

DEMIST General Assembly

Virtual via Zoom, November 19, 2020

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Participation

Prior to the GA, 75 members, representing 22 countries, registered for the online meeting; 39 members attended, and 28/29 members actively participated in the voting process.

Members present

Ana Cristina Carvalho, António Ponte, Beatriz Quevedo, Carl Nold, Cecilia Casas Desantes, Diederik Von Bönninghausen, Elena Verkhovskaya, Flavio M. Borda D'Agua, Francesca Baldry, Frank Louhenapessy, Gianluca Kannes, Gustavo Brognara, Hillary Walker, Jacek Kuśmierski, Johan Møhlenfeldt, Jurn Buisman, Lei Yin, Lorenzo Belli, Remko Jansonius, Maria Jesus Monge, Nudia Andrea Pineda Cópín, Patricia Nobilia, Roberto Andreu, Saghar Hamidi, Timna Seligman, Ulla Stromberg, Veronique Fehmers, Vicky Kruckeberg, Yvonne Ploum

(This being a virtual meeting with people coming and going, the names of some participants are missing in the above list.)

Minutes prepared by Remko Jansonius, DEMHIST Secretary

Meeting started at 15:05 CET (Paris Time)

1. Welcome and Opening Remarks

Yvonne Ploum, DEMHIST chair-ad-interim, opens the meeting and welcomes attendees, and presents the agenda for the meeting.

2. Authorization of Kyoto GA minutes including Q&A and vote

Yvonne opens the chat floor for questions regarding the minutes; no questions are posed. (This and all previous GA minutes can be viewed on the DEMHIST website.) The vote is taken via the online poll: 25 votes yes; 3 abstain.

3. Chair Report 2019 Q&A, vote

Yvonne explains that the report was prepared by Elsa Rodrigues, the previous chair, who was not able to continue in the role of DEMHIST chair. Yvonne opens the chat floor for questions; no questions are posed. (This and all chair reports can be viewed on the DEMHIST website.) The vote is taken via the online poll: 26 votes yes to approve; 2 abstain.

4. Financial Report 2019 Q&A, vote

Frank Louhenapessy, DEMHIST treasurer, takes participants through the 2019 budget via screenshare. Yvonne opens the chat floor for questions regarding the minutes.

Q: Carl Nold asks about the balance of the Jeanne Watson bursary. A: Frank explains there is a 3,000 euros balance.

The vote is taken via the online poll: 27 votes yes to approve; 1 abstains.

(There is a slight change to the agenda's sequence.)

7. National Groups

Portugal

Antonio Ponte reports on the Portuguese National Group. The Portuguese committee has not carried out any public activities during 2020 because of the pandemic. They have initiated a process of contact with Portuguese speaking countries in Africa. Following the 10-year cycle of national meetings, which resulted in a successful publication, they will develop a next cycle of meetings with a new format, in Portugal. It is their intent to translate the publication into English.

Q: Remko Jansonius asks if Antonio anticipates new members from Portuguese speaking countries in Africa joining DEMHIST. A: Antonio explains that they have started working with people in one country in particular and they will ask them to join.

Q: Yvonne asks about plans for next year. A: Antonio shares that they plan to have additional online meetings and to share expertise with Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa (esp. Angola and Mozambique) and with Brazil.

Maria de Jesus Monge (ICOM-Portugal) further explains that some countries may encounter barriers if there is not a (good working) national committee. ICOM-Portugal is working with several countries to help with national committees, which may result in getting new DEMHIST members eventually.

Remko adds that people's names and email addresses can be added to the DEMHIST mailing list, that they do not need to be DEMHIST or ICOM members for this to happen.

(Back to the agenda's sequence.)

5. Committee Activities

Membership

Remko reports on 2019 DEMHIST membership and explains that to the membership in general it is a bit of a mystery *who* DEMHIST members really are. Through a PowerPoint presentation, he explains *where* DEMHIST members are. He briefly explains the process of becoming a member, and how the membership list of DEMHIST is put together, via national committees and the ICOM Secretariat. He then shows how the DEMHIST members are distributed across regions, with the vast majority (432) being from Europe, versus 131 from other-than-Europe.

Social Media

Timna Seligman (DEMHIST Vice Chair) reports on social media activities, which includes the website, Facebook and Twitter. DEMHIST is operating its own website (not through ICOM). Timna gives a brief tour of the website, and explains that information from previous websites

has been transferred to this new site. She shows several pages, including “DEMHIST Houses” and COVID Resources. Timna then shows DEMHIST’s Facebook activities, and invites people to submit information to post, stating “If we don’t know about it, we can’t share it.” She also shares a weekly post of “Sunday Houses” via Facebook.

Conference Proceedings

Timna shares the progress on the proceedings of the three recent conferences, including London (2017), Baku (2018) and Kyoto (2019.) Some proceedings have been delayed due to the pandemic and furloughs; all are still being worked on.

Q: Jurn Buisman asks what the distinction is between individual and institutional members. A. Remko explains that the fee is different, but that is also different from country to country. Also, an institutional member can have three representatives for their institution, including 3 votes. He further explains some of the difficulties in the membership process. Maria de Jesus Monge (chair of ICOM-Portugal) adds that membership, and a good database, continues to be a problem for both national and international committees.

6. Budget 2020-21 Q&A, vote

Frank Louhenapessy (DEMHIST Treasurer) presents the DEMHIST Budget versus Expenses for 2020, including the outstanding expenses for the remainder of the year and the projected end-of-year balance. No questions.

