

# ICOM CZECH REPUBLIC

## THE ANNUAL REPORT 2016

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## 1. MEMBERSHIP AND ORGANISATION

The members on the Czech National Committee of ICOM Board in 2016 were as follows: Martina Lehmannová (President), Martina Galetová (Secretary), Lubomír Anděl (Treasurer), Pavel Jirásek and Zdeněk Freisleben (members of the Board).

The Czech National Committee of ICOM membership base changed between 1<sup>st</sup> January 2016 and 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016: from 325 to 323 members (from 61 to 70 institutional members: Strahov Monastery – the Library Collections; The Regional Museum in Most; DOX; The Town Gallery of Litomyšl; The Museum of Glass and Jewellery in Jablonec nad Nisou; Ždár nad Sázavou Castle; The Romani Culture Museum, The Academy of Architecture, Arts and Design in Prague; the Kunsthalle Praha; The Hrdlička Museum of Anthropology); from 264 to 253 individual members including 26 new ones; 39 members have not paid membership fees yet, however, still have not resigned from the membership as they keep their cards. The Board Members had regular meetings.

The Plenary Session on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2016 approved new statutes of ICOM Czech Republic.

Information on ICOM Czech Republic's work and activities were being permanently made available on the website [www.czech.icom.museum](http://www.czech.icom.museum).

Information about ICOM Czech Republic activities has been published at [www.czech.icom.museum](http://www.czech.icom.museum)

### Archive of ICOM Czech Republic

As a result of cooperation with member institutions, ICOM Czech Republic had ensured that a written archive, taken over by the Moravian Museum, would be professionally housed and included in the Department of History of Literature's Archive, Hudcova 321/76, Brno; the Museum had pledged to care for the Archive both today and in the future. Owing to the Technical Museum in Brno, the archive was arranged and described, as well a new inventory document produced. The work was done by: Petra Oravcová, Petra Rýchliková and Vlasta Copláková, students participating in the international student exchange programme Erasmus+ realized in cooperation with the Technical Museum in Brno and Comenius University in Bratislava, Slovakia. The inventory document is now available on the Czech National Committee's website. We owe both of the Museums, the University and the students our thanks.



## 2. COOPERATION WITH ICOM BODIES

### 2.1. The cooperation between the Czech National Committee of ICOM and the General Secretariat of ICOM in Paris is regular and helpful.

ICOM is constantly advancing active membership in international committees, as well the use of the Web platform ICOMMUNITY, which is accessible to all individual or institutional members through an identity number of their issued ICOM-cards. The Web is possible to be accessed directly from the ICOM Czech Republic's Web: Member Access – login: the ICOM card number; password is generated on initial enter and kept unchanged for next use.

Every year, ICOM asks National Committees for cooperation in charting events staged by museums to mark the International Museum Day; afterwards, these happening are presented on their websites. The thing that had given us great honour was accepting invitation by ICOM Director-General **Anne-Catherine Robert-Hauglustaine** to the **Plenary Session of the Czech National Committee of ICOM held on 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in Prague** in the rooms of the Museum of Czech Literature in Prague. She introduced there both short-term and long-term targets of the museums profession development worldwide. Beyond the programme of the Plenary Session, she visited the recently opened Central Depository of the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague, the newly restored National Museum building, and the Picture Gallery in Strahov Monastery.

A UNESCO's document called ***Recommendation on the Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and their Role in Society*** adopted at a UNESCO meeting in November 2015 was presented within the Plenary Session.



## 2.2. THE ICOM GENERAL CONFERENCE – MILANO, ITALY, 3<sup>rd</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> July 2016

The ICOM General Conference took place in Milano, Italy, from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> July 2016. The Czech Republic was represented by thirty-six museum professionals, out of whom twenty-four had been financially backed by ICOM Czech Republic; three museum professionals had been given ICOM financial subsidy within the Grant for Young ICOM Members. The General Conference was attended by three thousand five hundred museum professionals from around the world.



