



Demeures historiques-musées
Historic House Museums
Residencias históricas-museos

DEMHIST General Assembly 2014
Thursday, 9th October 2014, 17:00-19:00
Château de Compiègne
Compiègne. France

MINUTES

Present:

Board members: John Barnes - *Chair*; Maria de Jesus Monge - *Vice Chair*; Hetty Berens - *Vice Chair*; Elsa Rodrigues - *Secretary-Treasurer*; Carmen Jiménez Sanz - *board member*; Ana Cristina Carvalho - *board member*; Gianluca Kannés - *board member*; Ann Scheid - *board member*; Luc Vanackere - *board member*

DEMHIST individual members: Peter Keller; Ayşen Savaş; Daniela Ball; Marta Antuñano René; Alejandra López Estrada; Astrid Arnold-Wegener; Gabriele Horn; Hartmut Dorgerloh; Linda Young; Roberto A. Andréu Quevedo; Oscar Monroy Vega; Adriano Rigoli; Carlos Faggin; Edward Bosley; Barbara Laan; Minerva Keltanen; Rauni Laukkanen; Samuele Cammilleri; Rosanna Pavoni

Non-voting members: Hans Martin-Hinz -ICOM president; Helen Hughes; Edwin Verweij and too other attendees who did not sign the paper.

1. Welcome

John Barnes greeted the members and started the General Assembly by mentioning the agenda topics and then asked «Is there any other business that is not in the agenda that you would like to include?»

Minerva Keltanen said that we should include the DEMHIST conference in Finland in the 2017 proposal.

Rosanna Pavoni mentioned the fact the membership list is not available to members and consequently raised the question if it would be possible to have access to the membership list because members should know each other and it would facilitate establishing contacts for certain projects. She also stated that «I propose to pay for the secretary-treasurer». Immediately after this the question «Should we have a paid position?» was raised.

Hartmut Dorgerloh commented that «it is necessary to discuss and do workshops on conferences». John Barnes indicated to him that the feedback from Compiègne conference would be discussed later on.

2. Minutes of the General Assembly in Rio de Janeiro

The minutes were quickly approved because there was nothing to change or add on the text and any comments were made.

3. Report of the Chair 2013-2014

«Are there any other things to add?» Members did not raise any question so John Barnes started by pointing out the topics of the report of the Chair. He quickly done it and then the report was approved.

Strategic plan 2014-2017

John Barnes stated that DEMHIST Board encourages affiliated events. «There was a budget for the Portuguese national group, their meeting in Cascais, and there will be a budget for the Italian national group that is going to meet in Biella» and he informed «The Board met three times during this year: in Rio, in Lisbon and in Compiègne».

After that introduction John Barnes suggested doing an annual accounting instead of doing it according to the conference calendar as has been done till now. The Assembly agreed.

He also proposed the Assembly to increase the number of Board members from nine to eleven. Linda Young asked «What for?». John Barnes justified by saying that «If we increase to eleven members, for example, we could expand our representation in board meetings and conferences». Moreover, DEMHIST Board is decided to provide more activities to its members, so there is much work to do. Increasing the number of Board members would allow us to split the workload. Being more precise, DEMHIST board would like to increase the number of conferences by promoting affiliated conferences under the DEMHIST umbrella. Another priority is formal training, delivery of skills and training for young professionals, which we would like to implement in developing countries or countries with a lack of that specific training. A pilot training course is being organized in Brazil, which we expect to take place in São Paulo in September 2015 and then we would like to go to China, to the ICOM training centre in Beijing.

After that explanation the Assembly approved to increase the DEMHIST Board to eleven members.

After that John Barnes presented the strategy plan and explained that there are prioritised areas. «We want to invest in communication with our members. It is our desire to create a communication tool. We would benefit by sending out less messages by email. It is a priority to create new forms of divulging the committee. We want to revitalize our website». John explained that «our website is running independently. We are working on a new website using the ICOM template. The majority of ICOM International Committees use it. However the website is still not working because we are still translating the texts. Only after that will we shoot down the old website».

Peter Keller reminded Elsa Rodrigues that probably the old Webmaster would send DEMHIST a bill.

Concluding these explanations John Barnes thanked Elsa Rodrigues for her hard work because he was conscious that it takes a lot of time communicating with members and he recognised her commitment with DEMHIST committee. He proposed an applause to Elsa which the Assembly did loudly.

