

Annual Report of the Chair October 2018 – August 2019

This report covers the period between the annual conference in Baku, Azerbaijan, October 2018 to the present, a period of ten and half months. It also reports you on future events and partnerships that DEMHIST has been established.

1. Conferences

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

The 2018 annual conference was hosted by the Azerbaijan Carpet Museum and it was 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 was Decorative Arts and Interiors. Sub-themes within the conference explored: Textiles in interiors; Interior design and defining identity; Interiors and authenticity; Metalwork and jewellery. There was a wide range of exciting international speakers to share their knowledge and experience on papers and in short talks. We had the honour of the presence of the President of ICOM, Suay Aksoy, the President of ICOM Azerbaijan, Shirin Melikova and a representative of the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Luis Raposo, ICOM-Europe President, did not attend the conference due to a last minute constraint. In fact, a problem with the VISA to enter Azerbaijan prevented him from boarding when he was already checking in at the airport.

The conference counted with two keynote speakers: Sevil Sadikhova, Doctor in Arts and Anis Chaaya, PhD in Archaeology, ICOMOS-Lebanon Board Member and Associate Professor at Lebanese University.

Guided tours to museums and to house museums made attendees immerse on Azerbaijani culture, on their working process and on their relationship with audiences. This conference was an opportunity to touch base with a museum professional community that due to financial constraints and language barriers has not been attending DEMHIST conferences. Most Azerbaijanis speak Azeri and they are good at Russian as a second language. Just young people have English as third popular language. That is why it was so important to get the

word out about DEMHIST, about management standards and to create bounds with Azerbaijani historic house museums community that felt quite isolated from the international point of view.

Next annual conferences:

Kyoto, Japan, 1st – 7th September 2019

Museums as cultural hubs: the future of tradition

This year, we are going to meet in Kyoto, Japan, as part of the next ICOM Triennial Conference and General Assembly. Yoshihiro Nakatani, DEMHIST Board Member, has been our local contact and he put up an amazing programme of local visits, pre-conference visits, a reception and an off-site meeting.

The first conference day is dedicated to DEMHIST papers and lightning talks. 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), a Multi-Party Session with ICOM-Netherlands, ICOM-Japan and the Affiliated Alliance EXARC (Archaeological Open-Air Museums and Experimental Archaeology) and an off-site visit with ICAMT (International Committee for Architecture and Museum Techniques). This clearly shows how vibrant DEMHIST is by establishing contacts with other national and international committees, which whom we have never worked before.

Amersfoort, the Netherlands, 5th – 9th October 2020

Sustainability

This conference will explore the following theme: Sustainability is a comprehensive concept for museums. It's about the building, collection management, operations and the relationship with the public. The ambitions and challenges are great: less energy, less waste, less water consumption, smarter use of resources and raw materials, more quality in the management and use of the collection and more and better public participation. How can a historical museum translate these ambitions into practice? During the conference, sustainability experts and members will speak, we will examine the challenges, we will visit inspiring examples and we will see that a lot is possible.

Partner Institution: ICOM-Netherlands

2. Training Courses for professionals

Internship opportunities for Azerbaijani young professionals.

The goal is to establish a collaboration between DEMHIST and ICOM-Azerbaijan, by offering internships for young Azerbaijani professionals in DEMHIST House Museums in Europe where trainees have the chance of doing a two-week up to a month internship. Once finished, the trainee has to submit a report within a month following the internship on what have done and achieved and has to submit a second report on what was able to implement or change on their House-Museum within six months after the internship.

Workshop on standards to open a House Museum to the public is being thought about to be hold in Beirut (Lebanon) in a near future. This idea was proposed by Anis Chaaya at the DEMHIST General Assembly in Baku. DEMHIST is still exploring this proposal, looking for partners in other ICOM international committees and affiliated associations and sponsors to finance this ambitious project. The idea is very appealing to DEMHIST because we have the possibility to reach out for members in the Middle East, to increase the number of house museums in Lebanon and to contribute to best practices in that country.

I will report you on future developments as this project takes shape.

