

ICOM GLASS INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE NEWSLETTER 2016

The ICOM GLASS International Committee Activities 2016

(Report by Reino Liefkes and Teresa Medici, Chairperson and Secretary ICOM GLASS)

The main event of 2016 has been our **ICOM GLASS Annual Meeting** as part of the ICOM 24th GENERAL CONFERENCE taking place in Milan (Italy), from the 3rd to 9th of July 2016. In addition to the general ICOM plenary sessions, we organized an exciting ICOM GLASS programme, including three paper sessions, several off-site activities, and two ICOM GLASS-members-only excursion days. We had 37 participants (ICOM members: 30; Non-ICOM: 7) from 17 different countries, including 5 non-European countries. For the first time we had representatives from



Egypt (who received our ICOM GLASS grant to young members and members from category 3 countries), Iran, and Guatemala.



Two paper sessions with presentation of ICOM GLASS members explored the themes: “Glass Museums and Cultural Landscapes” and “Updates on glass collections and glass conservation”; they included the following contributions:

1. Paloma Pastor (Spain): The Technology Museum of Glass in La Granja and its social and cultural environment.
2. Jože Rataj (Slovenia): Glass production and its influence on the cultural landscape of Slovenia.
3. Milan Hlaveš (Czech Republic): Czech Glass and the Cultural Landscape.
4. Regina Lara Silveira Mello, Marcello Kammer (Brazil): From Murano to Brazil: the path of Mario Seguso.
5. Teresa Almeida (Portugal): New cultural approaches to glass museums.
6. Elena Anisimova (Russian Federation): The history of the Hermitage collection of Western European glass.
7. Silvia Ferucci, Lamberto Tronchin (Italy), Glass conservation, an intricate matter: three situations, different answers but the same thread.
8. Rasha Taha (Egypt), Study the deterioration resulting from burial environment on archaeological glass of Fayoum Egypt excavations.

Aleksandar Jasarevic (Bosnia and Herzegovina), who was going to speak on medieval glass collections from Bosnia and Herzegovina, had to cancel his participation.

As the third session, we organised a **joined session of ICOM GLASS and ICDAD**, with the theme “Cooperation and sharing in the decorative arts”. During this session, both members of ICOM GLASS and ICDAD presented stimulating papers:

1. Danielle Caluwé, Annemie De Vos (Belgium) : Reflections on glass. The historical and archaeological glass collection of the Antwerp Museum aan de Stroom|collectie Vleeshuis, Antwerp (Belgium).
2. Helena Koenigsmarková (Czech Republic, Chair of ICDAD): Light and Glass Society – Research and Cooperation on the History of Glass Chandeliers.
3. Regina Lara Silveira Mello, Paulo Eduardo Barbosa (Brazil): Gomide’s stained glass windows installed at Parque da Água Branca’s Entrance Portal.



4. Nirit Shalev-Khalifa (Israel): The Museum and the Arts and Crafts Workshops: Interaction and Renewal of Local Tradition in the Local Landscape.
5. Reino Liefkes (UK, Chair of ICOM GLASS): The Triumph of Amphitrite: a story of resurrection through creative partnerships.
6. Mateja Kos (Slovenia), Modernist glass in Slovenia: an exhibition (15. 4. 2017 – 30. 9. 2017).

Members from both committees welcomed the opportunity of this joined meeting to interact and exchange ideas with each other.

The meeting in Milan also provided a chance to strengthen the contacts with the Italian Committee of the *International Association for the History of Glass – AIHV* and to organize a dense programme of **curator-led museum visits** including to two exhibitions especially prepared for the ICOM GLASS meeting.

On the 4th, at the end of the day, we had a private tour of **Museo Poldi Pezzoli** led by curators Lavinia Galli and Federica Manoli. The Museum, which is presented like a 19th-century historic private house, has a small but important collection of Venetian and ancient glass, which is partly displayed in its original location and cases. In the evening, we attended the Plenary Opening Party at **Castello Sforzesco** during which ICOM GLASS members enjoyed an exclusive visit to a small exhibition of a collection of contemporary glass recently donated to the Museum, with director Claudio Salsi, curator Francesca Tasso, and Cristina Tonini of the Italian National Committee of AIHV.