ICOM celebrated the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding in Milano; a publication (**Bernice Murphy [ed.], *Museums, Ethics, and Cultural Heritage*, London-New York-Routledge, 2016**) published by ICOM to mark this event included a contribution called *The Auschwitz-Birkenow Museum and a Claim to Portraits of Holocaust Victims Made by Artist Dinah Gottliebová Babitt* by Vojtěch Blodig, a professional working in the Terezín Memorial. The publication is available for lending in the ICOM Czech Republic Secretariat or upon request in the ICOM Secretariat in Paris, France.

The General Conference in Milano had been arranged to make it possible for participants to attend programmes of their International Committees and have a look at other countries' agenda. Giving speeches, a great deal of museum professionals from Czechia presented outcomes of their work within blocs of International Committees. Five talks were included in the main programme (Milan Hlaveš: Czech Glass and the Cultural Landscape, the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague; Simona Juračková: On Website for Everyone?, the National Heritage Institute; Helena Koenigsmarková: Light and Glass Society – Research and Cooperation on the History of Glass Chandeliers, the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague; Tereza Křížkovská: Interactive Exhibitions as a Means of Informal Film Education for the Public, the Department of Film Studies, Faculty of Arts, Charles University in Prague; Martina Lehmannová: Because of Tuberculosis. History and the Contemporary Situation in Production of Tapestries in the Czech Republic, the Museum of Decorative Arts in Prague). A number of participants made panel presentations (the one by Růžena Gregorová from the Moravian Museum received considerable attention)



The participants in the General Conference in Milano financially backed by the Czech National Committee of ICOM are as follows: Lubomír Anděl (ICR), Jan Dolák (ICOFOM), Ondřej Dostál (UMAC), Zdeněk Freisleben (ICML), Martina Galetová (UMAC), Marie Gilbertová (CIMUSET), Růžena Gregorová (NatHist), Milan Hlaveš (GLASS), Pavel Jirásek (ICMS), Simona Juračková (MPR), Helena Koenigsmarková (ICDAD), Rostislav Koryčánek (ICAMT), Šárka Kramolišová (ICME), Martina Lehmannová (ICDAD), Naďa Machková Prajzová (INTERCOM), Jan Mergl (GLASS), Pert Nekuža (ICOFOM), Pavla Obrovská (CIDOC), Václav Rutar (ICOFOM), Jana Součková (Blue Shield), Zuzana Strnadová (CAMOC), Hynek Strítěský (CIMUSET), Markéta Šimčíková (ICME), Veronika Wolf (CECA)

The participants in the General Conference in Milano financially backed by the Grant for Young ICOM Members are as follows: Marek Prokůpek (ICOFOM), Lucie Radoňová (ICOM-CC), Kateřina Veleta-Štěpánková (CECA).

Czech museum professionals had been elected to a few international committee boards (Helena Koenigsmarková defended her position as an ICOM-ICDAD Chairperson; Marie Gilbertová became a member of the ICOM-CIMUSET Board; Jan Dolák became a member of the ICOM-ICOFOM Board; Milan Hlaveš, ICOM-Glass, and Simona Juračková, ICOM-MPR, finished serving on the Boards after two terms of office.

A new ICOM logo introduced at the General Conference.