3. Partnerships and Networking

Public Programme, Chicago, United States of America, 15th October 2018

At Home with the Artist – A Legacy of Domesticity through House Museums

Sub-themes: To learn about four unique and geographically diverse artists, all of whom have ties to Chicago, through the lens of their home lives. How did Henry Moore's Perry Green studios and gardens in rural Hertfordshire inspire his bronze sculptures? What about Roger Brown's collection of art and objects in his storefront home/studio spoke to his visual and associative practice? How did Albin Polasek overcome his paralysis later in life to continue artmaking in his Florida home? Which key personalities in 20th century art frequented Roland Penrose's East Sussex farmhouse?

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 was organised by the AASLH (American Association of State and Local History) in partnership with DEMHIST, ICOM-US, Historic New England and Driehaus Richard H. Foundation. It was attended by 180 participants from which 20 attendees came

from AASLH. Participants were from 25 historic house museums and general public. The programme counted with 4 contributors and 1 moderator: Valerie Balint, Lisa Stone, Debbie Komanski, Hannah Higham, Ami Bouhassane. The represented countries were the United States of America, England and Czech Republic.

The Arts Club of Chicago was the host institution and the activity language was English. The programme sought to fulfil the following goals: 1) Galvanize local house museum community to increase national and international professional relationships and collaboration. 2) Explore existing connections of historic artists homes and studios to the City of Chicago and highlight future areas of further academic research. 3) Engage with and catalyse a body of historic art historical research relevant to the discourse of domesticity. Since the program was free and opened to the public increased public knowledge, participation and appreciation of historic artist homes and studios.

The programme featured a moderated discussion with audience, questions and answers regarding the curatorial practice of four artists homes and studios in the United States and Great Britain. The programme was available at: <http://www.artsclubchicago.org/at-home-with-the-artist-a-legacy-of-domesticity-through-house-museums/>

Historic House and Sites Summit, Miami, United States of America, 3rd - 5th February 2019

Sustainability: Governance, Relevance and the Environment

Sub-themes: Conservation Lab, Baydrift Research Project, Preserving Heritage, Interpretation, Mission & Vision and Infrastructure.

The second American Alliance of Museums Summit was 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 was hosted by Vizcaya Museums and Gardens, located in Miami, United States of America. The summit focused on sustainability that affects decisions of the Historic House Museum professional. Although, the summit was an American National Meeting, six DEMHIST board members also attended it. The representative countries were United States of America, Canada, Portugal, Italy, Netherlands, Israel and Denmark. The summit was attended by 100 participants, most of them curators and museum professionals. More people wanted to attend this event but places were limited to the auditorium capacity and workshops rooms.

The programme combined keynote speakers, visits and workshops on conservation, programming, interpretation, technology and governance. It had 2

keynotes, 15 contributors and 13 professionals leading workshops and visits. The activity language was English.

Outcomes: Practical information was shared on environmental sustainability and climate action that can be replicated at historic houses or sites and examples were given on how the field is making waves to preserve the future and face these challenges. During the summit attendees were broke into small groups and explored a variety of sustainability efforts underway at Vizcaya, specifically in the Village. These experiences served as practical, interactive case studies to demonstrate the application of theory to practice. Attendees had also the opportunity to learn on how Vizcaya Museum and Gardens overcame from the hurricane Irma in 2017. Finally, during the last panel, focused on “Avoiding Staff Burnout”, panelists shared their challenges fending off emotional and physical fatigue, financial strain, and the feelings of under appreciation, and then helped attendees dive deeper into the strategies to maintain staff morale and practice self-care in a world where a healthy work/life balance is a commodity. This session focused on the challenges and solutions facing the field and gave tips and tricks for burn out prevention.

Fourth Meeting on Literary House Museums, São Paulo, Brazil, 5th -6th July 2019
“Museum and (in)visibility”

The two-day meeting was organised by São Paulo Literary House Museums Net, in São Paulo, Brazil, 5th – 6th July. The meeting was coordinated by Casa Guilherme de Almeida that is a DEMHIST Institutional Member. Speakers came from different Brazilian states.

