

**Annual Report of the Chair  
October 2017 – October 2018**

This report covers the period between the annual conference in London, England, October 2017 to the present, a period of 12 months. It also reports you on future events and partnerships that DEMHIST has been established.

**1. Conferences**

Baku, Azerbaijan 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> October 2018 – Joint Conference ICDAD / DEMHIST  
*Decorative Arts and Interiors*

The 2018 annual conference is hosted by the Azerbaijan Carpet Museum and it is a collaboration between the ICOM's international committees ICDAD and DEMHIST with the support of ICOM and management of ICOM Azerbaijan and Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan as our local organisers. The theme is Decorative Arts and Interiors. Sub-themes within the conference will explore: Textiles in interiors; Interior design and defining identity; Interiors and authenticity; Metalwork and jewelry. There is a wide range of exciting international speakers to share their knowledge and experience on papers and in short talks. We are having the honour of the presence of the president of ICOM, Suay Aksoy, the president of ICOM-Europe, Luis Raposo, the president of ICOM Azerbaijan, Shirin Melikova and a representative of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Besides that, there will be two keynote speakers: Sevil Sadikhova, Doctor in Arts and Anis Chaaya, PhD in Archaeology, ICOMOS-Lebanon Board Member and Associate Professor at Lebanese University.

Future conferences:

Kyoto, 1<sup>st</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – Two-day DEMHIST conference and one-day joint-conference CAMOC/ DEMHIST

*Museums as hubs: The future of tradition*

Next year, we will be in Kyoto, Japan, as part of the next ICOM Triennial and we will be hearing from representatives of the event as part the Baku conference. Moreover, Yoshihiro Nakatani, DEMHIST Board Member, who is our local contact, is going to speak at the General Assembly.

As part of our networking priority we are going to have one-day joint conference with CAMOC (International Committee for the Collections and Activities of Museums of Cities). For the other three days a programme just focussed on DEMHIST has being planned.

However, DEMHIST has also recently been approached by ICAMT (International Committee for Architecture and Museum Techniques) to organise an off-site visit together and by ICMS (International Committee for Museum Security) to organise a half-day programme together. The format of these collaborations had been discussed last week in Kyoto by the Chairpersons of the three committees (DEMHIST, ICAMT and ICMS) and are now being discussed within its Boards. The result of these developments will be announced soon.

### Multi-Party Session Kyoto 2019

ICOM-Netherlands, DEMHIST and the Affiliated Alliance EXARC (Archaeological Open-Air Museums and Experimental Archaeology) are organising a Multi-Party Session in Kyoto. The aim is to investigate the role of museums in international cultural relations, focusing on Dutch-Japanese historical ties and what they mean to the present time with perspectives of future developments.

## **2. Training Courses for professionals**

### Mexico City, 6<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> November 2017

DEMHIST held its first international training course for professionals in Mexico City in Cooperation with ICOM-Mexico, ICOM and *Red de Casas Museo México*.

The training course was held in eight different host institutions, namely Museo Casa de Carranza, Museo Casa del Poeta Ramón López Velarde, Centro Cultural Isidro Fabela - Museo Casa del Risco, Recinto de Homenaje a Don Benito Juárez - Palacio Nacional, Museo Frida Kahlo, Museo Casa Estudio Diego Rivera y Frida Kahlo and Casa Luis Barragán. Besides that, alumni visited Museo Casa de la Bola, Casa Lamm, and the restoration workshops of Instituto Nacional de Belas Artes.

Between 20 and 45 participants attended each day, depending on the type of lesson format, a lecture or a workshop. Most participants were not ICOM members yet since they were still studying at the university or they were young professionals just with a couple of years of experience in the museum filed.

From the 20 registered participants 19 were Mexican and 1 was Colombian. In addition to that, the training course counted on 3 keynote speakers and 20 teachers (from DEMHIST, CECA and ICOM-CC).

The First International Training Course on House Museum was an excellent opportunity to Mexican young professionals to access specific subjects that usually are not covered at universities and they created their own network.

*Red Casas Museo México* became more solid than ever and therefore is now thinking about moving forward, organising other kind of activities. I was most grateful to the Mexican colleagues because in spite of the earthquake they haven't cancelled the training course and looked for alternative venues for the training course. DEMHIST also thanks all teachers who worked pro bono for this course. This is passion. This is dedication. This is lifelong commitment to the House Museums cause.

### **3. Partnerships**

#### International Symposium, Versailles, 29<sup>th</sup> November – 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017

DEMHIST was a partner of the International Symposium on Preventive Conservation in Historic Houses and Palace-Museums: Assessment Methodologies and Applications, that took place at Palace of Versailles, France. This event was Organised by the European Royal Residences Association (Réseau des Résidences Royales Européennes) in a cooperation project with DEMHIST, Chateau de Versailles - Centre de Recherche, Ministère de la Culture de France and EPICO (European Protocol in Preventive Conservation). DEMHIST members benefited from a special conference fee.