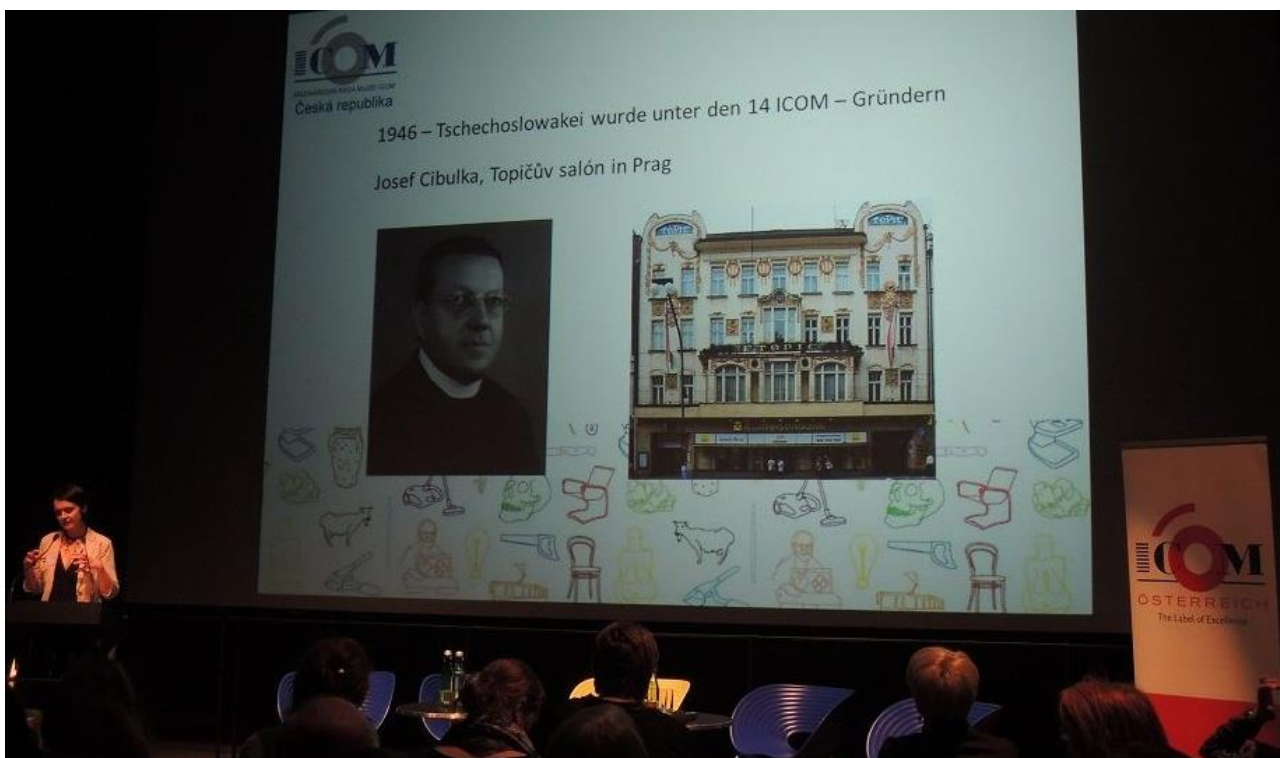
### **2.3. COOPERATION WITH ICOM INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEES**

Following single International Committees' plans for activities, the cooperation on selected projects is permanently unfolding. A number of ICOM Czech Republic's active members serve on them. Pavel Jirásek, e.g., has composed amended text of a chapter dealing with thefts in museums in a project entitled *The Handbook on Emergency Situations*.

#### 2.4. COOPERATION WITH ICOM NATIONAL COMMITTEES

The cooperation with National Committees has been within regular communication, and the most frequent with neighbouring countries: Slovakia, Austria and Poland.

ICOM Austria had organized a seminar entitled **Museums and the Cultural Landscape** held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2016. It took place in Lower Austrian museum in St. Pölten, and was attended by museum and gallery professionals and representatives of “neighbouring” ICOMs. It focused on introducing projects carried out on the occasion of the International Museum Day on 18<sup>th</sup> May, and activities of neighbouring ICOMs, generally. The Chairperson of the Czech National Committee of ICOM talked about its history and projects. Arriving there were Dušan Buran, ICOM Slovakia; Eszter Aczél, ICOM Hungary; Tanja Roženberger, ICOM Slovenia; Darko Babić, ICOM Croatia; and Alberto Garlandini, a guest of honour, talked about the ICOM General Conference in Milano.