Outcomes: The meeting promoted the exchange of experiences between institutions focused on novelists and poets, through museum professionals who work in literary house museums or through other attendees whose professional career is linked to this subject, such as museology students, archivists, librarians, language teachers and translators or through attendees coming from tourism, history and fine arts back ground. Both, academic and museum professionals, benefited from this exchange.

Palace Day, 19th July 2019

Gardens

Launched in 2016, the #PalaceDay came back for the fourth year in a row!

The Palace Day 19th July 2019 was an international, digital event that brought up the attention on Palaces. The event was organized by ICOM-France and ARRE (Network of European Royal Residences) and supported by DEMHIST. This event used social media (Twitter, Instagram and Facebook) to raise

awareness on heritage. In fact, young people and new audiences went to palaces. It proved that social media has great potential reaching out for new audiences. Through French and English gardens, fountains and sculptures, exotic flowers and remarkable trees and woods, through kitchen gardens, historical gardens and great traveller-gardeners, audience could discover European Heritage from a new perspective and enjoyed a journey through time!

For this Palace Day they used the hashtag #PalaceDay. They also tagged the account @PalaceDay (Instagram), @Palace_Day (Twitter) and the account @europeanroyalpalaces (Instagram). People could link the accounts of the members of the network and engage the palaces community.

The palaces that participated in this event were: Schönbrunn Palace (Austria), Coudenberg Palace (Belgium), The Royal Danish Collection (Denmark), Danish Agency for Culture and Palaces (Denmark), Frederiksborg Castle (Denmark), Prussian Palaces and Gardens of Berlin-Brandenburg (Germany), Kulturstiftung Dessau-Wörlitz (Germany), Palaces of Versailles and Trianon (France), Château of Chambord (France), Palace of Compiègne (France), Royal Palace of Gödöllő (Hungary), Consorzio Residenze Reali Saubaude (Italy), Royal Palace of Turin (Italy), Royal Palace of Caserta (Italy), Royal Palace of Monza (Italy), Prince's Palace of Monaco (Monaco), Paleis Het Loo (Netherlands), Museum of King Jan III's Palace at Wilanów (Poland), Royal Castle in Warsaw (Poland), Royal Łazienki Museum (Poland), Mafra National Palace (Portugal), Parques de Sintra - Monte da Lua (Portugal), Swedish Royal Palaces (Sweden), Historic Royal Palaces (United Kingdom), Moscow Kremlin Museums (Russia) and Peterhof State Museum-Reserve (Russia).

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 in Israel.

DEMHIST-Mexico, Mexico City, 9th October 2018

II National House Museums Meeting / II Encuentro Nacional de Casas Museo

Theme: Hyperconnected Museums: New forms of communication in Houses Museum / Museos Hiperconectados, Nuevas formas de Comunicación en las Casas Museo. Sub-themes: *Historias de Hiperconectividad; El Museo Frida*

Kahlo hiperconectado: alcances; Casas Museo en los estados; Nuevas Tecnologías en Casas Museo; La importancia del rescate de inmuebles patrimoniales (Casa Rivas Mercado).

Mexican National group organised a symposium in Mexico City, at *Museo Casa de Carranza*. This symposium was video recorded and photographed to disseminate knowledge. 73 people attended this national event, namely, 50 participants, 4 welcoming speakers, 2 keynote speakers, 3 moderators and 14 speakers. It was a National Meeting on House Museums with two keynote speakers and three round tables. Activity Language: Spanish. The symposium was organised by Autoridad del Centro Historico; DEMHIST, Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia (INAH) and by Red de Casas Museo – México. The partner institution was ICOM-Mexico.

The purpose of this symposium was to listen to presentations and to debate new forms of communication, to debate what hyperconnected means to Historic House in Mexico and what can museum professionals change to establish real communication with visitors, community and among house museums. During the symposium participants could listen about Hyperconnectivity stories; Hyperconnected Frida Kahlo Museum: extent and challenges of virtual interactions; House Museums in other Mexican states; House Museums' New Technologies and about The Importance of Rescuing Heritage Buildings (the case of Rivas Mercado House Museum).

Outcomes: The Mexican National Group was reinforced and DEMHIST was promoted. As a result, one more House Museum joined the Mexican House Museums Network / Red de Casas Museo – México.