The ICOM GLASS programme continued **the following day (5th)** with a visit to the **stores of the Museums of the Municipality of Milano**, where most of the glass collections are kept. Curator Francesca Tasso had selected a few highlights from the collections on tables in the store but we had the opportunity to glance into all the cupboards containing glass objects and request some additional objects for close inspection.

After this visit, we took the Metro to the **Museo Civico di Storia Naturale** (Natural History Museum) to view the temporary exhibition “Glass from the Bersellini collection”. Specially organized and sponsored by the Italian National Committee of AIHV for the ICOM GLASS meeting, this exhibition featured a private collection of 20th-century sculpted glass animals made in Murano, displayed amongst the natural history displays. Curators Silvia Ciappi and Giorgio Teruzzi were present to give a tour of the exhibition. The visit was followed by an excellent social dinner for ICOM GLASS members.



On Wednesday 6th July, later in the morning we visited the **Bagatti Valsecchi Museum**, with curator Lucia Pini and Cristina Tonini of the Italian National Committee of AIHV. The Museum is a very fine example of an important 19th-century collection of decorative arts, formed to furnish the Neo-Renaissance style house of a wealthy Milanese collector. The glass objects, mostly of Venetian origin and dating from the 16th to the 19th century, are displayed in their original setting, often combined with Italian tin-glazed earthenware. The display has no artificial lighting, but, as a special privilege, the curator opened the cabinets for us and allowed us to view the

objects by torchlight.

During the lunch hour, ICOM GLASS travelled by metro and train to **Pavia**. There was a visit to the glass collections at the Musei Civici, with Maria Grazia Diani (Chair of the Italian National Committee of AIHV, Roman glass) and Cristina Tonini (Venetian and modern glass).

After our return to Milan, we visited an evening opening event at the **Fondazione Prada**, a brand new Museum for contemporary art.



On Thursday 7th July ICOM GLASS travelled by coach to **Turin**. In the morning, we visited the Museo di Antichità (ancient and archaeological glass) with archaeologist Simone Lerma of the Italian National Committee of AIHV and curator Patrizia Petitti. In the afternoon, we went to Palazzo Madama; here, curator

Simonetta Castronovo showed us the renovated permanent exhibition of the glass collections and the storerooms, where mostly Venetian and gilded and painted glass are preserved. At Fondazione Accorsi, curator Luca Mana led the visit.



After our return to Milan in the evening, we visited with the glass restorer Silvia Ferucci, Italian National Committee of AIHV, the temporary exhibition **“Restituzioni 2016. La bellezza ritrovata”** showing works of art from Italian public collections recently restored thanks to the support of Intesa Sanpaolo, including a group of outstanding Venetian enamelled glasses from Padua; Gallerie d’Italia offered us a light dinner.

On Friday, July 8th, we organized an ICOM GLASS-members-only EXCURSION DAY to **Gardone Riviera and Brescia**, by private bus.

At Gardone Riviera (western shore of Garda Lake), after a warm welcome by the director Giordano Bruno Guerri, we visited Il Vittoriale degli Italiani, the astonishing residential complex build by the writer Gabriele D’Annunzio (1863-1938), an icon of the Italian cultural and political environment of his time. His former private apartment La Prioria hosts a substantial collection of early 20th century glass and ceramic. In Brescia, we went to see the Museo di



Santa Giulia, hosting Roman glass collection and an exhibition of the Venetian glass collection specially organized for the ICOM GLASS meeting; director Luigi Di Corato and curator Roberta D’Adda received us, and glass specialist Cristina Boschetti led the visit. They gave us also the possibility to visit the recently reopened archaeological area of the Roman age *Capitolium*, with outstanding frescos dated to 1st century BC. A farewell dinner in Brescia concluded the day.



Luisa Martínez (see Minutes below).

