



ICOM Glass International Committee NEWS LETTER 2015

The ICOM Glass International Committee annual meeting 2015

Report by Reino Liefkes, Chairperson ICOM International Glass Committee

For our yearly meeting we joined the 20th Congress of the International Association for the History of Glass (AIHV triennial meeting) taking place in Switzerland (7 – 13 September 2015).

It was a very long time ago since ICOM Glass joined up with the AIHV triennial congress, for its yearly meeting. It proved to be an excellent opportunity to catch up with glass colleagues from all over the world, to make new contacts and to hear about the latest in glass research. The congress was attended by over 250 participants from 32 countries. The participants were glass-historians, academics, museum professionals, archaeologists, scientists, collectors and dealers. The ICOM International Glass Committee, represented by 34 members from 14 countries, joined the AIHV programme. In addition we held our General Assembly on Tuesday 8th September in the evening, and we organised an additional day-trip to Zurich for ICOM members exclusively, on Monday 14th September.



Sunday 6th September

Arrival in Fribourg and ICOM International Glass Committee board meeting over dinner in the evening.

Monday 7th to Friday 11th September

Lecture programme and Posters:

There were four and a half days of papers, mostly in two or three parallel sessions, and two opportunities to see ca. 65 different poster presentations.

I mostly followed the sessions devoted to medieval and post-medieval glass. Ian Freestone gave a keynote paper to the entire Congress, about the state of affairs concerning the use of chemical analysis of ancient glass. This was a particularly lucid overview of what has been achieved over the last 30 years in this field. It included the latest developments, such as the use of isotope analysis to establish the geological age of some of the raw materials used, in order to establish the geographical origin of production.

Tuesday 8th September (evening)

ICOM Glass General Assembly (See report below).

Wednesday 9th September (afternoon)

After a morning of lectures we travelled by bus to Romont, to visit the Vitromusée. This Museum, which is housed in a 13th-century castle, opened its doors in 1981, as the Swiss Stained Glass Museum, but since the collection has widened to include other types of glass.

The two main collections are the stained glass collection, which spans from the medieval period until the present day, and the world's largest collection of reverse-painted glass. Much of the more recent stained glass is displayed in their original window-frames and for the earlier glass it is also possible to see the reverse side of many of the panels.



A special exhibition on Venetian and façon-de-Venise glass: *Reflets de Venise, 16th and 17th-Century Glass in Swiss Collections*, is the first to bring together the most important objects from Swiss museums and private collections. Two hundred glass objects were presented, in a sequence dating from the end of the 15th century to the beginning of the 18th. Hundreds of fragments of glasses, discovered in archaeological excavations in Switzerland, were innovatively displayed in trays of fine sand. They illustrate the kinds of Venetian and *façon de Venise* glasses that were in use in Switzerland. Excavations of glassworks in the Jura have furnished new evidence, that a particular type of Venetian-style glass was produced locally, in Switzerland. The exhibition showed some of the fragments of this type, as well as a whole series of surviving examples from Swiss collections.



Excursions:

Saturday, 12th September

Post-conference tour: Latenium in Neuchâtel, the largest archaeological museum in Switzerland. This is a brand new Museum with beautifully designed displays. There is a small private collection of ancient glass from Palestine on display. In the afternoon we visited the Roman museum in Avenches with a special exhibition of glass found at Aventicum as well as from other Roman sites in Switzerland. (Photograph right)





Sunday, 13th September

Excursion to Geneva to see the special glass collections at the Musée Ariana, the Swiss Museum for ceramics and glass, and to Lausanne, where we visited the Musée de design et d'arts appliqués contemporains (Mudac) as well as the cathedral of Lausanne.

At Musée Ariana we were greeted by curator Anne-Claire Schumacher. There were two glass-related exhibitions and we had the

chance to get a tour by the exhibition curators Stanislas Anthonioz und Ana Quintero Pérez. The exhibition „Le verre artistique de Saint-Prex“ showed the vessels from the glass factory in Saint Prex, which is situated at the lake Geneva and which had its heydays in the 1920s and 1930s.

The other exhibition presented a retrospective of the English artist Anna Dickinson, whose perfectly made vessels are sculptures, combining cast glass with elements of metal and other materials. (Photograph above)

After lunch we drove to Lausanne, where we had a guided tour at the Musée de design et d'arts appliqués contemporains (MUDAC). The museum, whose roots go back to a donation of 36 objects of glass and design is housed in a historic building opposite the cathedral, but is likely to change premises in the near future. The glass curator Bettina Tschumi guided us through the permanent exhibition and the special arranged show of recent acquisitions, which presented an international group of modern glass, mainly sculptural works and installations.