DEMIST-Italy, Lastra a Signa, 18th - 19th November 2018

L'igiene e le sale da bagno nelle case museo Oggetti, spazi, consuetudini / Bathrooms and hygiene in house museums: objects, spaces and habits

This symposium focused on bathrooms and hygiene. The first session took place at Lastra a Signa, in Florence region, on the 18th -19th November 2018. The aim was 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 combined visits to Florentine House Museums that have their historical bathrooms open to the public. Academic experts as well as house museums experts shared their recent researches on the theme.

The organising committees were ICOM-Italia - Commissione tematica Case Museo, DEMHIST, Associazione Nazionale Case della Memoria and Museo Enrico Caruso. The meeting counted with the sponsorship of Città Metropolitana di Firenze and Comune di Lastra a Signa. Fondazione Adolfo Pini was in charge of the secretariat. The host institutions were Museo Enrico Caruso and Villa di

Bellosguardo. The purpose of the meeting was to give space to House Museum professionals and University professors to share their research on «bathrooms and hygiene in house museums: objects, spaces and habits». Some examples of recently restored bathrooms in Historic House Museums were shown during the meeting.

The activity language was Italian. The meeting was attended by 60 participants (ICOM and Non-ICOM members), Italians and one Spanish professional from Museo Cerralbo. The president of ICOM-Italia made the final speech on the conclusions of the meeting. The meeting had 2 welcoming speakers, 1 keynote speaker, 2 moderators and 11 speakers.

Outcomes: The Italian National Group intends to publish a book with the outcomes of this meeting, namely the presentations and a reflection about the contributions shared by participants. Since the theme is wide and some recent research could not be included in this meeting, the Italian National Group organised a second meeting on the 19th March 2019.

DEMIST-Brazil, São Paulo & Campos do Jordão, 22nd – 23rd November 2018
12º Encontro Brasileiro de Palácios, Museus-Casas e Casas Históricas /12th Brazilian Meeting on Palaces and Historic House Museums

Title: Coleções em destaque / Featured collections

During the meeting it was debated the transformation processes on Palaces and on Historic House Museums, paying special attention to their collections, to their typologies as well as to the challenges of their preservation.

The host Institutions were Palácio dos Bandeirantes and Fundação Ema Klabin (in São Paulo) and Palácio Boa Vista (in Campos do Jordão). This programme was held in collaboration with ICOM-Brazil; DEMIST; Fundação Ema Klabin; Secretary of Culture and Government of São Paulo State. Activity language: Portuguese.

The meeting was attended by 80 participants and counted with 1 keynote speaker, 3 moderators and 12 speakers. The representative countries were Brazil and Portugal and the proposed programme was three round tables and a workshop.

Outcomes: In 2018, it was celebrated the 200 anniversary of the establishment of museums in Brazil. The meeting gave special emphasis to palaces and to historic houses museums that are themselves mediators and real memory links to the visitors. Moreover, this meeting proposed to analyse the transformation processes of palaces and historic homes into museums, focusing on their collections, typologies and preservation challenges, bearing in mind that palaces and historic houses were designed to handle the processing procedures of the

private space into public and the articulation between the collections, the historic buildings and families who lived in those specific spaces.

DEM HIST-Israel, Jerusalem, 20th December 2018

Particular needs in historic house museums in Israeli landscape

Timna Seligman (DEM HIST Board Member) set up the Israeli National group. This national meeting was hosted by Ticho House, The Israel Museum Jerusalem and consisted of a round table / workshop. ICOM-Israel was the partner institution.

The participants were as follow: 18 directors and curators of historical house museums from across Israel (16 attendees + 2 speakers), 12 of them were ICOM members and 6 were Non-ICOM members. ICOM-Israel president attended the event and the activity language was Hebrew.

In fact, 18 participants gathered to discuss common issues and to think about solutions for historic house museums. The second purpose was to discuss the establishment of a local branch of ICOM DEM HIST.

The workshop was divided into three sessions.