**Presumption to Responsibility. Museums and contested history. Saying the unspeakable in museums**

Together with ICOM Slovakia and ICOM Austria, we have begun arrangements for the conference held in 2017, reflecting the theme of the 2017 International Museum Day – **Museums and contested histories: Saying the unspeakable in museums**. The conference is entitled **Presumption to Responsibility. Museums and contested history. Saying the unspeakable in museums** and is held in the rooms of the Moravian Gallery in Brno, from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017.

Conference theses: Since once selected, items included in museum collections themselves suggest they are account of our ability to objectively document our history. Exhibitions or numerous publications show if and how we are able to interpret events the particular society does not necessarily take pride in, or would preferably erase them from its history, including physical artefacts.

Among the most popular exhibitions hosted in museums are those that chart accounts about the times a visitor could either experience themselves or through the members of their family (parents or grandparents) therefore arousing personal feelings. What is the ability of museums to show live / experienced history like?

The issue seems to be even more than burning since it is just the **20th century** that is our experienced past, those old days that have been one of the most complicated and tragic periods in the human history so far, when events would take interpretative turns under the baton of totalitarian regimes for decades. In addition to artefacts from World War 1 and World War 2 also the ones relating to migration (exile) or political regimes in Eastern Europe in the second half of the century are becoming objects of musealisation. The forthcoming conference is expected to focus on interpretative attitudes of today’s museum professionals to those periods of history that are broadly perceived negatively or “rather negatively” or controversially by the public for whatever reason.

**3. UNESCO HIGH LEVEL FORUM ON MUSEUMS**

Backed by city Shenzhen, the Zhi Zhen Art Museum and the State Administration of Cultural Goods the UNESCO High Level Forum on Museums was held in Shenzhen, China, from 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November 2016. The Forum had been designed to point out the principal targets of the *Recommendation on Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and their Role in Society*, to specify ways to achieve them, to continue enhancing the status of museums in society, and to encourage international cooperation among museums.

Within the Conference, Martina Lehmannová, the ICOM Czech Republic President, gave a speech called **Do We Need Museums?**, which addresses significance of museums in the present world becoming virtual more and more. Museums are more important in this context, as they provide complete and real picture of the world; people go there to discover treasures of civilization. Museums, therefore, bear responsibility for the world and sustainable development. With respect to museums and collections, the thing that has the highest priority is collections appropriate filing and fight against illicit trafficking in cultural goods. The end of the Conference was devoted to presenting the **Shenzhen Declaration on Museums and Collections**, which places emphasis on some items of the UNESCO *Recommendation* or supply them. It deals with issues of cultural diversity in the globalized world in relation to museums, care for cultural goods in peace or during conflicts, it draws attention to complying with the Code of Ethics, highlights the importance of international cooperation. We have had the Shenzhen Declaration translated into Czech; it will be presented at the ICOM Czech National Committee Plenary Session in March 2017.



#### **4. COOPERATION WITH THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC**

Last year, we could count on good cooperation with the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic, especially with the Department of Tangible Culture Goods Conservation; Museums and Galleries. The ongoing support and helpfulness coming from this Department really is decisive for ICOM Czech Republic, and we do appreciate both; if we were not financially backed by the Ministry of Culture we would find it far from possible to exist, since we transfer 85% of member fees into the ICOM's budget. Due to the Ministry's financial support we were able to ensure a large attendance at the ICOM General Conference, thirty-six museum professionals in total, which had been the highest number in the ICOM Czech National Committee history ever until that time. The previous record number of museum professionals from the Czech Republic taking part in the ICOM Conference had been twenty-five, in the General Conference in Vienna in 2007. We could also host the conference *Museums and the Cultural Landscape – Police and Museums* in Prague on 5<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> May 2016 owing to the contribution.

We have participated at the Ministry of Culture's request in commenting on: the Acquisition Fund; the Concept of Library Development in the Czech Republic for the Years 2016-2020; the Memory of the World: Checking the Statutes and Internal Regulations

The bid process to host the ICOM General Conference Prague 2022 is afoot. Institutional members are signing "The Memorandum on Support" to express their support.

