

# NEWSletter

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE OF GLASS MUSEUMS AND GLASS COLLECTIONS

March 1997

## **REPORT OF THE ICOM GLASS COMMITTEE MEETING**

The ICOM International Glass Committee Meeting 1996 was held in Berlin and Dresden, Germany, from 1–8 September. About 50 people attended, including our German hosts. The meeting was organized by Susanne Netzer of the Kunstgewerbemuseum, assisted by Käthe Klappenbach, Potsdam.

The Glass Committee was received with great generosity by the Kunstgewerbemuseum, Berlin.

### **Monday**

The first day was spent at the Kunstgewerbemuseum, Berlin. The tightly packed lecture-session lasted until about 15.00 hours. Some very recent and interesting finds were presented. Yael Gorin-Rosen discussed the archaeological discovery of a complete glasshouse in Israel, which must have been overtaken by a sudden disaster. The annealing chambers of the furnace were still full of objects and the stores contained hundreds of completed vessels, neatly stacked. This find from the 6th–7th century is unique in the history of glass. Jørgen Schou-Christensen from Denmark revealed his discovery, made only one week earlier, of a long lost site of a Danish Venetian-style glasshouse in Sweden. Proper excavation has to tell us if this is indeed the only site of a Venetian-style glasshouse known to us to date. Susanne Netzer of the Kunstgewerbemuseum sketched the history of the old collections of this museum, which were sadly lost during the war. There were other papers by: Dedo von Kerssenbrock-Krosigk (Ruby glass); Susan H. Rossi-Wilcox (Leopold

Blaschka's glass models); Wendy Evans (Whitefriars Archive); Gunnel Holmér (Glassmuseum Växjö/Sweden); Jan Mergl (Schriftenreihe des Passauer Glasmuseums & Moser Exhibition Karlsbad 1997); and Käthe Klappenbach on the chandeliers in Potsdam.

At the conclusion of the paper sessions, the collections could be visited and tours to the depositories were provided. Later in the afternoon there was a visit to the former East German Kunstgewerbemuseum in Schloss Köpenick.

### **Tuesday**

The day began with a visit to Schloss Charlottenburg where we saw the collection of Brandenburg glass. In the late morning there was a choice to either see the collections of 20th-century glass at the Bröhan Museum, or to visit the Berlin Porcelain at the Belvedere, where Mrs. Baer, who has devoted her studies to the archives of this factory gave an excellent and insightful guided tour.

In the afternoon there was again a choice of programs. Keeper Dr. Jens Kröger guided us through the important collection of Islamic glass at the Dahlem Museum. The alternatives were a visit to the Märkisches Museum (Museum of the City of Berlin) with another substantial collection of Brandenburger glass, as well as a visit to the collections of ancient glass at the Museumsinsel.

### Wednesday

Visit to Potsdam, Schloss Sanssouci and Schloss Charlottenhof. The latter was the last project designed by Karl Schinkel, with two original stained glass windows, which were displayed especially for us.

After lunch we saw the reserve collection of glass in the Neues Palais, a collection that has hardly been seen by anyone before. It was followed by a visit to Caecilienhof, where the Potsdam Conference was held. The house still contains a small collection of Art Nouveau glass. The day ended with a chandelier tour in the Neues Palais, by Käthe Klappenbach, who has devoted her studies to these objects for a decade.

### Thursday

Visit to Glasshütte, a small-village with a glass-house where work ended abruptly some decades ago. The furnace is still filled with glass and everything seems to have been abandoned from one day to another.

In the afternoon, the general members assembly was held at the hotel in Dresden.

### Friday

Visit to the museum of Decorative Arts at Schloss Pillnitz. Dr. Gisela Haase was our gracious host. The permanent collections are expertly displayed. It is one of the most successful examples of housing an important museum collection in a historic building.

In the afternoon, we visited the Grünes Gewölbe in Dresden. The Director, Dr. Dirk Syndram, gave us a tour through this most impressive treasure house in Europe and discussed the projected move of the collection to its original quarters. The alternative was a visit to the Landesmuseum für Vorgeschichte where material from local excavations was shown.



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## REPORT OF THE BUSINESS MEETING OF THE ICOM GLASS COMMITTEE

*4th September 1996 in Dresden*

The board remained unaltered. Not present were Catherine Vaudour and Anne Vanlatum (who had to leave on Wednesday).