1. morning session

Introduction to ICOM (given by ICOM Israel board member Dorit Goran)

Introduction to DEM HIST (given by DEM HIST board member Timna Seligman)

Round table discussion about the range of houses in Israel and particular needs and concerns that different from other museums and cultural institutions.

2. Walking tour of three historical locations near Ticho House and tour of Ticho House with special emphasis of its recent restoration and renewal project.

3. Discussion and creation of list of possible collaboration projects. Decision to meet in six months for a second meeting.

Outcomes: Members could listen to and to think about common ground issues. These round table and workshop were conducted by Timna Seligman (curator of Ticho House) and by other museum professionals. So, the point of views could diverge and create a stimulating dialogue between participants. The major outcome was that participants were able to settle the Israeli DEM HIST National Group and they are now thinking about organising further meetings to promote DEM HIST and best practices in Historic House Museums in Israel.

DEMHIST-Italy, Milan, 15th March 2019

Hygiene and Bathrooms in the House-Museums of the Twentieth Century: Objects, Spaces, Practices

The meeting organized by the Italian House-Museums Commission of ICOM Italia, in partnership with Fondazione Adolfo Pini and FAI (The National Trust for Italy) took place in Milano at Villa Necchi Campiglio on 15th March 2019.

The purpose of this meeting was to cover examples that could not be shown in the previous meeting and to further discuss examples of recent restored toilets, restoration approaches and the outcomes from historical research.

The meeting was attended by about 100 people. It was open to the general public during the morning session and it was followed a guided tour to Villa Necchi Campiglio. Lucia Borromeo (FAI Research and Development Office's representative person) gave the greeting message and Ruggero Ranieri (Member of the Italian Commission) made an introduction to the subject. The first speaker was Maria Teresa Feraboli (Researcher at the Politecnico di Milano University) who approached the topic from a sociological, architectural and custom perspective. Her paper title was "From Lavatory to Restroom: the Conquest of the Bathroom" . The second speaker was Mary Vaughan Johnson (Head of Department of Architecture and Landscape at Kingstone University, London). Her paper was entitled "L'art de vivre Moderne dans la salle de bains" (The Modern Art of Living in the Bathroom) focussed on the Maison de Verre, located in Paris, in particular on the bathrooms of this modernist icon. She gave an anthropological analysis investigating the changing perceptions of the human body and concepts of habit reflected in the modern movement. The third speaker was Maria Fratelli (Director of Casa Boschi di Stefano) who presented a lecture on 'A Bathroom particulier, the Situationist Room of Casa Museo Boschi Di Stefano', who told about the houses of the two Milanese collectors.

DEMHIST-Portugal / ICOM-Europe, Guimarães, 2nd – 4th May 2019

Museums as cultural hubs: The future of tradition

Interpreting, programming, innovating Memorial spaces in museological contexts

In 2019 DEMHIST Portuguese national group celebrated its 10th anniversary delivering annual national meetings. For that reason, organised a special event, a three-day joint meeting with ICOM-Europe, at the Ducal Palace of Guimarães, called European Seminar 2019.

The seminar was organised by Ducal Palace of Guimarães, Regional Directorate for Culture – North of Portugal, ICOM-Europe, DEMHIST, ICOM-Portugal and

DEMHIST-Portugal with the support of Guimarães and Vila Nova de Famalicão municipalites,

The call for papers and the programme was available on ICOM-Europe website:
<http://network.icom.museum/europe/activities/conferences/>

The main theme was *Museums as cultural hubs: The future of tradition*. Museums face a permanent challenge to safeguard the past, whereas promoting the understanding of present meanings and relations that help to build a better and inclusive future. In this context, sub-themes within the conference explored: Interpreting, Programming and Innovating Memorial Spaces in Museological Contexts.

The goal of this joint event was to extend a national meeting to a vast audience and to explore common ground. The seminar combined paper presentations with guided tours, contributing for its success. At the opening session, António Sampaio da Nóvoa gave an inspiring keynote speech.

