



Demeures historiques-musées
Historic House Museums
Residencias históricas-museos

DEMIST General Assembly 2013
Thursday, 15th August 2013, 13:30-16:00
Barra da Tijuca, Cidade das Artes, Room 11
Rio de Janeiro. Brazil

MINUTES

Present :

Board members : John Barnes - *Chair*; Maria de Jesus Monge - *Vice Chair*; Elsa Rodrigues - *Secretary-Treasurer*; Carmen Jiménez Sanz – *board member*; Ana Cristina Carvalho – *board member*; Peter Keller – *board member*;

DEMIST members : Hillary Walker Gugan; Rauni Laukkanen; Julius Bryant; Beatriz Marchon; Gianluca Kannés; María de Lourdes Monges Santos; Aysen Savas; Marcio Doctors; Ruggero Ranieri; Marina Magarita Hernández Aguilar; Daniela Ball; Marta Antuñano René; Ruth Nina Vieira Ferreira Levy; Diogo Corrêa Maia;

Non-voting members : Biruté Verbiejútė; Helena Koenigsmarková – ICDAD *board member*; Zsófia Kiss-Szemán – *Secretary ICFA*; Roberto A. Andréu Quevedo; Silvia Bolaños; Romina Delia; and three other Brazilian attendees who did not sign the paper.

1. Welcome

John Barnes welcomed members and asked for additional items for the agenda. There were none. He thanked the conference organisers for their help with the facilities for the General Assembly.

2. Minutes of the General Assembly in Los Angeles

The minutes were approved.

3. Report of the Chair 2012-2013

John Barnes explained the topics of the report and ran through it page by page.

It was agreed that in future the accounts would be presented according the financial year which runs from January to December.

There was a discussion about the membership of the board, prompted by the resignation of Peter Keller. Ruggero Ranieri suggested having an Italian member on the Board to help preparing the Milan conference in 2016. Daniela Ball suggested that we should have someone from France or from Turkey. Maria de Jesus Monge reinforced the idea of having a member from Mexico to be a linking member on the preparation of the Mexico

conference in 2015. John Barnes reminded the General Assembly that Board members need to be able to fund their own travel.

John Barnes raised the question of the number of Board members. It was agreed that increasing from nine to eleven members would help with the workload and improve attendance at meetings. This needs to be checked against ICOM's regulations.

John Barnes presented the Strategy 2013-2016 that was proposed by the Board. A priority is to encourage the growth of National Groups and, therefore, the range of activities available to DEMHIST members. Another priority is delivery of training for new and young professionals, especially in countries where the professions are less established. In addition, the strategy proposes investing in communication with DEMHIST members.

A range of views and ideas were expressed, including using Skype for communication and encouraging internships.

Daniela Ball reminded the Assembly that the categorization project is not concluded yet. John Barnes referred to the recent publication *Historic House Museums in Brazil* prepared by Ana Cristina Carvalho and suggested that countries could prepare their own versions that are relevant to their context.

The budget for 2014 will spend more than we receive from ICOM but the Board believed it best to use the money for our strategy and for DEMHIST activities rather than hold on to it. We assume that we will receive the same amount from ICOM which will be about six thousand euros. However we can re-launch the budget during the year if we consider that alternative arrangements should be made.

Gianluca Kannés asked if we could publish the proceedings on the internet. John Barnes explained that this would require an online payment system and ordering software. Romina Delia asked whether the papers could be made available for online downloads, or given as copies on a CD. Some thoughts came out from this discussion: We should think of how to generate the material and how to disseminate it, particularly when we will have the national groups publishing too. Who will coordinate that work?

The report of the Chair was approved.

4. Report of the Secretary-Treasurer

Elsa Rodrigues ran through the report from the Secretary-Treasurer explaining the most important topics. The report was approved.

Elsa Rodrigues explained the budget for 2013-2014. Then the budget was approved.

5. Conferences

Feedback from the 2013 conference in Brazil

Ana Cristina Carvalho thanked Maria de Jesus Monge and Elsa Rodrigues for the collaboration in preparing the DEMHIST Rio conference and thanked the participation of John Barnes. She reminded us the main idea mentioned by Mário Chagas during his paper which was “The museum is not IS but AND”. The whole conference broadened our minds, particularly on the concept of historic house museums.

She reminded us of the idea of how hard it was to organise the whole event and to make a joint conference. She suggested that we should think carefully before having joint conferences in the future.