Afterwards Stefan Trümpler, director of the Vitromusée Romont, lead a tour through the cathedral of Lausanne, drawing attention especially to the large rose window of the southern transept, which was restored some years ago with assistance from the workshops of the Virtomusée. The rose window, comprising of over 100 roundels of which 60% are still original, dates from about 1235. It is one of the most important piece of stained glass in Switzerland.

Monday 14th September

We departed for Zurich for an excursion for ICOM Glass members only. Our first stop was at Affoltern am Albis where the Collection Centre of the Swiss National museums is located. We were welcomed at the Centre by director Markus Leuthard who give us an introduction to the facilities. The Centre is housed in the site if a former army base and provides spacious accommodation to the collections of all three Swiss National museums as well as conservation workshops, spaces for the preparation of exhibitions, documentation areas and the registrar's office. In total the collection holds one million objects and the majority is stored at this site. Two of the three buildings are fully climate controlled and they are so large that the staff rides mini scooters through the corridors. Curator and board- member of ICOM Switzerland, Dr Christine Keller Lüthi, who is responsible for the glass collections, showed us the stores where the collection is housed in fixed metal cupboards. The collection is organised chronologically, and each piece has a painted on museum number as well as a label with bar-code and basic - information to facilitate stocktaking and housekeeping. The Glass conservators explained how 30 % of the collection has been affected by some degree of glass disease and how the new storage facilities are designed to slow down its progress through the use of inorganic materials and climate control.



We also saw the Hallwyl Collection, the collection of Countess Wilhelmina and Count Walther von Hallwyl, comprising over 500 objects (furniture, paintings, textiles, silver, glass, ceramics and much more) which belonged to the late residents of Castle Hallwyl, plus several thousand objects excavated from the grounds surrounding the castle. This includes huge amounts of glass fragments, dating from the 15th to the 19th century, which have never been properly catalogued. The collection went on display in 1927 and many of the more substantial fragments have purpose-made metal wire mounts dating from this period. These mounts are kept as historically interesting interventions as the Museum is planning to recreate the original displays in the renovated building in 2018.

After this we left for the Toni Areal, a huge University campus, combined with a temporary design museum and huge museum storage facilities, including large multi story visible storage areas, open to the public. Housed here, are the study collections of the Museum für Gestaltung, which includes the reserve collection of the former Kunstgewerbemuseum, which is now housed in the Museum Bellerive. The glass collection is stored in electronically operated mobile storage units and organised chronologically. The main

collection areas are historicism, art nouveau and early 20th-century design as well as glass for daily use. We were shown around by Collection Conservation, Franziska Müller-Reissmann.



In the afternoon we visited the National Museum of Switzerland, which is located next to the Central Station. Chief Curator Dr Heidi Amrein told us about the extensive ongoing renovation which is planned to be completed in 2021. She also allowed us a preview of the building site of the brand new exhibition building, which will also contain a library with study facilities for the photography collection.



After that, Christine Keller, showed us the new permanent display of decorative arts and sculpture. There are two showcases with glass on display, one with glass made in Switzerland, the other with imported glass used in Switzerland. The Museum only collects glass with Swiss contexts. Beer bottles made and used in Switzerland are collected, for instance, but not much contemporary art glass. An exception to this, is a large vase by Philip Baldwin and Monica Guggisberg which we saw in the morning at the store at A at A.

With this visit, the ICOM / AIHV glass meeting in Switzerland came to an end.





Report of the ICOM Glass General Assembly 2015 Fribourg, 8th September 2015

Opening of the meeting.

The Chair expressed thanks to the organisers and spoke about the importance of our joined meeting with the AIHV. Although our two organisations have many overlapping aims and members, there have been very few formal contacts over the past 25 years. The meeting in Fribourg gives the opportunity to renew and build new contacts and relationships and exchange news, developments and ideas.

Agenda

1. ICOM Glass 2014/15 annual report and subsidy

The Chair reported on a successful annual meeting in 2014 in Craiova, Romania, organised by Simona Gheorghe from the Oltenia Museum, 6 – 10 October. There was also a pre-conference tour to Bucharest. The meeting was generously sponsored by the Oltenia Museum in Craiova and by Icom Romania. For details of the meeting see: http://network.icom.museum/fileadmin/user_upload/minisites/glass/Chairman_Report_2014.pdf

On the basis of our 2015 Activities Report, submitted to ICOM Paris, we received an annual support grant of Euro 3,246 for 2015.

In the report we reported on the meeting in Craiova and on the forthcoming ICOM Glass study trip to India, organised by Jan Kock and Torben Sode. We reported the publication of the 3rd Issue of *Reviews on Glass* and our 2014 annual *News Letter*.