Number of participants: 1 keynote speaker, 4 moderators and 15 speakers, 86 participants and 20 people from the staff made the event possible. 79% of participants were Portuguese, 8% Brazilian, 2% Russian, 2% French, 7% Croatian, 1% Czech Republican and 1% Dutch. 38% of speakers were Portuguese, 15% Brazilian, 5% Polish, 6% French, 6% Croatian, 6% Belgium, 6% Spanish, 6% German, 6% Italian and 6% Russian. Besides, that, we had the honour of having Margarida Ascenso, from ICOM secretariat in Paris, attending this seminar.

The activity languages were Portuguese and English. Simultaneous interpretation was provided at all times. Moreover, seminar was recorded and photographed for knowledge dissemination proposes.

DEMHIST-Israel, Hadera and Nachsholim, 24th June 2019

Forms of presenting historical narrative for a wide audience

Timna Seligman (DEMHIST Board Member) organised the second Israeli national meeting with the format of a rolling seminar, to keep reinforcing the bounds of the recently established DEMHIST-Israel group. This meeting was hosted by two mid-late 19th century structures. The morning was spent at the Khan Museum in Hadera and the afternoon at the Mizgaga Museum in Nachsholim.

The goal was to discuss on forms of presenting historical narrative for a wide audience and the use of modern technology for display and education within heritage sites. The meeting was attended by 12 people and the activity Language was Hebrew. ICOM-Israel was the partner institution who financially supported this event.

DEMHIST-Brazil, São Paulo, 14th – 15th October 2019

Tradições: preservar para o future / Traditions: preserving for the future

On the first day of the XIII Brazilian meeting on Palaces, Houses Museums and Historic Houses attendees will be hosted by *Memorial América Latina e Países Iberoamericanos*, a cultural centre designed by the architect Oscar Niemayer. On the second day the host institution will be the Ema Klabin Foundation.

In October Brazilian cuisine is going to be celebrated in a national festival. Taking part of this gastronomic event, the meeting will explore and debate this intangible heritage in two thematic round tables on “How can House Museum preserve local traditions?” and will inaugurate the exhibition "At the table: history of food in São Paulo".

On the second day there will be two other thematic tables and a workshop focused on “How valorise local traditions as identity and new opportunities for museums?” The meeting will also explore institutions’ engagement with their cultural landscapes, stimulating tourism, income generation, employment and local communities’ development. Communications will be delivered by Brazilian and Portuguese museum’ professionals.

DEMHIST-Mexico, Guanajuato, 19th – 21st October, 2019

III National House Museums Meeting / III Encuentro Nacional de Casas Museo

Theme: Museums as cultural hubs: the future of tradition / Las casas-museos como ejes culturales: el futuro de la tradición

Mexican National Group is organising the III National Meeting in Guanajuato, hosted by *Casa Museo José Alfredo Jiménez* where about sixty museum professionals and students are expected to attend, having ICOM-Mexico as partner institution. This meeting is organised by Red de Casas Museo – México, DEMHIST and by ICOM-Mexico.

DEMHIST-Israel, Jerusalem, early 2020

A third Israeli National Meeting is being planned to early 2020.

The activity language will be Hebrew.

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 and projects in 2019. Applications were selected in October 2018.

From the seven selected projects for 2019 two have not been accomplished yet: a workshop on museum documentation organised by ICOM-Mozambique and a workshop on “*Revivir la tradicion del tejido de lana en Jiquilpan*” / “Reviving the tradition of Jiquilpan wood fabric” organised by ICOM-México and Fundación Feliciano Béjar.

5. The Jeanne Watson bursary for young professionals

Honouring Jeanne Watson’s memory and will, DEMHIST granted Hillary Gugan-Walker, a PhD candidate in Museology, from Canada, with a bursary. She will deliver a paper at the DEMHIST conference in Kyoto, this September.

6. ICOM travel grant for young members

For the second year International Committees were directed to manage the ICOM travel grant for young members and had to review the applications. Candidates’ CV and motivation letters were evaluated by Elsa Rodrigues and by Remko Jansonius. Then, DEMHIST informed SAREC (Strategic Allocation Review Committee) about the criteria used to select the suggested DEMHIST candidate and I am happy to say that SAREC approved it. So, from the 18 candidates DEMHIST is awarding the travel grant to Homa Khorasani, from Iran. She is a 27 years old architect who restores historic houses and converts them into museums.