#### **5. COOPERATION WITH PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS**

##### **5.1. Cooperation with the Association of Museums and Galleries of the Czech Republic**

We do appreciate the cooperation with the Association of Museums and Galleries; it is extremely helpful and effective. As usual, ICOM Czech Republic participated in organizing award-giving ceremony *Gloria Musaealis* by presenting a special prize. The ICOM Czech Republic has one representative in the Treasure Valuation Committee (Vlastimil Vykydal). The Association has taken part in a comment procedure for translating the UNESCO *Recommendation on Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and their Role in Society*.

A joint meeting with the **Association of Museums and Galleries** was held in the town of Plasy from 20<sup>th</sup> to 21<sup>st</sup> July 2016.

Some of the ICOM Czech National Committee's members contribute to a bulletin published by the Association, the *Věstník AMG*: Martina Lehmannová, Pavel Jirásek: *With a Czech Wheel to Warsaw*; Pavel Jirásek, Karel Komárek, Martina Lehmannová, Šárka Vamberová: *The Steps Taken to Prevent Illicit Trafficking of Cultural Goods from Iraq to Syria*; Martina Lehmannová: *Three Thousand Five Hundred Opinions on Museums and the Cultural Landscape, the anniversary conference ICOM in Milano*. A member of the ICOM Czech National Committee is a member of the *Věstník AMG* editors.

##### **5.2. Cooperation with the Council of Galleries of the Czech Republic**

The Council of Galleries of the Czech Republic also worked on the comment procedure for translating the UNESCO *Recommendation on Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and their Role in Society*.

##### **5.3. Cooperation with the Czech Commission for UNESCO**

The ICOM Czech National Committee had taken part in discussions about the UNESCO *Recommendation on Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and their Role in Society* adopted in November 2015, and had initiated translation, which was presented at the ICOM Czech National Committee's Plenary Session in February 2016. We thank the Institute of Archaeology and Museology and the UNESCO Department of Museology and World Heritage of the Faculty of Arts, Masaryk University in Brno; the Association of Museums and Galleries of the Czech Republic; the Council of Galleries of the Czech Republic; the Association of European Open Air Museums, the Czech Republic; and many more for their comments on the translation.



#### 5.4. Cooperation with the Czech Committee of the Blue Shield

ICOM Czech Republic as one of the Czech Committee of the Blue Shield organizations participated in the Blue Shield Czech Committee's regular meetings. Among the key topics in discussion were: cooperating on arrangements for the conference *Museums and the Cultural Landscape – Police and Museums*; arrangements for part of the conference *Museum and Change* with the key theme: "Vision and Tools of Social Role and Memory Institutions Transformation – Digitizing"; exercising the Haag Convention of 1954 for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict in practice; the attitude to the international convention UNIDROIT; Slovak and Polish colleagues' request for the rights to publish *The Wheel of Risk Management*, illicit traffic of cultural goods, mostly from Syria, Iraq and Ukraine; the status of reformed organization the Blue Shield, the UNESCO *Recommendation on Protection and Promotion of Museums and Collections, their Diversity and their Role in Society* from 2015.

#### 6. NATIONAL MUSEUM COMPETITION *GLORIA MUSAEALIS*

In 2016, ICOM Czech Republic awarded the exhibition **Gottfried Lindauer (1839-1926). New Zealand Māori People Painter from Plzeň**, hosted by the West Bohemia Gallery in Plzeň, the **ICOM Czech National Committee Prize within the National Museum Competition *Gloria Musaealis***. We appreciated perfect international cooperation between the Czech Republic and New Zealand. While staging the exhibition, the Gallery staff had had to adhere to extremely strict ethical principles during works on the Māori images, and to ask the depicted tribal chiefs' descendants for permissions. Anyway, sensitivity of Aborigines had reflected into a draft of the ICOM Code of Ethics for natural science museums formulated by a team led by Eric Dorfman, the former Director of the Regional Museum in Whanganui, New Zealand.



