



# ICOM's International Committee for University Museums and Collections

## Newsletter

## January 2006

### From the Chair

Cornelia Weber



At the end of a year we usually look back and try to summarize the last twelve months. For UMAC it was a very successful period. Among other achievements, we started a regular newsletter, redesigned and redeveloped UMAC's Web site, printed a leaflet about UMAC's activities and organized a great conference in Uppsala (Sweden) and Helsinki (Finland) with 43 participants from 19 countries, 20 papers, four short reports and one poster presentation, including a special Scandinavian session.

In Uppsala we started a new Working Group "Strategic Plan," chaired by Peter Tirrell, (USA). Steven DeClercq (Netherlands) provides more details. If you would like to take part in this important discussion, please contact the chair: [pbtirrell@ou.edu](mailto:pbtirrell@ou.edu).

We co-opted Andrew Simpson from Macquarie University, NSW, Australia, to the board as the new treasurer. Our first treasurer, Sue-Anne Wallace (Australia), who is not working in the field of university museums anymore, did a remarkably good job and we are very thankful for her great support.

UMAC is dependent on people who are willing to get involved: as board member or member of a working group. In the end it will be of benefit for all university museums and collections. For further information about UMAC's activities please see the annual report on the Web: [http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/umac/pdf/AGM\\_05\\_Report.pdf](http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/umac/pdf/AGM_05_Report.pdf)

**I wish you a very HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

### UMAC People

Vice Chair Steven DeClercq



I wish all of you a very good 2006. To start this new year, let me offer a little bit of history. The name of UMAC was suggested by Dominick Vershelde, curator of the Zoology Museum of the University of Ghent (Belgium), during the international seminar Managing University Museums, organised in 2000 by the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) in Paris. Discussions during that seminar were the beginning of the idea of UMAC.

Communication, exchange of ideas and information and sharing of experiences are absolutely crucial for the life of UMAC. Conferences are very important moments in the life of UMAC. But, we know that many members cannot afford to travel long distances. UMAC is not only for the fortunate ones who can travel to conferences, but for everyone working in our field. We have to face the question how to engage all colleagues from the worldwide university museum community in our discussions.

At this time we have two ways to do this: our newsletter and the working groups. We see our working groups as our backbone. This is where the real work of UMAC is done. Chairs of working groups have the responsibility to engage the entire membership. But communication only works with an active participation of the members! So let's hear your views! In the newsletter, you will find news from the working groups, and an invitation to join one or more of them. We have two new working groups. Strategic Planning and Research.

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# UMAC People

Vice Chair Steven DeClercq

## *Strategic Planning*

Although UMAC has so far been quite successful with growing membership, good conferences, and interesting publications, at the conference in Uppsala in 2005 it was generally felt that we need to think ahead and be prepared for the challenges university museums and collections are bound to face. Peter Stanbury and Marta Lourenço have prepared a document, "Adopting to Change." The board feels this document underlines the need for a strategic plan and should be more widely discussed in a working group with that name. Those interested in the working group Strategic Planning should contact chair Peter Tirrell (USA), at pbtirrell@ou.edu.

## *Research*

Research in university museums and collections has grown significantly in the past five years. Zenobia Kozak, PhD candidate at the University of St. Andrews (UK), has agreed initiate the proposal for the research working group with the help of Ian Carradice (UK), Aldona Jonaitis (USA), Marta Lourenço (Portugal), and me. The main purpose will be to create a network for researchers and students and to promote exchange of ideas. The proposal for this working group is in this newsletter; the formal decision to initiate it will be taken at the conference in Mexico in 2006. Those interested in joining contact Zenobia Kozak at zk2@st-andrews.ac.uk.

## *From private to public*

We see an increasing number of initiatives to bridge traditional gaps between the museum world and historians of art and science that use objects as a primary source of information for their research. A fine example of a successful initiative is "New perspectives on the enhancement of the European scientific heritage" of the European Science Foundation (ESF), chaired by Marco Beretta from the University of Bologna. The proceedings of the 2004 workshop have recently been published in the book entitled: *From Private to Public: Natural Collections and Museums*, by Watson Publishing International (ISBN 0-88135-360-4). An application for a follow-up program "European Scientific Heritage and Public Engagement with Research" has recently been submitted to ESF. I will keep you informed.

Steven DeClercq

# Working Groups

Some new working groups have been added to our list. If you would like to be involved with the work of any group, please contact the chair.