On the 4th of July, we held our **ICOM GLASS General Assembly** including ICOM GLASS Elections (Board and Chair). Reino Liefkes (UK) was re-elected as Chair of ICOM GLASS while three sitting board members retired, and a new member was accepted into the board. The board 2016-2019 is composed as follows: Chair Reino Liefkes, Secretary Teresa Medici, Treasurer Sven Hauschke, Members Katarina Benova, Elvira Schuarts, Paloma Pastor, María

The new issue of our online journal **Reviews on Glass 5, 2016 (ISSN: 2227-1317)** is currently (March 2017) in the last phases of preparation; it will be posted on the ICOM GLASS webpage (<http://network.icom.museum/glass/our-publications/journal/>). In this issue, we publish a selection of the papers presented at the ICOM GLASS 2014 annual meeting in Romania, hosted by the Oltenia Museum in Craiova and organised by our member Simona Gheorghe. We present contributions about Slovenian reverse glass painting and contemporary glass; stained glass in São Paulo; the prestigious Coburg Glass prize 2014; and the European Glass Experience (EGE), a European contemporary glass art project that provides young artists the opportunity to show their works internationally. News and book reviews are also included.

Our **webpage** <http://network.icom.museum/glass/> in English, French and Spanish is updated regularly.

We opened also an **ICOM GLASS Facebook** page <https://www.facebook.com/International-Committee-for-Museums-and-Collections-of-Glass-623673021107248/>

As a measure taken to safeguard the **ICOM GLASS archives**, we transferred them to the Corning Museum of Glass (Corning, NY) for appropriate conservation and accessibility. The Rakow Library will keep them safe and available for study in their reading rooms. Prior to this transfer, we have allocated some funds in order to scan relevant parts for inclusion on our Website.

Throughout the year, our members provide **expertise** to colleagues in Museums around the world.

HIGHLIGHT: During 2016 we gave special attention to our webpage. The special activity concerning **the digitalization of the ICOM GLASS archive**, started in 2015, allowed us to digitize back copies of our past Newsletters as well as programs and list of participants of our past meetings, and post them on our website (<http://network.icom.museum/glass/our-publications/annual-newsletter/> and <http://network.icom.museum/glass/annual-meetings/previous-conferences/>). We have an almost complete series of Newsletters from 1985 to the present, and are now seeking to complete this run, which will lead to the proper documentation and improved understanding of the long history of our Committee.

We opened two new sections of the website dedicated to **Specialised Glass Museums** and **Museums with significant glass collections**, providing names and webpages. The lists include at the moment 25 entities, most of them institutional members of ICOM GLASS or working places of individual ICOM GLASS members.

Such significant results are due mainly to ICOM GLASS members Jan Kock, for the digitization of the archives, and Paloma Pastor, for editing and improving the website.

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**Minutes of ICOM GLASS General Assembly 2016,
Milan, Monday, July 4th, 17.15-18.15**

Opening of the Assembly

Reino Liefkes called to order the Assembly on July 4th, at 17.15. The Chair expressed thanks to the organisers of the 2016 Meeting and presented the Agenda.

Agenda:

1. ICOM GLASS 2015/16 activities report and subsidy

The Chair reported on a successful annual meeting in 2015 in Fribourg, CH, 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 gave the opportunity to renew and build new contacts and relationships and exchange news, developments and ideas.

For details of the meeting see:

http://network.icom.museum/fileadmin/user_upload/minisites/glass/Annual_NEWS_LETTER_2015__1_.pdf

On the basis of our 2015 Activities Report, submitted to ICOM Paris, we received an annual support grant of € 3805.00 for 2016, which is € 559 up from last year. As the performance-related element within this payment has gone up from 50 to 60 % in 2016, this clearly means that Paris recognises the importance of our activities during 2015.