This international symposium concluded the 3-years EPICO programme aimed at a methodology to develop preventive conservation strategies for collections on display in historic houses or palace-museums.

The symposium was structured around three themes: Collections and risk evaluation: methodology and application; Moving from evaluation to planning: how to implement preventive conservation, led by historic-site professionals (presentations and round-table discussions); Science applied to preventive conservation of collections in situ: an essential aid for diagnostic purposes and conservation actions.

The full programme can be seen at the following link:

<http://www.europeanroyalresidences.eu/event/international-conference-preventive-conservation-in-historic-houses-and-palace-museums-assessment-methodologies-and-applications/>

French and English simultaneous translation was provided. Fortyseven contributors presented papers and two of them were DEMHIST members: Iris Broersma, from The Netherlands and Francesca Baldry, from Italy. Two hundred participants represented many locations as well as major knowledge institutions and heritage agencies, mainly European or from the Americas.

European Royal Residences Association is now preparing the proceedings.

#### Public Programme, Chicago, 15<sup>th</sup> October 2018

Taking place at the Arts Club of Chicago, a public programme will feature four unique and geographically diverse artists, all of whom have ties to Chicago, through the lens of their home lives.

Curators Hannah Higham, Lisa Stone, Debbie Komanski, and Ami Bouhassane come together to explore questions moderated by Valerie Balint of the Historic Artists' Homes & Studios consortium.

This public programme is organised by the American Association of State and Local History in partnership with DEMHIST.

#### Historic House and Sites Summit, Miami, 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> February 2019

##### *Sustainability: Governance, Relevance and the Environment*

The second American Alliance of Museums Summit is co-organised by American Alliance of Museums Historic House & Sites Network, American Alliance of Museums Environment and Climate Network in collaboration with DEMHIST and it is hosted by Vizcaya Museums and Gardens, located in Miami.

The summit will focus on sustainability that affects decisions of the Historic House Museum professional.

#### **4. National DEMHIST Groups**

A key part of the DEMHIST strategy is to encourage and support national groups to provide more easily accessible activities that are relevant to members in those locations, and to increase membership. Our National Groups continue to grow in strength and we now have active groups in Italy, Portugal, Mexico, Brazil, Turkey and a new one is about to be created in Israel.

#### DEMHIST-Italy, Milan, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017

##### *The voices of the house*

ICOM-Italy organised a round table at Fondazione Adolfo Pini. The main purpose was to promote an academic reflection about the object and their stories as well as about secondary daily stories. It had twentytwo participants (seventeen attendees + five speakers), all ICOM members since the event was only open to DEMHIST Italian National Group members. Partner Institutions were ICOM-Italy, Facoltà di Scienze Politiche e Sociali dell'Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore di Milano and Fondazione Adolfo Pini.

DEM HIST Portugal, Funchal, 23<sup>rd</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> February 2018

*Hyperconnected museums: New approaches, new publics*

The 9<sup>th</sup> meeting on House Museums in Portugal was hosted by Casa-Museu Frederico de Freitas, in Funchal (Madeira) and promoted a reflexion on the means of communication we have now at our disposal. They are increasing. It is a fact. Local and global connections are made and opportunities for museum are complex and unlimited. However, not all connections are digital.

The meetings combined lectures and visits to house museums and it had a huge impact on local news since newspapers and television covered the event.

DEM HIST\_Portugal accounted with the financial support of *Secretaria Regional do Turismo e Cultura da Região Autónoma da Madeira*, *Direcção Regional da Cultura da Madeira*, ICOM – Portugal and *Instituto Italiano de Cultura de Lisboa*.

Third Meeting on Literary House Museums, São Paulo, 13<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> July 2018

“City & Accessibility”

The two-day meeting was organised by São Paulo Literary House Museums Net, in São Paulo, Brazil, 13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> July. The meeting was coordinated by Casa Guilherme de Almeida that is a DEM HIST Institutional member. The theme focused on accessibility in institutions located in different size urban areas. Speakers came from different Brazilian states.

DEM HIST-Brazil, Rio de Janeiro, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2018

*House Museums: building, collection and characters*

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Brazilian Meeting on House Museums was held in Rio de Janeiro at Museu Casa de Rui Barbosa. It proposed a reflection on classic perception of House Museums, which keeps physical and symbolic records, but it is in constant change due to visitors’ influences, narratives and interpretations.

