art

Excursion to Borgholm's Castle, which is positioned high on the cliffs overlooking the Kalmar Sound, to see the exhibition "Global Art Glass". We received a tour by the curator and organiser of the exhibition, Barbro Kambras. Stunningly displayed in this partly ruined castle, this exhibition showed a selection of the most exciting International contemporary glass.

While Smålands's glass industry relies heavily on its own strong design traditions and homegrown talent, there is a growing interest for international contemporary glass, which can only benefit local developments. It is the intention of the organizers to turn this exhibition into a triennial event. The success of the present exhibition would certainly justify this.

Glass & Politics II

Evening: Dinner at the Governor's residence. Again, the Governor expressed his deep interest in glass & showed us through the rooms of his residence, each of which is dedicated to a different glass factory and filled with examples of its production.

Wednesday, 18th August

Tour of the 'Kingdom of Glass', including visits to the most important glass houses in Småland.

Kosta Glassworks

Guided tour through the small factory museum, where historic examples of local glass from the 19th-century are displayed, as well as a large selection of Kosta glass from this century. After this we went through to the design studios, where Anna Ehrner, Ann Wåhlström and Göran Wärf, each have their own studio. They each presented their views on glass design and were available for discussion. At the moment most designers are pushed to design two whole new collections each year, to create & keep up with the demand for the latest fashion.

Lunch was offered to us by the young and dynamic Director of Kosta-Boda, Olle Marköö, who spoke about the importance of the designers and of the necessity to produce new designs every year.

-Visit to the factory shop, where the products are sold at reduced prices. We would see several similar shops during the day and apart from the possibility to buy glass and gather documentation, this proved to be a very interesting part of the excursion. Apart from the occasional tourist, these shops seemed to cater mainly for the local market.

Everywhere we went, we encountered a profound consciousness of the importance of Swedish (i.e. local) glass design.

-Afors Glassworks

This factory is famous for its painted glass. We saw the painting studio and visited Afors' most acclaimed artists Bertil Vallien and Ulrica Hydman-Vallien in their studios.

-Orrefors Glassworks

Guided tour around the factory museum, which has an impressively displayed collection of historic Orrefors glass. Designer Erika Lagerbielke led us through a special exhibition on Orrefors' most important current designers, while there was an opportunity for two smaller groups to visit the extremely rich factory archives, where all the original designs, as well as photographs and production details, are carefully kept under excellent conditions.

The former curator of this museum was part of our group and available for discussions. Visit of the Orrefors glass school. The term had not yet started, but we received a tour and presentation of the cutting & polishing workshop.

The last evening was spent in a glasshouse, with a "Hytt sill" dinner with local dishes, which are partly prepared in the glass furnace. After dinner/during dessert there was the opportunity to blow some glass.

Thursday, 19th August

Bus transfer to Stockholm.

Mediterranean Museum. This museum had recently moved into a 19th-century bank building and was still partly under construction. The collections of Roman and Islamic glass were on display and there was an opportunity to see the small glass *collection* in the vaults. Here we discovered a 19th-century display case with glazed drawers full of fragments of Islamic glass, all carefully labeled and annotated. The curator told us that this cabinet was organised and used by the famous scholar of Islamic glass Carl Johan Lamm (1902-1981).

National Historical Museum. Guided tour through the collections of glass which are now all in store, by Carola Bohm & Lars Henricson, both expanding on their earlier papers.

Friday, 20th August

The morning programme provided two options:

1) Visit and guided tour through the Agnes Hellner Collection at Stockholm University, by the curator Nina Weibull, who recently published an extensive catalogue of this collection. The collection was amassed by Agnes, wife of the famous Orrefors director Johan Ekman. This unique collection was collected 'hot from the furnace' in the years 1914 to 1973.

2) Visit with the glass artist Asa Brandt in her new studio glass museum, including a glassblowing demonstration.

Afternoon:

-National Gallery, guided tour round the collections and stores by curator Micael Erstell. The museum has a collection of historic glass, both National and International, and there was a special exhibition of the work of contemporary glassmaker Erik Dietman.

The meeting ended with a short trip by boat to the island Fjäderholmarna in Stockholm's archipelago. There, we had our last visit to the small glass workshop of young, independent glassmakers: Gunilla Kihlgren; Per B. Sundberg; Caroline Södergren; Åsa Lindström; Rolf Svartström and Annicka Jarring.

Per B. Sundberg works here only part of his time. He is also the youngest & one of the most promising designers for Orrefors.

BUSINESS MEETING

The Board:

Geoffrey Edwards, Director of the Gelong Gallery in Melbourne, Australia, who had been proposed as board member at last year's meeting, was now officially accepted.