We also reported that we had offered a Euro 500 bursary for a young person (< 35) to attend our meeting in Craiova, but we receive no expressions of interest for this.

The board proposed that we should use part of the money allocated by ICOM Paris to grant two subsidies of up to Euro 500 to help young persons (< 35) or members from category 3 & 4 countries to attend the 2016 General Conference in Milan. We should advertise these very clearly on the ICOM Website. This proposal was accepted.

Finally we reported on the ICOM Glass archive held by our former Chair Jan Kock. We have been in contact with the Rakow Library of the Corning Museum of Glass, who have agreed in principle to take on this archive. As they will not be able to digitise this in the foreseeable future, we have decided to allocate some funds to the scanning of back copies of our News Letter from this archive and attach these in electronic form to our ICOM Glass Website. Once this has been completed we will transfer the archive to Corning.

2. ICOM Glass board and 2016 elections

Currently the ICOM Glass Board consists of:

Chair: Reino Liefkes, elected in 2013

Secretary: Teresa Medici, elected in 2013

Treasurer: Sven Hauschke, elected in 2013

Milan Hlaves, elected in 2013

Elvira Schuartz, elected in 2013

Paloma Pastor, elected in 2013

Katarina Benova, elected in 2013

Anne Vanlatum, elected in 2010

Kaisa Koivisto, elected in 2010

The full board is up for election next year, during the Milan meeting. All members, with the exception of Anne and Kaisa can be re-elected. ICOM Glass will put out a call for nominations for new board members on our Website and by email in February-March 2016, at least four months in advance of the elections in July.

3. ICOM Glass Meeting 2016, provisional program

During the ICOM General Conference in Milan, Italy, from 3 to 9 of July 2016

Maria Grazia Diani, Teresa Medici reported on the provisional program for the ICOM Glass meeting during the ICOM General Conference in Milan.

We discussed the desirability of organising a shared meeting with ICDAD and it was generally felt that this was a good idea and that this should be taken up by our Chair, with the ICDAD Chair.

4. ICOM Glass Meeting 2017/2018

We had hoped that ICOM Glass could organise its 2017 meeting in St. Petersburg, Russia. This date proved not ideal for our colleagues in the Hermitage, who suggested that we should meet there in 2018. We all understood these reservations for 2017 and decided that we would very much like to go to Russia in 2018 instead! The Chair will explore this further with the

Hermitage. It was suggested that we should invite our colleague at the Hermitage, Elena Asimova, to the meeting in Milan and give her financial support of up to Euro 1,000 for this. This would give her the opportunity to talk to us about the possibilities of such a meeting.

5. Call for ideas for ICOM Glass Meeting 2017

We discussed the alternative possibilities for a meeting in 2017. The option for a meeting in northern France and possibly Belgium was raised as we could visit the then newly opened museum in Sars-Poteries. Our Board Member Anne Vanlatum would be happy to welcome us there. She agree to look into the other possible destination we could combine this with. Charleroi is not far, and Liege is just under two hours away. Lommel, where we could visit 'Het Glazen Huis' Museum might be too far.

6. Magazine "Reviews on Glass" and website

Paloma Pastor, the editor of "Reviews on Glass" and of our Website, thanked all contributors of the journal, especially the authors. She also thanked to Teresa Médici and Jane Spillman for their unconditional support. Issue 4 will be published at the end of January 2016, with a selection of lectures from the Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Slovakia meetings of 2013. Issue 5 will be edited in late 2016 or early 2017. In this issue, we will include the papers of the Romanian meeting in 2014, thanks to the collaboration of Simona Gheorghe.

The Chair thanked Paloma Pastor for her commitment and all the hard work she has put into the Website and into our magazine *Reviews on Glass*.

7. Financial report

Sven Hauschke reported about the financial situation of ICOM Glass:

Opening Balance 31/12/2014	€ 16,566.52
A. INCOME	
Year-2015 income	
ICOM Funding 2015	€ 3,246.00
TOTAL INCOME	€ 3,246.00
B. EXPENDITURE	
Year-2014 expenses (paid in January 2015)	
CYAN Proyectos Editoriales (Layout Reviews on Glass)	€ 847.00
Postage TERESA MEDICI	€ 45.30
FACTURA 144273 (Printing <i>Reviews on Glass</i>)	€ 2,117.50
REFUND V&A CERAMICS (Travel Reino to Paris)	€ 608.50
POSTAGE	€ 34.20

Year-2015 expenses

Banking fees till June 2015

€ 11.10

Accommodation (Travel Teresa Medici to Paris)