Ana Cristina Carvalho, coordinator of ICOM-Brazil, gave a speech at the opening ceremony.

DEM HIST-Italy, Lastra a Signa, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018

*Bathrooms and hygiene in house museums: objects, spaces and habits*

This symposium focused on bathrooms and hygiene. The first session is taking place at Lastra a Signa (Florence region) on the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2018.

The aim is to discuss and explore renovation and recovery of historical bathroom facilities as well as on interpretation and on how to communicate those private spaces. The programme combines visits to Florentine House Museums that have their historical bathrooms open to the public.

DEMHIST-Brazil, São Paulo, November 2018

*Historic house museums and private collections: approaches, a dialogue of collections, considering typologies, conservation and extraversion challenges*

Brazilian and international experts are going to be in charge of the lectures of this two-day meeting, taking place in São Paulo, where eighty attendees are expected to participate. Material produced during the meeting will be available on Artistic-Cultural Collection of the Palaces of the Government of the State of São Paulo's website.

Under the main theme, Historic house museums and private collections, there will be three subthemes: I. Utilitarian and artistic collections: rethinking the usufruct, conservation and extraversion; II. Art collections: from the personal taste to the validation of criticism; III. Featured Collections: Sharing protagonism with the house and character.

DEMHIST-Mexico, Mexico City, November 2018

Mexican National group is organising a symposium in Mexico City in November 2018. This symposium is going to be video recorded and photographed to disseminate knowledge. About sixty attendees are expected to attend this national event.

DEMHIST-Israel, Jerusalem, December 2018

Timna Seligman is about to set the Israeli National group. A workshop is being planned for December. About fifteen participants from the whole country are expected to attend this event.

DEMHIST-Italy, Milan, 15<sup>th</sup> March 2109

*Bathrooms and hygiene in house museums: objects, spaces and habits*

A second session on the theme *Bathrooms and hygiene in house museums: objects, spaces and habits* is taking place at Vila Necchi Campiglio (Milan) on the 15<sup>th</sup> March 2019 with a similar format to the previous session.

DEMHIST-Portugal / ICOM-Europe, Guimarães, 2<sup>th</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019

*Museums as hubs: The future of tradition*

*Interpreting, programming, innovating Memorial spaces in museological contexts*

In 2019 DEMHIST Portuguese national group celebrates 10 years delivering annual national meetings. For that reason, is now organising a special event, a three-day meeting, at the Ducal Palace of Guimarães, that is a joint meeting with ICOM-Europe,

Ducal Palace of Guimarães and Regional Directorate for Culture – North of Portugal with the support of Guimarães and Vila Nova de Famalicão municipalities. European DEMHIST members are welcome to attend this meeting since the aim is exactly to extend a national meeting to a much broader audience. The call for papers can be found at ICOM-Europe website:

<http://network.icom.museum/europe/activities/conferences/>

DEMIST-Portugal is also working on a publication revealing a reflexion on the themes covered on the previous nine meetings. The goal is not to publish the proceedings but to approach a contemporary and critical overview on the debated subjects.

I would like to remind all members that the annual conferences do not need to be the only events held by DEMHIST. National working groups can propose and organise conferences, seminars and meetings on themes of their choice within their own country or regionally. Such events can cover subjects of particular relevance to a region, and be more practical in terms of travel and cost. The DEMHIST Board has agreed some simple guidance about events that qualify as DEMHIST activities and can therefore be affiliated to the international committee and to ICOM. A small grant is available to support some of these events at the discretion of the Board.

To fulfil this aim DEMHIST Board agreed on granting some affiliated events in 2018 and in 2019. Applications forms were sent out in July. We already selected the grants for the 2018 affiliated events and we are about to select those for 2019.

## **5. The Jeanne Watson bursary for young professionals**

Honouring Jeanne Watson's memory and will, DEMHIST granted Walaa eldin Badawy Madbwly Ali, from Cairo, Egypt, with a bursary. He is the General Director of the Prince Mohammed Ali Palace (Manial Palace) and a he is PhD candidate in Museology.

My thanks to past DEMHIST Chair, Daniela Ball for her assistance in managing this programme with Remko Jansonius and Yoshihiro Nakatani.

## **6. ICOM travel grant for young members**

For the first time International committees were directed to manage the ICOM travel grant for young members and to review the applications. DEMHIST is awarding the travel grant to Mousruti Das, from Kolkata, India. She will deliver a paper at the ICDAD-DEMIST conference in Baku, this October. Mousruti, a PhD candidate in Museology, works at the Prasanta Chandra Memorial Museum and Archives.

## **7. Publications**

The proceedings of the Milan conference “House Museums and Interpretation of the Cultural, Social, Urban Landscape” are due next month.