There were speakers who did not speak directly about the theme. Speakers should focus on the theme rather than just present their historic house museums

Maria de Jesus Monge said that we had a very generic theme. It was good for other committees to join us but we should to rethink this point. It would have been better if we had done it alone.

Helena Koeningsmarková congratulated us for our conference and acknowledged that ICDAD did not fully collaborate on the conference.

Aysen Savas mentioned that we should include PhDs studies and work with other organizations.

Maria de Jesus Monge justified that the selection is not based on PhD studies because we are a committee of professionals of Historic House Museums. We are not academics. We want to give a voice to members and to give a chance to those who want to share something with us, not only to researchers. We should not forget who we are and the purpose of the committee.

DEMHIST could include poster presentations during its conferences one attendee said.

It was suggested that case studies could be shorter, perhaps 15 minutes, whereas research papers could be longer to give more time for the ideas.

Proposal for the 2014 conference in France

Peter Keller presented a draft of the call for papers for the Compiègne conference. He asked the Assembly for suggestions for the keynote speaker. Gianluca Kannés suggested inviting someone from Japan, where the Nara conference that took place in 1994.

Maria de Jesus Monge asked whether the call for papers would be available in French. Peter Keller answered her that the colleagues from Compiègne Palace would do it. He reminded us that the call for papers is still a draft. The colleagues from Compiègne Palace will have to approve it. They specified that they would like to talk about the curatorial choices they have made and why they have made them.

Peter Keller asked for suggestions for the visits. We have to think about whether to only visit palaces or also humble house museums to diversify our visits and our reflections on this.

Proposal for the 2015 conference in Mexico

María de Lourdes Monges Santos suggested that “Legacy” should be the theme for the conference.

Several thoughts came out from this proposal. “Would we focus on legal problems? Isn’t that too limited and the law changes according to countries? It might be not helpful just to focus on legal aspects and legislation”. We could present case studies focusing on founding documents, Julius Bryant suggested. We could think about how owners leave their collections. How to create museums and foundations?

We could also go beyond this aspect: How do museums transform the whole area? How can museums and collections be together? We could focus on successful museums and non-successful museums. Peter Keller, Daniela Ball, Aysen Savas and Ruggero Ranieri proposed widening the topic. Ruggero Ranieri reinforced that this is not only a legal problem. It should be a wider issue.

Daniela Ball said that society changes, museums change. How do you interpret legacy? How do you interpret legal issues? Legacies are old. Curators can lobby. We have power. We can interpret the law. Owners should make their legacies in a flexible way.

Julius Bryant mentioned Foundations. It would be good for DEMHIST to create a contribution, a best practice manual or to create models. Daniela Ball agreed.

The suggestion of holding a conference in Mexico in 2015 was approved.

Aysen Savas invited us to organize a conference in Turkey. She also announced that she will start a national group.

After the conference in Mexico City will be Milan in 2016. Beyond this there are proposals for Finland in 2017 (proposed by Rauni Laukkanen) and Turkey in 2018 (proposed by Aysen Savas). John Barnes suggested that the decision about this would be for the next DEMHIST Board that will be elected in 2014.

6. Reports from the National Working Groups

Ruggero Ranieri reported that three meetings had taken place in Italy and the Italians produced a document about one of them. The definition of Historic House Museums has broadened. The next meeting will be in October with the attendance of regional governments to recognise the local houses as Historic House Museums. Our Italian colleagues will help in the organization of the DEMHIST conference in Milan in 2016, collaborating with ICOM Italia and with the DEMHIST Board members.

Maria de Jesus Monge reported about the Portuguese Working Day on Sustainability which took place in Oporto, at Casa-Museu Guerra Junqueiro, in April 2012. Ana Cristina Carvalho gave a presentation on sustainability of palaces. Ana Clara Silva, director of Casa-Museu Guerra Junqueiro presented the local experiences which were

mainly activities involving the local community. The next meeting is going to be in Cascais in February 2014.

Our Brazilian DEMHIST colleagues reported that the project of identification and classification of Historic House Museums in Brazil was done. “We have published our research” Ana Cristina said. Moreover Marcio Doctors, Magali Cabral and Ana Cristina Carvalho, among others, are active members. Marcio Doctors complained that sometimes people do not respond to questionnaires.

Ruggero Ranieri said that the proposal and framework for national working groups and national meetings should come from the international committee. We should give them some clues.

7. Reports from individual members

None.

8. Any other business

None.

9. Next General Assembly : Palais de Compiègne, France, 6th-10th October 2014

John Barnes confirmed that the next General Assembly will be in Compiègne 2014.

The meeting was closed