4. Report of the Secretary-Treasurer 2013-2014 and Budget for 2015

- Approval of the report 2013-2014

John Barnes skim-read the report from the Secretary-Treasurer and explained that this time the expenses were reported as if it was the year-end because the General Assembly is shifting from year to year.

Then he explained that the ICOM subvention decreased this year to 5,209,00 euros because DEMHIST balance by the end of the year 2013 should have been lower.

Then Peter Keller told the Assembly that most probably Elsa Rodrigues would have to add the web services to the report. However she explained that DEMHIST has not been charged in the past two years, so she doubts being charged in the following year.

Elsa Rodrigues explained that despite new members joining the committee, DEMHIST faces the problem of non-active members who do not pay their fee. That is also a reason for receiving less money from ICOM subvention.

After those explanations the report was approved.

- Approval of the budget for 2015

John Barnes quickly explained the budget for 2015 saying that «we cannot have a lot of *plafond*. We have to start spending it».

It is intended to spend a great amount next year: 8,000.00 euros with the Mexico City conference and 10,000.00 euros with the São Paulo pilot training course to be more specific. Actually the sum is not even more because the São Paulo State Government is sponsoring the course. Besides that DEMHIST is going to apply to an ICOM grant for special projects which «we believe having strong possibility to get».

«So, the major expenditure would be the annual conference, plus the pilot training course».

He also explained that we are expecting to use 2,250.00 from DEMHIST budget on communication and promoting material.

DEMHIST is going to have a starting balance of 24,900.00 Euros of total expenses in 2015 and the anticipated total assets by the end of December 2015 are going to be 10,110.14 Euros to have some reserve.

Regarding the point number two (Board members' travel fund) on DEMHIST budget that it never happened before. John Barnes stated that «not everybody is supported by their institutions to travel and we need to help them with a percentage of the travels costs. It is just a contribution. Actually 2,000.00 Euros are not that much to face members' needs. However the decision is always going to be made by the whole Board. 2,000.00 Euros is a modest amount». About supporting: «How do you feel about that?» «How do you feel about this strategy and with the funds that we increased?»

Daniela Ball asked «A travel board fund? Is it allowed according to ICOM Statutes?»

John Barnes answered to her «Yes it is... if it does not exceed a certain amount of money». So, Daniela Ball said «I agree».

Hans Martin-Hinz reinforced that «It is allowed».

Rosanna Pavoni said that «Elsa is the only element connecting with other DEMHIST members, since we don't know each other. We should support this fundamental role».

Hans Martin-Hinz used the word again to state that «Bigger committees have their secretariat paid. Smaller ones don't have it paid. ICOM does not have the money and does not pay for it but if you have the money you can pay a little bit. It is your decision.

To pay a part-time job for example. It is just a question if you can spend that amount or not».

Peter Keller agreed «It depends on the money».

Rosanna Pavoni asked «Can we agree on a sort of a grant? In an annual General Assembly?»

Hartmut Dorgerloh agreed on that because «There is more work on our shoulders» However it should be a "Board members' Assistance" not just a "traveling fund".

«There are expenses with translations, preparing activities... We could give some money to a secretariat» Ann Scheid said. On the other hand «If we launch the new website maybe the secretarial work will decrease... Or maybe not? It depends on who would be in charge of it».

Peter Keller said that «we cannot spend the remaining money, the 10,000.00 Euros. But we could surely give a grant, not a fixed amount to recognise the work». Rosanna Pavoni and Ann Scheid positively agreed with that.

Hetty Berens remembered that «if we increase the number of Board members is to share more work».

After a discussion the Assembly agreed to change the expression "Board members' fund" to "Board members' support fund" and to increase the budget from 2,000.00 Euros to 4,000.00 Euros to support Elsa Rodrigues with secretarial/administrative expenses.

All members agreed on that.

To conclude John Barnes said «Are there any other points about the budget?» Then the budget was approved.

5. Conferences

- Feedback on the 2014 conference in Compiègne

«We will do a proper evaluation of the conference in the near future». John Barnes said. In any case some opinions were collected on the General Assembly such as «The conference has been a success so far» and «The partnership worked well». These definitely were some of the consensual comments.

Hartmut Dorgerloh alerted the Assembly for the necessity of having longer discussion moments on DEMHIST conferences and reinforced the idea about the importance of doing workshops, like we have done in Compiègne.

- Proposal for the 2015 conference in Mexico

Carmen Jiménez Sanz presented a draft of DEMHIST conference in Mexico City written by María de Lourdes Monges Santos that unfortunately had no chance to attend the General Assembly.