## **Directories**

To collect information about other existing directories, catalogues, and inventories; to enter data in the UMAC Worldwide Database of University Museums and Collections.

Chair: Cornelia Weber (Germany) weber@mathematik.hu-berlin.de

## **Ethics CURRENTLY NOT A FUNCTIONING WORKING GROUP**

To produce guidelines on matters concerning university museums and collections after reviewing policies of different institutions.

## **Staffing—Exchanges**

This group will seek possible hosts and interested parties for staff exchanges between museums.

Chair: Inge-Marie Munktell (Sweden) Inge-Marie.Munktell@Gustavianum.uu.se

## **Recognition**

The Working Group Recognition was established at UMAC's founding meeting in Barcelona in 2001. The group resulted from the need to raise the awareness of university museums among politicians, university administrators and similar stakeholders. Its established mission states that the working group "works towards increasing the profile of university museums and collections in academic and political spheres."

During the last UMAC Board meeting in Uppsala it was proposed that a discussion on the content and objectives of the working group should be initiated. New chair Dominique Ferriot (France) is organizing a discussion forum and will compile ideas from the forum to present in the next newsletter. Please join this discussion by emailing him at ferriot@cnam.fr

## **Publications**

This group works with the Directories group to further develop UMAC's web site.

Chairs: Peter Stanbury (Australia) and Marta Lourenço (Portugal) Peter.stanbury@mq.edu.au; MCLourenco@fc.ul.pt

## Working Groups

### **NEW WORKING GROUP Strategic Planning**

The board approved this group at the Uppsala conference. Chair Peter Tirrell (USA) pbtirrell@ou.edu.

### **Plan for the New Working Group Strategic Planning**

In its brief existence (since 2001), UMAC has had an exceptional history as a professional museum organization. Our accomplishments include highly successful conferences in Spain, Australia, United States, South Korea, and Sweden and Finland, at least 60 papers in peer reviewed publications, a growing website, and members representing 37 countries.

We have achieved our founding vision, mission and plan. In the midst of success, is this the time to ask “Where do we want to go?” and “How do we get there?” “Are we always going to do the same things?” and “Can we change with the times?” Many of these questions arose during and after our conference in Korea in 2004.

In response to these questions about UMAC’s future, the Board of UMAC approved this new Working Group for Strategic Planning (WG-SP).

At our 2005 conference in Uppsala, we held a meeting to discuss ideas and opinions about topics such as the conference, newsletter, membership, funding, and publications. Everyone seemed in favor of continuing our conference. Opinions varied about how to maintain our record of publishing papers. New ideas were suggested such as the need for a working group for Research. We also had 10 enthusiastic participants sign up to be members of the Working Group Strategic Planning.

How do we go from good to great? In January, we start work on a new plan. It’s an exciting time to do this! We will review our vision, mission, and overarching goals and objectives. We will analyze our environment and capabilities, identify our opportunities and key needs and concerns, create strategies for success and test alternate scenarios, and evaluate our strategies and actions. You’re welcome to join the team!

Chair Peter Tirrell “Peter T” pbtirrell@ou.edu

Associate Director

Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History

The University of Oklahoma, USA

## Working Groups

### **RESEARCH**

Research into university museums and collections has grown significantly in the past five years. Currently, several dissertations and research projects are being developed in different parts of the world. Moreover, since the introduction of ICOM student membership fees there has been intense debate on how to increase student involvement in ICOM.

It is crucial to establish bridges between those developing research projects. It is also of paramount importance to compile, organise, and make accessible the bibliography and results of these research projects to UMAC.

The proposed Working Group Research aims at supporting UMAC in order to “facilitate international and regional collaboration to stimulate networking and research....” (from UMAC’s objectives).

Initiator/proponent: Zenobia R. Kozak, PhD candidate at the University of St Andrews (UK).

To briefly introduce myself, my name is Zenobia Kozak and I am a third-year museum studies PhD candidate at the University of St Andrews in Scotland. My current research focuses on the university heritage collections of Britain, institutional identity as related to university museums and collections and university museum marketing, with my thesis provisionally titled “University Heritage Collections: A Marketing Tool?” As a contributing participant in Uppsala at this year’s conference Communicating University Museums Awareness and Action—University Museums Today, I was motivated to take action and assist with the formation of a new working group designed to help foster a more engaged relationship between the university museum and collections research community and UMAC.