€ 649.89

TOTAL EXPENDITURE

€ 4,313.49

Closing Balance 01/09/2015

€ 15.499,03

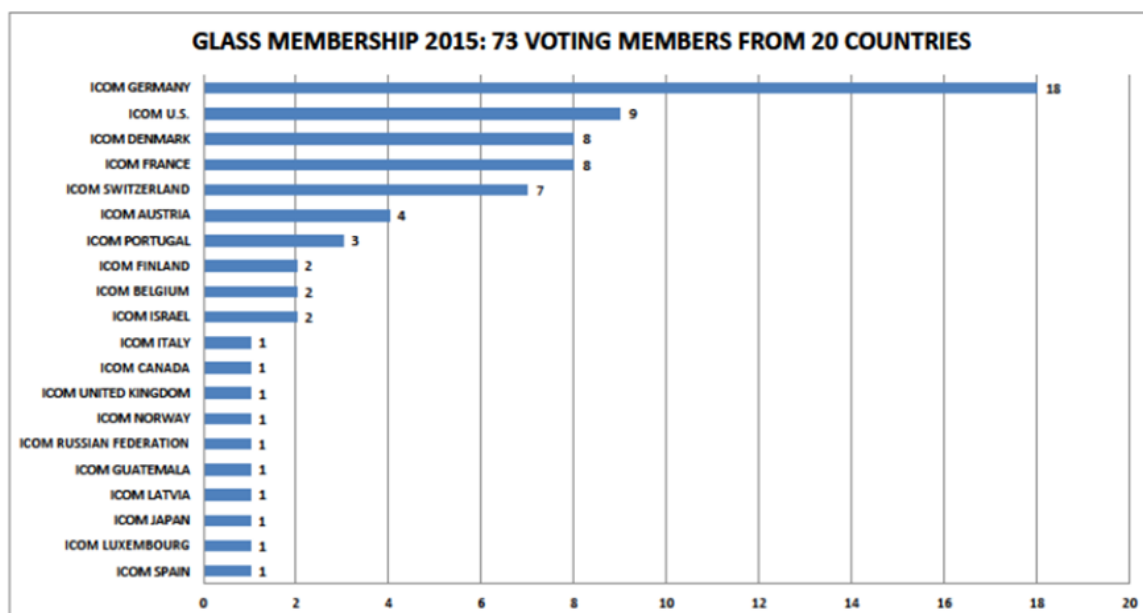
8. Membership update

Teresa Medici reported about membership at 31 of August 2015.

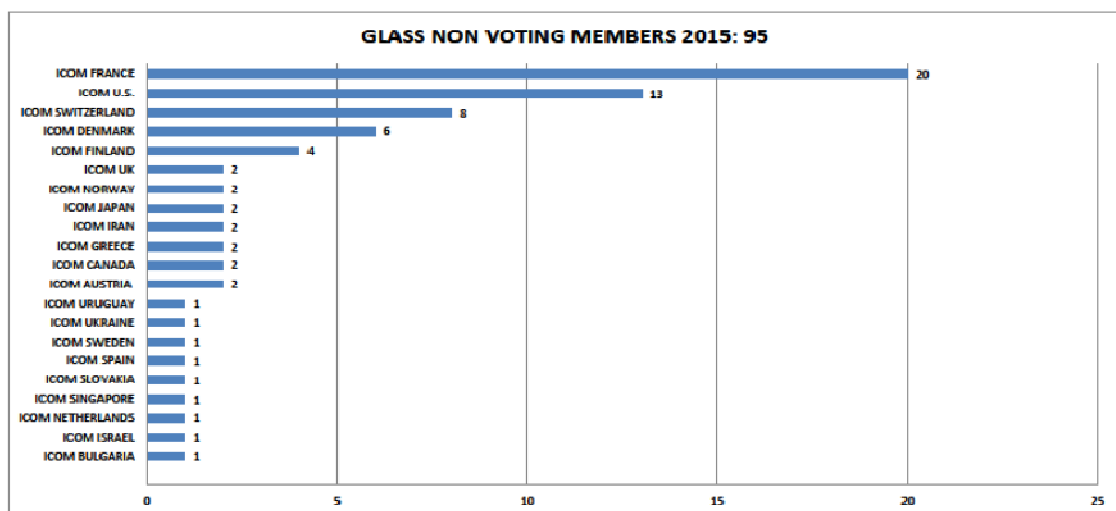
From the membership directory provided by ICOM Paris, GLASS at the moment has 73 voting members, 95 non-voting members, and 10 institutional members.