7. Publications

The proceedings of the Milan conference “*House Museums and Interpretation of the Cultural, Social, Urban Landscape*” were published in January, both printed and PDF versions. The PDF file of this publication is available on DEMHIST website <https://icom-demhist.org/>

The publication “*10 anos de reflexão sobre Casas-Museu em Portugal*”, issued in May 2019 to celebrate the 10th anniversary of DEMHIST National Group, contains a contemporary reflection on the themes debated on those 10 annual meetings. This publication was published by *Direção Regional de Cultura do Norte* in a partnership and with the support of ICOM-Portugal and DEMHIST. A PDF file of this publication is available on DEMHIST website <https://icom-demhist.org/>

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

8. Communications

I am happy to announce that the new DEMHIST website is live from early February. I made the new website to come true. The website was designed and hosted by Quinta Digital, a company settled in Portugal. I thank Carl Nold, from Historic New England, for the courtesy of the first pictures and I express my gratitude to the 39 other members who collaborated on this project sending pictures and texts of DEMHIST Historic House Museums. Response was great. Timna Seligman is from this year the DEMHIST web manager.

Having said that, you can find DEMHIST here: <https://icom-demhist.org/> Check out for all our latest news and updates.

As a consequence of setting up the new website, the DEMHIST microsite managed and provided by ICOM (<http://network.icom.museum/demhist>) was redirected to the new one. So, the DEMHIST microsite no longer exists. In addition to that, the old website (<http://demhist.icom.museum>) was removed from the Internet.

DEMHIST Twitter @icomdemhist and Facebook Icom-Demhist accounts are established as well. On Twitter we have 395 followers and on Facebook we have 735 followers. It pleases me to see that an increasing number of members is using these means of communication.

9. The General Assembly 2018

DEMHIST held its General Assembly at the Azerbaijan Carpet Museum, in Baku, on 12th October 2018. The minutes are included with the papers for the Kyoto General Assembly.

10. DEMHIST Board

DEMHIST Board has one less member because Ulla Stromberg stepped down from the position of Vice-Chair. She also stepped down from her position of councillor in ICOM-Denmark Board. Consequently, DEMHIST Board has nine members now.

11. Secretary

Remko Jansonius, the DEMHIST Secretary, has been communicating directly with members. My sincere thanks to his commitment to the committee and to his constant endeavour.

12. Treasurer

The DEMHIST Treasurer, Frank Louhenapessy, has prepared a separate report on his activities and the budget for 2020.

13. Chair

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

In 2019 I met in Lisbon Cynthia Robinson (Director of Museum Studies Program of Tufts University and Editor in chief of the Journal of Museum Education), Annabel Westman, (Executive Director of The Attingham Trust), Kenneth Turino (Historic New England / Tufts University) and Monica Bilfinger (Secretary of ICOMOS Swizerland). In all occasions I promoted DEMHIST.

I gave the opening and the closing speeches as well as I moderated a conference session at the European Seminar 2019 at Guimarães, 2nd – 4th May 2019, organized by ICOM-Europe and by DEMHIST-Portugal. I wrote an introductory text to the publication “*10 anos de reflexão sobre Casas-Museu em Portugal*” that was launched during the European Seminar.

I will be a keynote speaker, representing DEMHIST on the “Symposium of Cultural Resources: Cultural Performance and Social Engagement” taking place in Taipei, at the Institute of Museum Studies of the Taipei National University of Arts, on the 5th - 6th December, this year.

I am currently working on a possible joint venture of DEMHIST and ICOM-Russia because DEMHIST has a large number of Russian members but rarely do they attend DEMHIST meetings. Their participation is absolutely residual. In fact, they are not attending DEMHIST conferences for more than a decade. In this context, contacts have been established with Vassily Pankratov, Director of Gatchina Palace and Estate Museum, to figure out if it is possible to organise a joint meeting with other Russian museums or cultural organizations.