In the report we highlighted:

- the glass study tour to India, organised by our members Jan Kock and Torben Sode from 14th to 17th March with the theme 'the preservation and documentation of traditional glass making in India';
- our ICOM GLASS Annual Meeting 2015 in Fribourg, Switzerland (7th – 13rd September 2015), which was a joined meeting with the 20th Congress of the International Association for the History of Glass (AIHV triennial meeting, including a day-trip to Zurich for ICOM GLASS members exclusively, on Monday 14th September;
- the two grants we allocated to help young persons (< 35) or members from category 3 & 4 countries to attend the 2016 General Conference in Milan: these grant allowed a member from Egypt to attend the meeting, while the participation of a second grantee from Bosnia Herzegovina had to be cancelled for health problems;
- the new issue of our online journal *Reviews on Glass* 4, 2016;
- the digitalization of the ICOM GLASS archive;

- updating our webpage <http://network.icom.museum/glass/> in English, French, and Spanish, and the opening of an ICOM GLASS Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/icomglass/>).

2. ICOM GLASS elections.

We held elections for the new executive committee. The retiring ICOM GLASS Board consisted 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

Anne Vanlatum and Kaisa Koivisto have served the maximum six years on our board and could not be re-elected. Milan Hlaves declared his unavailability to re-election. All other board members were re-elected, while María Luisa Martínez was elected as a new member to the board.

The new board consists of:

Chair: Reino Liefkes
 Secretary: Teresa Medici
 Treasurer: Sven Hauschke

Elvira Schuartz
 Paloma Pastor
 Katarina Benova
 María Luisa Martínez

3. ICOM GLASS Meeting 2017, Sars-Poteries: invitation and provisional program.

The Annual Meeting of ICOM GLASS, 2017 will be organized by Anne Vanlatum at Sars-Poteries (France), October 15-21. Anne Vanlatum has been unable to attend the Assembly but prepared a short slide presentation, presented by Reino Liefkes. We will see the new MusVerre at Sars-Poteries and a tour will also take us to various museums in Northern France and Belgium.

4. ICOM GLASS Meeting 2018, St. Petersburg: invitation and provisional program.

Elena Anisimova, from the Hermitage Museum, described the Hermitage glass collections and presented a provisional program of the meeting.

5. ICOM GLASS Archive and Website.

The Chair reported on the activity of digitization of the most relevant part of our archive prior to its transfer to Corning in March 2016, where it will be kept at the Rakow Library. So far, all the available old editions of the Newsletters have been scanned and added to our webpage. We would like to encourage our members to see if they have any issues that are not yet attached to our Website.

6. Magazine "Reviews on Glass" and websites.

Paloma Pastor reported on the progress of the publication of Issue 5 of the magazine "Reviews on Glass" and on the development of our website. The proposal made last year by Sven Hauschke to post on our ICOM-Glass website a directory with addresses and contact details of international glass related museums, collections and institutions has been taken forward and it will be developed further.

The Chair thanked Paloma Pastor for her commitment and all the hard work she has put into these two strategic activities and Amy McHugh for helping with the English texts and for the Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/icomglass/>).

7. Financial report

The Treasurer Sven Hauschke reported on the financial situation of ICOM GLASS (January – June 2016).

Total Cash 31.12.2015	€ 15,485.93
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A.INFLOWS

Year-2016 income

ICOM Funding 2016	€ 3,805.00
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ICOM GLASS General Meeting fee	€ 1,000.00
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TOTAL INFLOWS	€ 4,805.00
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B.OUTFLOWS