That means that we can count on around 200 people interested in our committee. The data is not different from what was recorded for 2014 (97 individual members, 12 institutional members, and 102 non-voting members at the 31.12.2014).

It is to be underlined that the online database of ICOM couldn't mirror the reality in real time: it depends on the information provided by the national committees, and it is evident that this information is not delivered with regularity, so some members are probably missing from these reports.



GLASS INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP 2015: 10 MEMBERS		
1	ICOM BELGIUM	MUSÉE DU VERRE DE CHARLEROI Marcinelle
2	ICOM FRANCE	MUSÉE LALIQUE WINGEN-SUR-MODER
3	ICOM FRANCE	MUSÉE-ATELIER DÉPARTEMENTAL DU VERRE SARS-POTERIES
4	ICOM FRANCE	MUSÉES BACCARAT PARIS
5	ICOM GERMANY	ALEXANDER TUTSEK-STIFTUNG MÜNCHEN
6	ICOM GERMANY	KNAUF GIPS KG KNAUF-MUSEUM IPHOFEN Iphofen
7	ICOM GERMANY	STIFTUNG RESIDENZSCHLOSS BRAUNSCHWEIG, SCHLOSSMUSEUM BRAUNSCHWEIG
8	ICOM NETHERLANDS	CONTINIUM - DISCOVERY CENTER KERKRADE Kerkrade
9	ICOM PORTUGAL	MUSEU DO VIDRO DA MARINHA GRANDE Marinha Grande
10	ICOM U.S.	THE TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART TOLEDO



9. AOB

Sven Hauschke talked about the idea of placing on our ICOM-Glass website a glass-directory with addresses and contact details of international glass related museums, collections and institutions. A beta-version should be presented at our next meeting in Milano 2016.

We also talked about the possibilities of creating an ICOM Glass Facebook page. Our member Amy McHugh kindly offered to do this for us and this.

Closing of the ICOM Glass General Assembly 2015



ICOM GLASS Scholarships 2016 Announced

We are happy to announce the winners of the ICOM GLASS Scholarships 2016 for the attendance of the ICOM 24th General Conference in Milan, 3-9 July 2016.

They are as follows:

- **Dr. Rasha Taha Abbas Hamad**, Lecturer in Restoration of glass objects at the Department of Conservation, Faculty of Archaeology, Fayoum University, Egypt.
- **Mr. Aleksandar Jasarevic**, PhD student in Archeology and Heritage, and Curator archaeologist, Archaeology department, Regional Museum in Dobo, Bosnia & Herzegovina.

We are looking forward to welcome Rasha and Aleksandar in Milan and to learn about their investigations!



ICOM Glass meets the AIMA - International Association of Agricultural Museums

Since we met at the ICOM Advisory Committee Meeting in Paris in June 2015, GLASS has been enjoying the opportunity to network with AIMA, the International Association of Agricultural Museums, one of the 21 ICOM Affiliated Organizations. Here is a short piece of introduction to the Association, kindly provided by AIMA Secretary Cozette Griffin-Kremer.

Many museums of agriculture, food and rural life have glassware in their collections and are keenly interested in both its conservation and how to "interpret" using or referring to such often delicate artefacts. They also host contemporary artists working in many media and we would be pleased to make contacts for shared knowledge, best practices and projects. First, let's make acquaintance!

The **AIMA** was founded in 1966 at the first conference of agricultural museums held in Prague (then Czechoslovakia), with the purpose of educating the public about the significance of agriculture to human society, explaining the many ways that agriculture has evolved through time, and facilitating dialogue between museums across the globe about agricultural topics and discoveries. It is governed by an international Executive Committee, elected to their terms by AIMA members, and meets every year to plan activities including the Triennial Congress, next to be held at the National Agricultural Museum of Estonia in June of 2017.

Agriculture is in the headlines worldwide, as friend and foe of humanity and the planet.

AIMA members strive to show there are many nuances between these opposite attitudes and that agriculture has shaped human beings socially, culturally and economically. There is no “one” agriculture. The very word invites a multitude of definitions and bears witness to profound diversity in practices. The shapes it takes in any society demonstrate human ingenuity, resilience and aspiration. When it “took off”, along with early industrialization in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, it delivered one of the major shocks to world production with increases in yields, the effects of which are still being measured today in enormously increased food supplies and drastic impacts on ecosystems. What future is agriculture shaping for us today and how can we shape our agricultures to insure it contributes to the common good? AIMA has endeavoured to address these and many other questions.

Visit the AIMA website at <http://agriculturalmuseums.org/> and contact us for more information.

Merli Sild, President
Cozette Griffin-Kremer, Secretary General
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