**7. CONFERENCES ORGANIZED OR CO-ORGANIZED BY THE CZECH NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF ICOM**

**7.1. The conference held to mark the International Museum Day and the theme Museums and the Cultural Landscape:** From 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> May 2016, ICOM Czech Republic and Police of the Czech Republic held together an international conference entitled **Museums and the Cultural Landscape – Police and Museums** focused on cooperation between museums or memory institutions and Police of the Czech Republic on cultural heritage conservation *in situ* and *in fondo*. Thematic blocs of the conference were devoted to protecting buildings and collections and cultural landscape conservation, especially tangible cultural goods on exterior. The aim was to provide information on existing forms of cooperation, to analyse them and search for new ways leading to increase efficiency of the cultural landscape and the cultural goods in the Czech Republic. Participants from Poland or Slovakia offered experience in this field gained in their countries. A number of interesting speeches were given at the Conference; the end was dedicated to discussions on problems and possibilities of cooperation between museums and Police of the Czech Republic. Organizers had prepared a document called *Conclusions from the Conference Entitled Museums and the Cultural Landscape – Police and Museums*. The conference was attended by 110 museum professionals and police officers.



### 7.2. Churches (Almost) without Barriers

On 4<sup>th</sup> April 2016 – **Churches (Almost) without Barriers**, a seminar held in Kutná Hora by the Roman-Catholic Parish – Archdeanery in Kutná Hora, Municipality Horní Maršov, the Roman-Catholic Parish by St. Jacob's Church in Brno, the Arbeidsgiverorganisasjon for Kirkelige Virksomheter (The Association of Church Organizations, Norway) and ICOM Czech Republic. The seminar dealt with issues, such as What does making church and religious sites accessible mean?; What is the situation with the Church spirituality open for all in postmodern times like?; the position of modern art in churches, and the like.

### 7.3. City/Town Museums and Presentation on Fires and Fire Protection History

On 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016 the City of Prague Museum, the Bergen City Museum and ICOM Czech Republic hosted a seminar entitled **City/Town Museums and Presentation on Fires and Fire Protection History**. The co-organizers presented the latest trends in presentation on catastrophic disasters (fires), experience of working with volunteers or other common-interest associations.

### 7.4. Museum and Change V

Held from 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> November 2016 was a conference looking at the topic **Museum and Change V** organized by the Association of Museums and Galleries of the Czech Republic together with other bodies. It mainly addressed issues of how demographic changes affect museums social role in all spheres and aspects of museum work. ICOM Czech Republic participated in promotion and disseminating invitations and circulars.

### 7.5. The Forum for Conservators and Restorers 2016

We assisted with publishing a collection called **The Forum for Conservators and Restorers 2016** about the outcomes of the Conference of Conservators-Restorers attended by participants from abroad; the Conference initiated by the Commission of Conservators-Restorers of the Association of Museums and Galleries and the Technical Museum in Brno – the Methodical Centre for Conservation took place in Brno from 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> September 2016. One member of the ICOM Czech National Committee Board is also on the Forum Editorial Board.

## 8. THE ICOM CZECH NATIONAL COMMITTEE ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

We are constantly updating the websites [www.czech.icom.museum](http://www.czech.icom.museum), where information on the Czech National Committee of ICOM's work is available along with more interesting facts.

Data and documents for the ICOM General Conference Prague 2022 are being constantly prepared, conducted were talks with the Ministry of Culture. The Association of Museums and Galleries and the Council of Galleries of the Czech Republic agreed to assist with hosting the Conference. Support for bid for hosting the ICOM General Conference Prague 2022 had been discussed also during meetings of international committees at the General Conference in Milano, next the topic was talked about during informal discussions with the National Committees from Slovakia, Poland, Germany, Austria, Croatia, Slovenia, Serbia, Belarus, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, Cambodia, Norway and many more.

Compiled by Martina Lehmannová