The proceedings of London conference “Are we doing enough? Keeping heritage relevant in the 21st Century” are due next year.

## **8. Communications**

Our Twitter and Facebook accounts are now established. On Twitter we have 322 followers and on Facebook we have 502 followers. It pleases me to see that an increasing number of members is using these means of communication. Hillary Gugan-Walker is managing DEMHIST Social Media but Timna Seligman and Marta Antuñano are tweeting and posting as well.

The Relevance Twitter account made on purpose for the DEMHIST-CECA London conference had 417 followers and 791 Tweets.

## **9. The General Assembly 2018**

DEMHIST held its General Assembly at the Hampton Court Palace, in Hampton, on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2017. The minutes are included with the papers for the Baku General Assembly.

## **10. DEMHIST Board**

The DEMHIST Board has been facing issues and as a consequence the number of Board members has decreased from the initial 13 members that were elected in London, in October 2017.

The reasons for that are the following ones:

Jonathan Gration does not respond to the Board by any means of communication since the beginning of November.

Barbara Elfman resigned in March because she moved to other job position and works now in a University.

Ana Cristina Carvalho resigned in April because of health reasons; Ulla Stromberg volunteered to step in the position of Vice-Chair.



## 11. Secretary

The DEMHIST Vice-Chair and Secretary, Yvonne Ploum, was elected in October 2017. She said since the beginning that her position as Secretary was a temporary one until we find a replacement to this position.

Since her position was temporary, I maintained regular communications with members by sending out information and answering to those who emailed me. In June 2018 Remko Jansonius volunteered to be the Secretary and he now is taking charge of the duties of Secretary. However, just from mid-October he will be fully capable to communicate directly with members.

## 12. Treasurer

The DEMHIST Treasurer, Frank Louhenapessy, has prepared a separate report on his activities and the budget for 2019.

## 13. Chair

During the year I had the chance to promote DEMHIST in different contexts and environments:

My first official act as Chair was in Mexico City, on the 6<sup>th</sup> November 2017, at the opening ceremony of the 1<sup>st</sup> International Training Course for professionals. Then I gave two practical workshops, on the 9<sup>th</sup> November, to the alumni of that Training Course.

I gave an opening speech at the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting on House Museums organised by DEMHIST-Portugal, in Funchal (Madeira). Media reported on the event through newspapers and television. I was interviewed by the television channel RTP Madeira twice: on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2018, for the local news and on the 24<sup>th</sup> February on the live show *Atlântida*. On both occasions, I spoke about DEMHIST and about Portuguese house museums.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> March 2018 I participated at *Jornadas da Primavera* promoted by ICOM-Portugal. I was invited, as Chair of DEMHIST, to be part of a round table on *Hyperconnected museums: What approaches and what publics?*

I was interviewed, as Chair of DEMHIST, on a radio live show on museums called *Museandoando*, in the Mexican National Radio Channel, Radio Formula, conducted by

the journalist Veronica Muller, on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018. On that occasion I promoted DEMHIST and its activities in Mexico, at a national level.

From 1<sup>st</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> June 2018 I attended the Victorian Society in America Summer School in Newport, in the United States of America. There I talked about DEMHIST to my colleagues.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> June I gave a short talk about DEMHIST at the Tufts University, in Boston, to students of House Museums studies.

I have been to Japan recently attending the Maizuru Meeting, that took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> September and it was attended by Chairs of ICOM International Committees. The meeting was organised by ICOM-Japan and by ICOM Kyoto 2019 Organising Committee. On the very next day, 1<sup>st</sup> October, we visited the Kyoto conference venue. From 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> October not only did I meet curators and directors of House Museums in Kyoto but also met Yoshihiro Nakatani to proceed with the preparation of DEMHIST conference in Kyoto in 2019. He accompanied me during the three days of my stay in Kyoto to draft the conference programme. We visited the following places: The Former Retreat of Tomomi Iwakura; Kyoto Institute of Technology; Old Mitsui Family Shimogamo Villa; Murin-an; Nijo-jo Castle; Asahi Beer Oyamazaki Villa Museum of Art and Chochikukyo.

#### **14. Board Meetings**

The DEMHIST Board met three times during the year:

London, England, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2017

Utrecht, The Netherlands, 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> January 2018

Paris, France, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018

Seven Board Members attended the ICOM Annual Meetings and the ICOM General Assembly in Paris, 6<sup>th</sup>- 8<sup>th</sup> June 2018, which was the highest number ever.

The Board will meet again soon in Baku (Azerbaijan) and in the beginning of February will meet again, in Miami (United States of America).

**Elsa Rodrigues**

Chair of DEMHIST

October 2018