

## INTEGRATION OF THE WORKING BOARD OF THE MUSEUMS AND COLLECTION FROM THE UNIVERSITIES IN MEXICO

The annual meeting of the International Committee for University Museums and Collections (UMAC) was held in September 2006 in Mexico City. The main museums of the UNAM, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México, were headquarters for more than 200 visitors from all over the country and most of the American Continent.

The reunion was an absolute success. The Mexican National Committee showed not only interest for this meeting but also assumed the responsibility to create a group of university museums, which will continue with this work improving each one the experiences in our museums. ICOM- Mexico had promoted similar groups in several occasions before, therefore the group UMAC-Mexico was formed following the regulations previously established by the National Committee.

To integrate the international and national work done by ICOM, the new group was named "Working Table" for University Museums and Collections (UMAC-México, in its economical expression) with one coordinator in charge (Luisa Fernanda Rico Mansard, from the Dirección General de Divulgación de la Ciencia, UNAM) and two auxiliary coordinators (Bertha Abraham Jalil, researcher at the Autonomous University of the State of Mexico UAEM and Lourdes Monges Santos, in charge of the historical collections of the Popular Art Museum). All three have been individual members of ICOM-Mexico for several years and besides being very active towards ICOM-Mexico, they also are broadly acknowledged because of their experience at university museums.

The new Working Group has all the support of the Dirección General de Divulgación de la Ciencia, UNAM, giving its working infrastructure so to fulfil this work.

Taken from the International Committee of UMAC experiences as model, Mexico follows the purposes mentioned below:

- 1) Create a working group entirely dedicated to museums in universities.
- 2) Integrate a complete database of the university collections and museums.
- 3) Form a complete web list about the people who works in university museums.
- 4) Detect the main interests of university museums to improve their services.
- 5) Provide the members with specialized information about university museums.
- 6) Create spaces in which these topics can be expressed.
- 7) Connect the national museum group with the International Committee.

The first Integration Meeting was held on November 22<sup>nd</sup> with a very

enthusiastic response. Almost 20 lively participants took over the compromise to work in favour of our museums. The first challenge which was taken is:

- a) Start to create a register of university museums. Every participant took over to get the information of two states from the Republic.
- b) Begin to produce an index register which can be used for collections and museums at a national level.
- c) Organize a reunion every three months so to move forward with the acquainted duties.
- d) Analyse specific topics as for example museography and the graphical identity of the university museums.
- e) Broadcast the information through the web.

Another main aspect was to establish a registration of the development of every meeting. José Luis Sánchez Mora, who has been active member of ICOM-Mexico for several years, took over this acquaintance.

The work has already started. The challenge is now to give it continuity and improve it so that we can become as guild in charge to watch and care the collections and related activities in the universities. We invite everyone interested to join us.

Until next issue

January 2007  
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