So, Carmen Jiménez started by saying that the conference theme would be "Legacies of Houses Museum as social link". Then she said that the DEMHIST Mexican Group, coordinated by María de Lourdes Monges Santos, was established in 2008. Since then they met several times to work on the categorization project, as well, as on the elaboration of a directory of Mexican House Museums. They welcome new members and participated in some local events. More recently, in August 2014, Mexican colleagues organized a national meeting on House Museums.

After this introduction Carmen Jiménez mentioned the eleven house museums belonging to this group, namely, *Capilla Alfonsina*, *Casa Estudio Luis Barragán*, *Centro Cultural Isidro Fabela*, *Museo Casa del Risco*, *Fundación Casa del Poeta*, *I. A. P. (Museo Casa del Poeta Ramón López Velarde)*, *Fundación Cultural Antonio Hagenbeck y de la Lama (Museo Casa de la Bola)*, *Instituto del Derecho de Asilo*, *Museo Casa de León Trotsky*, *Museo Casa de Carranza*, *Museo Casa Estudio Diego Rivera y Frida Kahlo*, *Museo Casa Frida Kahlo*, *Museo Dolores Olmedo* and *Museo Nacional de Historia Castillo de Chapultepec*.

She also said that the Organizing Committee would be the link between Mexican institutions and DEMHIST Board. Their members are: Lourdes Monges (*Fundación Cultural Antonio Hagenbeck y de la Lama*), Catalina Corcuera (*Museo Casa Luís Barragán*), Lucía Sáenz (*Centro Cultural Isidro Fabela - Museo Casa del Risco*), Carmen Férez (*Museo Casa del Poeta*), Carlos Phillips Olmedo (*Museo Dolores Olmedo*) and Hilda Trujillo (*Museo Frida Kahlo*).

Moreover, Mexican colleagues already found governmental and financial support from the following institutions: *Consejo Nacional para la Cultura y las Artes*, *Instituto Nacional de Bellas Artes*, *Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia*, *Secretaría de Cultura del Gobierno del Distrito Federal*, *Fideicomisos del Banco de México*, *Cámara de Turismo del Distrito Federal*, *Secretaría de Turismo del Distrito Federal* and from private institutions who sponsor the conference.

Regarding the Logistics Committee it is composed by Lourdes Monges and María Inés Madinaveitia Ramírez (from *Fundación Cultural Antonio Hagenbeck y de la Lama*), Marina Hernández (from *Centro Cultural Isidro Fabela - Museo Casa del Risco*), Zoraida Gutiérrez (from *Museo Casa Luís Barragán*), Adriana Jaramillo (from *Museo Dolores Olmedo*), Salvador Beltrán (from *Museo Casa Estudio Diego Rivera*) and María de la Luz Álvarez (from *Museo Casa de Carranza*). That team is in charge of the conference's secretariat.

The conference headquarters are located at *Museo Anahuacalli*, *Museo Frida Kahlo*, *Museo Casa de la Bola* and at *Casa Museo Luis Barragán*.

Since the city is so vast, the organizing team estimates that 30 to 45 minutes would be spent crossing the city on the way to the guided tours.

Accommodation and transport assistance is going to be provided to all participants after their arrival, at the airport. All suggested hotels are located in the south area of Mexico City. Buses will take participants from their hotels to the venues and will take them back to their hotels.

After giving these insights Carmem Jiménez told the Assembly about the conference date, October 2015. She also specified some subthemes to be debated during the conference which are «What a legacy is and is its importance?», «The legacy in the context: types of legacies», «Conservation and restoration of house museums and their legacies» and «Diffusion and public».

Continuing, she said that «it is going to be a two-day conference with guided tours at the end of each day». Two keynote speakers are going to be invited and fifteen-minute papers are going to be given during the morning sessions. By the end of the second day the conference will have its closure and immediately after this the DEMHIST General Assembly will take place. On the third day of the meeting participants will have to choose one of the three circuits in order to visit two or three house museums.

Simultaneous translation from Spanish into English and vice-versa will be provided. Lunch meals and coffee-breaks will be included in the conference fee.

Carmen Jiménez announced that John Barnes, Ana Cristina Carvalho and Ann Scheid would go to Mexico City in November to prepare the conference, to meet the

Mexican colleagues and to visit the local house museums engaged in the organization of the conference. In addition to that the call for papers would be sent out soon.

Finally Carmen Jiménez invited the Assembly to attend the Mexico City conference next year.