Following the previous idea, I am also currently looking for a potential joint meeting with ICOM-France and with other French museums, university and cultural organizations. I am on conversation with Jacques Terriere, MPR Board Member (International Committee for Marketing and Public Relations) / ICOM-Europe Treasurer and with Micaela Neveu from *Sorbonne Université* to understand if this is a feasible idea.

I have been encouraging members to organise events. I have been challenging them with ideas and helping them establishing contacts on the behalf of DEMHIST. Despite the huge amount of work and endeavour put on it some events did not succeed. Nevertheless, due to the time and energy invested I retain to be important to mention them in my report:

Despite all efforts made by DEMHIST and ICMS to make the joint-workshop on security happen during the conference in Kyoto it had to be cancelled due to overschedule. I thank DEMHIST members who supported this workshop by suggesting themes.

A meeting in Cairo, at the Manial Palace, to Egyptian house museum professionals was set to the 25 June, then postpone to the 1st July and finally it had to be cancelled due to issues on ICOM-Egypt Board. As a matter of fact, ICOM-Egypt Chairperson and Vice-Chair are currently arrested. This meeting aimed to raise awareness on house museums in Egypt and to prepare a local team responsible for the organisation of the 2022 Alexandria conference. I

strongly hope that it will be possible to hold a meeting as soon as possible, after the new ICOM-Egypt Board is elected, which should happen this October. I thank Walaa Eldin Badawy for the efforts already made.

An event in collaboration with DOCOMOMO-US (Chicago) was thought about as a possibility for 2019 but that did not happen. It will maybe happen next year in a format to be already established.

Contacts are being made by Mousruti Das in India, in particularly in Rajasthan, to divulge DEMHIST. This has been revealed to be a difficult task to accomplish because Rajasthan Palaces hardly consider themselves as Historic House Museums. Organising a workshop on conservation in India within three years is one of the ideas on the table. This is part of the strategy of going to countries where ICOM and DEMHIST lack of members. However, this seems to be a hard goal to accomplish. ICOM-India is a recent national committee since it was established about two years ago and they are making baby steps now towards a better understanding of what ICOM is about and ICOM standards are.

DEMHIST was approached by Damon Monzavi from Iran to organise an international conference in Teheran. The challenge fulfils DEMHIST goals however due to the United States of America embargo to Iran, DEMHIST is prevented from organising a conference there since that would involve to make payments to Iran and ICOM does not allow us to do that. Any National or International Committee is allow to receive or to send money to Iran as long as the embargo exists. This is very sad news because Iranian colleagues fell isolated and it would be a unique opportunity for DEMHIST to have contact with Iranian museological reality.

DEMHIST was approached by Cecilia Fernandez de Pallini from Colombia, in order to organise an international conference in Bogotá aiming to increase Latin American membership. The idea was not discarded but since DEMHIST already held an international conference in Bogotá in 2008, for the moment, we would prefer not to repeat a venue.

Contacts were made with Natascha Drabbe, Chairperson of the ICONIC Houses Network, in order organise a possible joint conference. This is still an open possibility to explore in the future.

Finally, I let you know that on behalf of DEMHIST Board I signed an invitation to postpone the ICOM Extraordinary General Assembly, due to be held on the 7th September in Kyoto, where the new museum definition should be voted. DEMHIST disapproves the proposed new museum definition and associated itself to other national and international committees by sending a letter to the

President of ICOM, Suay Aksoy, to the Chairperson of the Advisory Council, Regine Shultz and to the General Director of ICOM, Peter Keller on the 12th August. Suay Aksoy kindly forwarded that letter to the ICOM Executive Board. As time passes it is predictable that more committees will associate themselves to this invitation as well, looking for further discussion and to extend the debate on this matter.

14. Board Meetings

The DEMHIST Board met two times during the year:

Baku, Azerbaijan, 10th, 11th and 12th October 2018

Miami, United States of America, 6th February 2019

The Board will meet again soon in Kyoto (Japan) and in spring 2020, most probably, in Israel. Besides that, eight Board Members will be attending the ICOM General Assembly in Kyoto, on the 7th September 2019, which is the highest number ever. Although, according to ICOM rules, only five members can vote.

Elsa Rodrigues

Chair of DEMHIST

August 2019