Problems with the membership list were discussed. We now have a membership list, which is regularly updated by ICOM Paris. We voluntarily add people who are not members, but want to be informed about our meetings on a regular basis. With this Newsletter, a form is sent to our members on which they can provide their direct telephone, fax and E-mail address.

The possibilities of a comprehensive English thesaurus of glass terminology was raised again.

This seems a huge task which none of our members could find the time for. The Corning Museum of Glass has already launched a website with a list of technical terms (CMG@servtech.com). Other members mentioned that several lists have been produced or published in the past.

The possibilities of holding a joint meeting with the ICOM Conservation Committee's working group 'Glass, ceramics and related materials' was discussed. This is certainly a desirable liaison, something which we try to arrange in the near future. Some members of this working group are already non-voting members of the Glass Committee and others should be encouraged to join. A notice about their next meeting in Helsinki will be incorporated in our newsletter to encourage cooperation between the 2 committees.

We received an invitation to hold our next annual meeting in Israel in September 1997, and this invitation is now formalized by ICOM Israel, who are also willing to sponsor this meeting in order to keep the attendance fee below US. \$ 200.-. A preliminary program is included in this newsletter.

From October 10 to 16, 1998 the general tri-annual ICOM meeting will be held in Melbourne, Australia. Unfortunately, this event coincides with the AIHV meeting which is held in Venice and Milan. I do hope that as many members as possible will attend the tri-annual meeting.

For a future meeting we have received a tentative invitation from the Smålands Museum in Växjö and Stockholm for 1999. We hope to meet in Paris in the year 2000, and in Corning in 2002. Invitations by other national committees are still welcome.

**1997 MEETING ISRAEL; PRELIMINARY  
PROGRAM  
14th–18th September**

As decided on our annual business meeting, the 1997 meeting will be held in Israel. Yael Israeli will be the main organizer of the conference. The dates will be Sunday 14th–Thursday 18th September. Two days in Jerusalem: All major key sites: among them the Mount of Olives, Temple Mount with the Dome of the Rock (Early Islamic glass mosaics still in situ), Church of the Holy Sepulchre, the Israel Museum and other museums, with store-rooms (and for participating conservators also visits to conservation workshops); Old City Bazaars and sites in the New City (include: Chagall windows).

One day Tel-Aviv: Eretz Israel Museum with the reopened Haaretz glass pavilion; visits to modern Tel-Aviv and Old Jaffa.

Wed–Thu: Two-day excursion to the north (incl. 1 night), visits to Caesarea (Largest Roman City in Palestine, major Crusaders site, old and on-

going excavations); Acre (on the Belus river, Crusader capital after the fall of Jerusalem, with visits to store-rooms of large-scale on-going excavations); Beth Shearim (famous ancient glass slab); Sepphoris (outstanding mosaics, on-going excavation site); Beth Shean—Scythopolis (major archaeological site); Galilee today—Tefen Industrial Park and Museum; en route we will pass various biblical sites such as Capernaum, the Lake of Galilee, and the Jordan River.

There will be one or two lecture sessions (of 10-20 minutes duration), depending on the number of lectures. Topics with some connection to eastern Mediterranean glass would be preferred, and emphasis will be put on unpublished finds from local excavations by local speakers.

The program will begin on Sunday morning (the 13th). The conference fee will not exceed \$200. Reasonably priced accommodations will be suggested with the final program.

If there is sufficient demand, a post-conference tour will be arranged for Friday-Saturday to the Dead Sea, Masada and Petra (Jordan), to include one night. To organize and cost-evaluate this excursion, the local committee needs to know approximately how many participants are interested. Those wanting to take up this option are asked to send a message not later than May 15th to Yael Israeli, at The Israel Museum, PO Box 71117, Jerusalem 91710, tel: 02-670-8811, fax: 02-563-1833.

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**REPORT OF TREASURER:**

The annual amount we receive for each voting member, to cover administrative expenses, has been raised by 6% compared to 1995 and is now 35 FF. Our current Bank account holds: DM 2826.59 and \$ 305.64. A further mailing, with the full program of the Israel meeting and a registration form will be sent in May.

The ICOM Conservation Committee's Glass, Ceramics, and Related Materials Working Group is holding a formal Interim Meeting in the second half of September 1998 in Helsinki. ICOM Glass Committee members are invited to join this meeting and/or to contribute to this meeting by giving a paper. For information please contact the group's coordinator:

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