- **Proposal for the 2016 conference in Milan**

Gianluca Kannés informed the Assembly that Italian fellows from the Italian National Group were helping in the organization of the DEMHIST conference in Milan in 2016, closely collaborating with ICOM Italia and with the DEMHIST board members too.

He mentioned "The Siena Charter "Museums and Cultural Landscape", a document proposed by ICOM Italy at the International Conference in Siena, on 7th July 2014, containing some possible interpretation of the conference's theme.

That document contains guidelines, however further opinions would be collected at Biella meeting, in a month's time.

Ruggero Ranieri and Gianluca Kannés were appointed by ICOM Italy to be the contact people between DEMHIST committee and ICOM Italy during the organization of that conference.

- **Proposal for the 2015 conference in Stockholm**

Ana Cristina Carvalho suggested to the Assembly that DEMHIST could hold a conference in Europe. John Barnes added that «not everybody can travel outside Europe. Mexico City conference will be more for Latin American members. We could organize a small-scale event in Europe but maybe we are a little late for it».

This proposal did not have comments from the Assembly and would be discussed in the next Board Meeting.

6. Reports from the National Groups

John Barnes explained that DEMHIST Board encourages networking groups and members working with their groups in their countries or regions.

Portugal

Maria de Jesus Monge stated that the Working Day focused on Networking which took place in Cascais, at *Casa de Santa Maria*, in February 2014 was a success and reinforced that fact that Working Day was the 5th annual meeting organized by this national group. The DEMHIST Board participated in it because the date coincided with a Board Meeting in Lisbon. Then she mentioned the names of the whole Portuguese group members, emphasising that one of its members was Elsa Rodrigues, who was in that room and many members know her because she is also the DEMHIST secretary-treasurer.

This National Group intends to keep working and at least to organize a national event annually.

Italy

Gianluca Kannés announced that after some meetings for establishing the Italian National Group, the group was ready to organize its first event in Biella. The event would take place in Biella from 7th to 9th November. Then he said that the theme would be "Generations and landscape in House Museums in future" because colleagues would like to debate and to discuss the theme of Mexico City conference which is "The link between generations in house museums' mission" and the theme of the General Conference of ICOM that is going to take place in July 2016 in Milan (Italy) which is "Museums and cultural landscapes". Finally he said «I invite you to go to Biella».

At a certain point Maria de Jesus Monge and Hetty Berens started distributing the voting ballots to the members. Helen Huges left the room because as she said «I am not a voting member».

Hans Martin-Hinz intervened by saying that the procedure was not correct. DEMHIST was still having its General Assembly, taking decisions and reporting about other matters, so that was definitely not the time for making members fill out voting ballots. On the contrary, DEMHIST should hold the voting at the end of the General Assembly as it was written on the agenda.

Immediately after he asked Elsa Rodrigues if all members who early voted by mail were DEMHIST members, she replied to him yes. Indeed she justified her statement by saying «I sent the election announcement and the voting ballot to all DEMHIST members. I've checked on the ICOM membership database. If their names appeared on the database it means that those members paid their annual fee and have the right to vote».

Maria de Jesus Monge reinforced the fact that Elsa Rodrigues followed the correct procedure. Then she said that Hetty Berens and herself already counted the early votes given by Elsa Rodrigues at the beginning of the General Assembly to facilitate the counting.

Then Hans Martin-Hinz explained that ICOM had a problem with another ICOM international committee. They held elections in an incorrect manner and then one of the candidates appealed against the election process in a lawsuit. Now ICOM is facing a legal proceeding in a trial.

He simply did not want illegal procedures happening to avoid that kind of undesirable situations.

Regarding the Milan conference in 2016, Gianluca Kannés proceeded by asking «Can we approach people to give a paper?».

Peter Keller replied «Yes, we can. Actually it was what we did in here. We invited professionals to this Compiègne conference but it did not always go well. Not everybody accepted the invitation or even replied to it».

Mexico

Carmen Jiménez Sanz reported that the Mexican National Group held a meeting in Mexico City, on 7th and 8th August 2014 at *Museo Casa del Risco*. In this two-day meeting Mexican colleagues came to realize that there are 45 house museums in Mexico approximately. Most of them are from illustrious men, painters, sculptors, architects, and collectors.