<u>The board now consists of:</u>	<u>Elected:</u>	<u>Due to retire:</u>
Chairman: Reino Liefkes	1992 & 95	2001
Secretary: Jutta-Annette Page	1994 & 95	2001
Gunnel Holmér	1994	2000
Ingeborg Krueger	1995	2001
Wendy Evans	1995	2001
Anne Vanlatum	1995	2001
Geoffrey Edwards	1999	2005

Gunnel Holmér will have to step down as ordinary board member next year, when she will have served for two full 3-year terms. Both the Secretary and Chairman will retire from their positions in 2001, both then having served for 6 years.

In the past, it has proved difficult to elect new board members at the triennial meetings, due to the fact that we need at least 10% of our voting members present. The Icom rules allow us to have an election in the previous year and it was decided to do this at the meeting in 2000. The Chairman called for nominations for new members for the board, both ordinary and executive, to be elected at the upcoming meeting.

Venues for Future Meetings:

2000:

We received a late invitation from the Glassmuseum in Passau to hold the next annual meeting there and this was gladly accepted. However, there had not been enough contact with the local curators to have a useful discussion about the theme of this meeting. It was agreed that the Chairman and Secretary would choose a suitable theme at a later stage.

2001: ICOM Triennial meeting:

The 2001 Icom Triennial meeting & General Conference will be held in Barcelona. We also received an invitation from the Corning Museum of Glass, which will host the AIHV triennial meeting jointly with The Metropolitan Museum of Art in 2001. Icom stipulates, however, that the International Committees should do everything to meet with the Triennial meeting every three years. Although we do not have to decide about this now, the Chairman recommended the same approach as in 1998, when members had the choice to join either or both meetings at their own discretion, but that the main Glass Committee Meeting should be in Barcelona. We have not been in Barcelona before and there are many important things happening there, both in the field of old and contemporary glass. We would hope to have some more information about it at the 2000 meeting.

2002:

There are no invitations yet for 2002, but various themes and venues were discussed. Syria or Turkey were mentioned as possible venues and members with contacts there are urged to discuss

the possibilities with the current Chairman. The same goes for Russia, which has also been mentioned several times over the last few years.

The Chairman also received a reply to his letter to Janette Lefrancq of the Musées Royaux d'Art et d'Histoire in Brussels. She was positive about a possible meeting in Belgium and Northern France in 2002. The meeting could be devoted to the exciting new developments in the research of *façon-de-Venise* glass production in the region.

Icom Glass and AIHV:

Last year the problem of overlapping triennial meetings of Icom and the AIHV was discussed. The Chairman has since written to the Secretary General and President of the AIHV. They have discussed this at their last meeting in Venice. It was decided that the AIHV would follow the suggestions of the Icom Glass Chairman and move their meetings up by one year. Although it was too late to arrange this for 2001, the following AIHV congress is now planned for 2003.

Members:

The committee has continued to grow as a result of some successful meetings in places we had not yet visited, and where we do not have many members. Our total number of members has now risen from 155 in May 1998, to 172 from 29 different countries in May 1999. However, amongst these were only two new voting members and this is a matter of some concern, as we only receive support for our voting members. There is, however, not much need to worry, considering our good financial situation, and the fact that we compare very favourably with some other committees, where the vast majority of members can be non-voting. This reflects the strong focus of our committee on specialized curatorial/materials related issues. The non-curatorial committees attract far greater numbers of members. We do not want to grow too fast, but have to continue to look for new members in countries and areas where we are not or only badly represented.

Finance:

The Corning Museum of Glass has continued to support the mailing of our *Newsletter*, and as a result we have spent very little of the money allocated from ICOM Paris for our administration. We now have £1,453.19 in our British Bank account, which is administered by both our Chairman and our voting member, Jennifer Opie. As it is not our intention to build up a cash reserve, we should discuss at our next meeting what we could do with this amount.

URGENT! CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR NEW BOARD MEMBERS! URGENT!

At our next meeting in Passau we hope to elect at least one ordinary board member. At the same time we would also like to hold early elections for a new Chairman and Secretary. These will come into effect at the next triennial meeting in 2001 in Barcelona.

Please send nominations to the Secretary, Dr. Jutta-Annette Page at The Corning Museum of Glass, One Corning Glass Center, Corning, NY 14830, USA or present them at the next business meeting in Passau. Proxies submitted by voting members are permitted.

ICOM GLASS COMMITTEE MEETING IN GERMANY, OCTOBER 1- 5, 2000

BOHEMIAN GLASS, PAST & PRESENT: GLASS-MAKERS WITHOUT FRONTIERS



PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

Sunday 1 October:

Arrival, Registration at the Passauer Glasmuseum

1900 Official reception (the mayor of Passau and the Chairman of ICOM Germany will be invited for this).

Day 1: Monday 2 October

Bohemian Glass in the Passauer Glasmuseum:

0900-1200 Guided tours in the Passauer Glasmuseum with discussion
1400-1530 The afternoon programme will be devoted to papers if there are sufficient entries.
Evening: ICOM business meeting

Day 2: Tuesday 3 October

All day Lectures/papers at the Passauer Glasmuseum
Moderator: Reino Liefkes, Victoria & Albert Museum

Papers:

Dr Jan Mergl: Bohemian Glass and the Passauer Glasmuseum—300 years of high culture in Europe
Katharina Eisch: Border memories: Glass-maker's experiences around the German-Czech border
Susanne Frantz: Recent Research on the Origins of Czech Glass Sculpture.