Frank then presents the budget proposal for 2021, pending confirmation by the incoming board 2020-2023. He adds that there will not be an ICOM Young Professional Travel grant in 2021. Yvonne opens the chat floor to questions on the website.

Q: Why has the website maintenance and survey monkey fee increased by 1,000 euro? A: Frank explains that the website host/maintenance fee is 750 euro and the survey monkey software subscription fee is 500 euro. These are reflective of increased online activities.

For technical reasons, the vote is postponed until after the break.

7. National Groups

Brazil

Ana Cristina Carvalho reports on the Brazilian National Group. She emphasizes the ongoing importance of expanding membership in Latin America and the Caribbean and gives a brief history of the Brazil national group going back to 1998, and the formation over the years of specific category networks, such as the Literary House Museums Network. During the pandemic the latter conducted programming for online learning, including online training course for literary translations and a workshop for writers. She reports on some pre-pandemic activities, including the 13th Brazilian Meeting on Palaces and Historic House Museums in October 2019 In Sao Paulo, with 150 participants, with the theme “Traditions: Preserving for the Future.” Ana Cristina then announces the 14th Brazilian Meeting on Palaces and Historic House museums to take place online in December 2020, with the theme “Essence and Meaning in the Museum,” with participants from Brazil, Italy, Portugal and Mexico. She concludes in reporting the group’s presence on Facebook.

Mexico

Lourdes Monges reports via a prerecorded video from Mexico City, on the activities of the Mexican National Group, which was started 13 years ago, and briefly mentions the meetings of the Mexican house museums. Lourdes makes some additional comments in person.

Italy

Gianluca Kannès reports that for the past year the Italian National Group has been at somewhat of a standstill, because Rosanna Pavoni stepped down as chair of the group, and they have not been able to elect a new chair. This is in part due to developments in Italy, in that ICOM Italy has become independent from ICOM Officiel, thus no longer being subject to French law. Shortly before this report, Monica Bietti was elected as the new chair. Gianluca also reports that the group is focusing on the editing of the publication on the meeting on bathrooms, which DEMHIST had previously supported.

A break of 5 minutes follows.

Vote on Agenda item 6.

The meeting resumes to obtain authorization for the proposed budget for 2021. The vote is taken via the online poll: 28 votes yes to approve; 1 abstains.

8. Funding Opportunities.

Remko Jansonius reports on funding opportunities.

Jeanne Watson Bursary

Remko shares the history of the Jeanne Watson Bursary, who she was, and who the recipients of this bursary have been in the previous 3 years. This can be found on the DEMHIST website. For 2020 the bursary was put on hold.

ICOM Young Professional Travel Grant

Remko shares the names of the recipients of this grant for the previous 3 years, which is also available on the DEMHIST website. This grant, funded by ICOM, has also been put on hold for 2020, and for 2021 as well.

Special Projects Grants

Remko reports on the 5 recipients of this grant for special projects, most of which pivoted to virtual projects. Lei Yin of the Museum of Jiangnan Imperial Examination Hall in Nanjing, China was one of the recipients. He gives a presentation on “The Tale of the Mirageous Flora,” a project that was in part funded with this DEMHIST grant.

9. DEMHIST Webinar

Timna Seligman and Yvonne Ploum share information on the upcoming webinar that will take place instead of the real-time 2020 conference, which was to take place in The Netherlands. The webinar “Sustainability and House Museums” on 16 December 2020 is to include several speakers and presenters, including Sarah Sutton, George Okello Abungu, Remco Wagemakers, and Soula Notos.

10. Election Results

Before reporting on the elections, Remko addresses some questions about voting and membership. He explains that since it is so difficult to get an accurate list of current DEMHIST members in good standing, there is a chance that some people who are in fact DEMHIST members may not have received the ballot. This is, as previously mentioned, an ongoing problem with national and international committees.

Remko then proceeds to present the results of the elections for the new DEMHIST board, which will serve from 2020 to 2023. The elections took place for a period of two weeks via the Survey Monkey platform. 21 individuals ran for a seat on the board. 102 ballots were received. Yvonne Ploum was the only candidate for the chair position and was thus elected. From the other 20 candidates, 9 were elected for the board positions, with exact roles to be determined at the first board meeting in December. The candidates thus elected to the board are: Amilcar Vargas (Spain), Antonio Ponte (Portugal), Cecilia Casas Desantes (Spain), Dalia Gallico (Italy), Denis Verdier-Magneau (France), Maria Szadkowska (Czechia), Remko Jansonius (USA), Timna Seligman (Israel), and Yoshihiro Nakatani (Japan).

Yvonne thanks the members who participated in the election process. She congratulates the new board, and suggest we may want to extend the number of board members in the future. She proceeds to thank all who nominated themselves to run for a seat. She then thanks the outgoing board members, including Ulla Stroemberg, Daniel Ronan, Frank Louhenapessy, Gianluca Kannès.

11. Any Other Business

Roberto Andreu of Guatemala reports on the unfortunate closure of Casa Mimi, expresses his continuing desire and interest to work with DEMHIST, and thanks everyone for their interest and support.

Carl Nold takes the mic to recognize Lourdes Monges for her longtime service to DEMHIST, as she now serves on the Executive Council of ICOM, for which he congratulates her.

Amilcar Vargas, Frank Louhenapessy, Timna Seligman, Yoshihiro Nakatani, Ana Cristina Carvalho and Denis Verdier-Magneau make further comments, congratulations and thankyou.

Remko asks everyone to turn on their cameras for a screenshot.

Yvonne makes final comments, thanks everyone for attending and closes the meeting.

Meeting adjourns at 5:10 PM CET (Paris Time)