Year-2016 expenses

Publications (ICOM GLASS Review 4)	€ 2,843.50
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Postage	€ 86.70
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ICOM GLASS Archive Digitalization Project	€ 300.30
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ICOM GLASS General Conference Travel Grant	€ 1,000
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ICOM GLASS Scholarship 2016	€ 750
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ICOM GLASS Conference Bus Transfer	€ 1,130
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ICOM GLASS Conference Excursions	€ 1,609.60
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TOTAL OUTFLOWS	€ 7,720.10
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Total Cash 30th June 2016	€ 12,570.83
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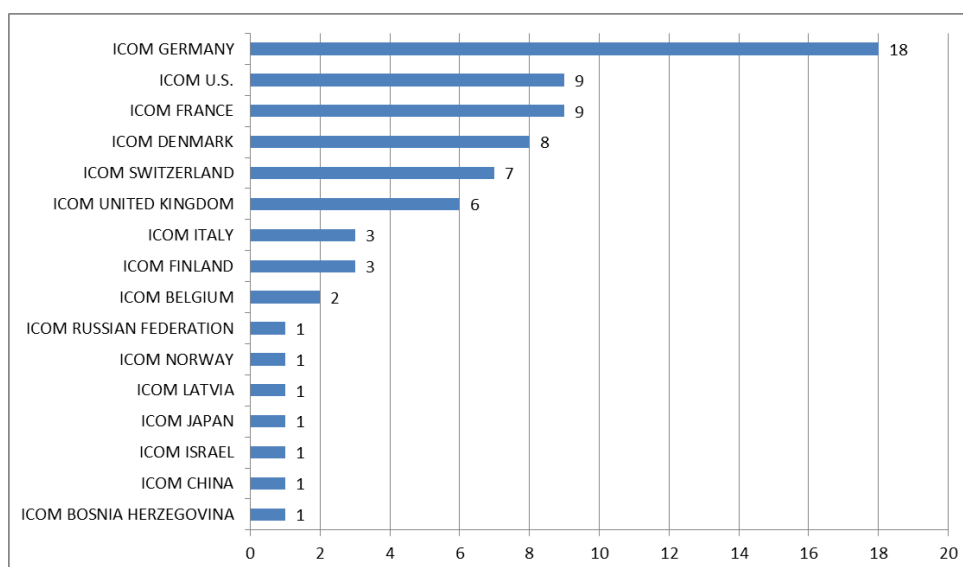
8. Membership update.

The Secretary Teresa Medici reported on the state of our membership at 30 of June 2016. From the membership directory provided by ICOM Paris, ICOM GLASS at the moment has 72 voting members from 16 countries, 95 non-voting members, and 13 institutional members.

As always, the Secretary underlined that the online database of ICOM is unable to 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. As a result, a significant number of members will be missing from the interim reports.

Taking this into account, this means that we can count on around 200 people interested in our committee. The final number for this year will be similar to what we recorded for the end of the year 2015 (90 individual members, 14 institutional members, and 104 non-voting members).

ICOM GLASS individual membership June 2016:



ICOM GLASS institutional membership June 2016 (new members in red):

ICOM CHINA	SHANGHAI MUSEUM OF GLASS (SHANGHAI UNIVERSITY, GLASS STUDIO)
ICOM CZECH REPUBLIC	MUZEUM SKLA A BIŽUTERIE V JABLONCI NAD NISOU (MUSEUM OF GLASS AND JEWELLERY IN JABLONEC NAD NISOU)
ICOM CZECH REPUBLIC	UMELECKOPRUMYSLOVÉ MUSEUM V PRAZE (MUSEUM OF DECORATIVE ARTS PRAGUE)
ICOM FRANCE	MUSÉE DE L'ECOLE DE NANCY
ICOM FRANCE	MUSÉE LALIQUE
ICOM FRANCE	MUSÉE-ATELIER DÉPARTEMENTAL DU VERRE
ICOM GERMANY	ALEXANDER TUTSEK-STIFTUNG
ICOM GERMANY	KNAUF GIPS KG KNAUF-MUSEUM IPHOFEN
ICOM GERMANY	STIFTUNG RESIDENZSCHLOSS BRAUNSCHWEIG, SCHLOSSMUSEUM BRAUNSCHWEIG
ICOM ITALY	FONDAZIONE IL VITTORIALE DEGLI ITALIANI
ICOM ITALY	REGIONE LOMBARDIA, DIREZIONE GENERALE CULTURE, IDENTITÀ E AUTONOMIE DELLA LOMBARDIA
ICOM NETHERLANDS	CONTINIUM - DISCOVERY CENTER KERKRADE
ICOM U.S.	THE TOLEDO MUSEUM OF ART

Reino Liefkes closed the Assembly at 18.15.