The rest of the day is hoped to be filled with lectures by the participants.*

Day 3: Wednesday 4 October

Glass-making in Bavaria & Bohemia:

Historical glass manufactories and museums in the Bavarian and Bohemian Forest

- Responsible: Dr Jan Mergl, Tel 00 420 17 322 444 33, Fax 00 420 17 322 444 34 and
Frau Karin Ruhl, Tel 09926 940036
- 0830 Departure to Frauenau
1000 Guided tour through Glasmuseum Frauenau and Glashütte Eisch
1400 Departure to glass manufactories and museums in Unterreichenstein,
Bergreichenstein and Vogelsang

Day 4: Thursday 5 October

The glass collections in Coburg:

Responsible: Dr. Clementine Schack von Wittenau, Tel 09561 8790,
Fax 09561 87966

- 0800 Departure from Passau to Coburg
1400–1530 Guided tour: Kunstsammlungen der Veste Coburg. This museum has a
particularly large collection of Venetian-style glass, made in Venice
proper or in other countries *à la façon de Venise*.
1545–1700 Guided tour: Museum für Modernes Glas in Rödenthal

Day 5: Friday 6 October

The glass tradition in Thuringia:

- 0830 Departure from Coburg to Lauscha
0930–1100 Guided tour: Museum für Glaskunst Lauscha
1100–1500 Visit of a manufacturer of glass eyes and of decorations for Christmas
trees
1500–1900 Visit to several artists's studios
2000 Farewell dinner in Coburg?

* **Alternative Programme for Day 3: Wednesday, 4 October:**

In case there is an insufficient number of papers to fill a day and a half, we will visit Frauenau on Monday afternoon. In that case, the Wednesday programme will be expanded as follows:

Glass-making in the Bohemian forest:

Historical glass manufactories and museums in the Bohemian forest

Responsible: Dr Jan Mergl, Tel 00 420 17 322 444 33, Fax 00 420 17 322 444 34

- 0800 Departure to Bayerisch Eisenstein—Železná Ruda
0930-1000 Guided tour through museum in Železná Ruda

1000-1100	Excursion by bus through the old glass manufactories region
1100-1130	Glass manufactory in Annin (Annathal)—modern works of Rückl Glass
1200-1400	Guided tour through glass collection of Bohemian Forest Museum in Kašperské Hory Bergreichenstein)—19 th century, art nouveau Lötz
1430-1500	Visit of glass manufactory Lötz in Unterreichenstein-Klostermühle
1500-1700	Walk to the glass manufactory Vogelsang with old glass furnace from 18 th century
1800	Vimperk (Winterberg) Museum with glass collection (historicism), place of the former Meyr's Nephew Glass Manufactory

The **estimated** total cost for the meeting will be about DM 550.- for members; DM 700.- for accompanying persons. Included are:

- 4 nights at the Hotel Wilder Mann in Passau, incl. breakfast,
- all excursions
- transfer from Passau to Coburg
- two nights hotel in Coburg
- 7 x dinner

The conference will end in Coburg. Estimated train fares to and from the conference are:

- Munich-Passau: DM 34.-
- Nuremberg-Passau: DM 55.-
- Coburg-Munich: DM 55.-
- Coburg-Nuremberg: DM 34.-

CALL FOR PAPERS

Please submit your paper topic and an abstract of not more than one page by June 30th, 2000 to the chairman:

Reino Liefkes, Department for Glass and Ceramics, Victoria and Albert Museum, South Kensington, London SW7 2RL, fax: 00-44-20 7942 2071; e-mail: r.liefkes@vam.ac.uk

Papers should be relevant to the general theme of the meeting:
"Bohemian Glass, Past & Present: Glass-Makers Without Frontiers"

'Bohemian glass' should be seen as a case history to discuss wider issues relating to glassmakers travelling across national borders, or being restricted by them. General or more specific papers on Bohemian glass are especially welcome.

ICOM GLASS COMMITTEE MEETING IN GERMANY, OCTOBER 1-5, 2000

PRELIMINARY REGISTRATION FORM



NAME:

STREET:

CITY:

COUNTRY:

TEL/FAX:

EMAIL:

ACCOMPANYING PERSON:

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM BY JUNE 30TH TO:

Dr. Angela Kaiser-Lahme, Rotel Tours, Herrenstrasse 13, D-94104 Tittling bei Passau, Germany.

PLEASE NOTE:

A second mailing with the final programme of meeting will be sent to those only who submit the attached form!

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL IN PASSAU!!!