The meeting aimed to prepare the Mexico City conference. For that reason the theme was "*El legado de las casa Museo, vinculo entre generaciones* - Legacy at House Museums, link between generations"

Brazil

Ana Cristina Carvalho gave the Assembly an insight into the Brazilian meeting on Historic House Museums under the topic "Museography and Welcoming: (pro)vocations" that took place in Rio de Janeiro, from 11th to 13th August 2014, at *Casa Rui Barbosa*. During that meeting keynote speakers were invited, colleagues gave papers and there was enough time to debate in round-tables as well as in workshops. That meeting addressed questions on the social role of house museums and their communities.

Ana Cristina Carvalho announced that Brazilian colleagues would have their 8th Meeting on Historic House Museums and Palaces to be held in São Paulo, from 5th to 8th November 2014. The theme would be «Collections and Characters: Why to preserve?» That would be an opportunity to meet colleagues, to reinforce the bonds among DEMHIST members and to bring new members to the committee. It would certainly be a good opportunity to expand the idea of networking necessity. Publishing its proceedings was assured by Ana Cristina Carvalho as being a positive fact.

7. Reports from individual members / institutional members

- *Associazione Nazionale Case della Memoria* – Adriano Rigoli

At DEMHIST General Assembly there usually is a time for members to express their ideas and to divulge or to report certain activities.

Adriano Rigoli, president of the "*Associazione Nazionale Case della Memoria*", a DEMHIST institutional member, read a text with information about the association, namely the house museums that became member and reported their activities, in particular an exhibition entitled "Hungarian and Italian Memorial Houses: a shared resource for culture". He finished by informing that «we are looking for international partners».

Hetty Berens commented that it would be interesting to discuss about the possible contribution of this association on the organization of the Milan conference in 2016. «Could DEMHIST do some guided tours to the house museums of this association during the Milan conference? Could we include them in the programme?»

Adriano Rigoli answered that unfortunately that would not be possible because the association does not have any house museum in Milan or in Lombardy. However it has been participating in the meetings of the Italian Group and already volunteered to be part of the organizing team.

8. Any other business

John Barnes asked if there were any other topics to be discussed but no one raised any further question.

9. Next General Assembly: Mexico City, October 2015

John Barnes announced that the next DEMHIST General Assembly would be taking place in Mexico City, in October next year.

Moreover, «the 2017 conference in Finland will be fixed by the next Board». «There are a number of suggestions right now».

10. Board elections

«Should candidates make a statement before the election?» John Barnes asked. «That is not fair because some candidates are not here» Maria de Jesus Monge said. «Besides of that their biographies had circulated so members already know the candidates».

John Barnes asked the Assembly «Are you sure how to vote? Do you know how to vote?»

Voting members said «Yes, we do» because the procedure was already sent by e-mail to every member.

John Barnes reminded the Assembly that after the board elections, the new Board would select the vice-chairs.

Maria de Jesus Monge and Hetty Berens distributed the voting ballots.

John Barnes stated that he would not vote because he was running for being the DEMHIST Chair and he didn't feel like voting for the next board.

Members voted and after that the ballots were collected. Subsequently the votes were counted by Maria de Jesus Monge and Hetty Berens. A few minutes later Maria de Jesus Monge announced that the new board was composed by: «John Barnes, Elsa Rodrigues, Ana Cristina Carvalho, Gianluca Kannés, Carmen Jiménez Sanz, Ann Scheid, Luc Vanackere, Ayşen Savaş, Ulla Strømberg, Lourdes Monges and Minerva Keltanen».

11. Close

John Barnes closed the Assembly by saying "The Assembly is finished".

Addendum:

To be more precise I add to these minutes that 63 (sixty-three) members voted in these elections. 37 members voted early by mail (sending their ballots by e-mail) and 26 voted at the General Assembly. Two other members sent their voting ballots by e-mail on the 9th October but Elsa Rodrigues didn't have the chance to open her email account on that day since there was no wireless Internet connection at Compiègne Palace.

Candidates to the board and the votes they got were the following ones:

John Barnes - 60 votes
Elsa Rodrigues - 63 votes
Ana Cristian Carvalho - 55 votes
Gianluca Kannés - 58 votes
Carmen Jiménez Sanz - 43 votes
Ann Scheid - 43 votes
Luc Vanackere - 37 votes
Ayşen Savaş - 45 votes

Cecilia Fernández de Pallini – 16 votes
Barbara Laan – 34 votes
Ulla Strømberg – 35 votes
Lourdes Monges – 37 votes
Marianna van der Zwaag – 32 votes
Minerva Keltanen – 44 votes

Note: Names appear by the same order they had on the voting ballot.

Elsa Rodrigues
DEM HIST Secretary-Treasurer
Lisbon, January 2015