### **PROPOSAL FOR NEW WORKING GROUP RESEARCH**

Proposed function:

- To create and maintain a network of information exchange for researchers/students concentrating on issues related to university museum and collections. The network will promote an active, two-way exchange between the university museum and collections research community and UMAC members, offering reciprocal advice and insight.

## Working Groups

Proposed aims:

- To establish the network by enlisting members, compiling contacts and project information for current researchers and students in the field.
- To compile, organise and disseminate relevant research, links and downloadable texts through the creation and maintenance of a website (subsidiary to UMAC's).
- To assist UMAC in the organisation and dissemination of already existing web resources.
- To promote increased UMAC conference attendance and paper submissions from students and researchers.

Action plan for 2005-2006 (until UMAC Annual Conference in Mexico City):

- Compile contacts and recruit members
- Initiate the development of the website
- Develop aims for the period of 2006-2007

Members who have agreed to help develop the proposal, to date:

Marta C. Lourenço (Portugal)  
Steven de Clercq (Netherlands)  
Aldona Joanitis (USA)  
Ian Carradice (UK)



Drawing of anatomy theater, Uppsala University, Sweden, site of UMAC 2005 conference

## Spotlight

### The University of Pretoria Museums, South Africa

by Sian Tiley-Nel, Curator, Mapungubwe Museum, University of Pretoria, [sian.tiley@up.ac.za](mailto:sian.tiley@up.ac.za)

The University of Pretoria has some of the most unusual collections in South Africa, housed in the University museums. The University of Pretoria proudly presents four dynamic permanent museums: the Van Tilburg Museum, the Mapungubwe Archaeological Museum, the Edoardo Villa Sculptural Museum and the Anton van Wouw Museum.



Main museum building

One of the most significant collections is in the Mapungubwe Museum. It includes original archaeological artifacts, including golden objects such the well-known golden rhinoceros, copper, iron, ivory, implements, glass beads and ceramics. Mapungubwe is set at the northern border of South Africa, where that country joins Zimbabwe and Botswana. It is an open, expansive savannah landscape at the confluence of the Limpopo and Shashe rivers.



Mapungubwe Museum's gold foil rhinoceros



One thousand years ago Mapungubwe was the centre of the largest kingdom in the African subcontinent, where a highly sophisticated people traded gold and ivory with China, India, and Egypt. Mapungubwe was abandoned in the 14th century.

The Mapungubwe archaeological site, discovered in the 1930s, has been declared a World Heritage Site and was recently also established as the latest of South Africa's national parks. <http://www.mapungubwe.com/index.html>

The Van Tilburg Museum houses a collection by an eccentric yet dedicated and judicious collector, J.A. van Tilburg. This exceptional collection, donated to the University in 1976, includes antique European furniture, paintings and graphic works. The most important part is the ceramics collection, which is the largest of its kind

## Spotlight

The University of Pretoria Museums, South Africa *continued*  
in the southern hemisphere.

Dr. H. H. van Gybland Oosterhoff bequeathed his extensive collection of documents, paintings, graphic works, medals, silver, glass and other memorabilia relating to Dutch Royal Dynasty (the House of Orange) to the University in 1939. This collection is generally considered the largest collection of Dutch Royal Dynasty outside the Netherlands.

The University of Pretoria also holds collections of two of South Africa's most respected sculptors. Anton van Wouw is generally regarded as the father of traditional sculpture in South Africa



Eduardo Villa, Sculpture for a Garden in Durban, 1970

and Edoardo Villa is widely viewed as the founder of contemporary sculpture in this country. The University has the largest collection of Van Wouw's smaller works, as well as the largest single collection of Villa's works, presenting an overview of his work from 1943 to 2004.



Anton van Wouw bronze sculpture, 1907

The University of Pretoria's art collection comprises approximately 3,000 paintings, graphic works, sculptures and ceramics. It represents more than 400 established and contemporary artists from all cultural groupings, local and international.

The collections are managed according to professional standards and are integrated into the university's academic programmes. The museums are not mere sterile spaces—the facilities are used internally as well as externally for a variety of other purposes, including seminars, conferences, lectures, exhibitions, concerts, and receptions.

The University of Pretoria Museums are members of ICOM, AFRICOM, and the South African Museums Association. As UMAC members, the University of Pretoria museums have a particular interest in the issues of restitution, ownership, illicit trafficking, and emergency preparedness plans and the integration of museums in the academic programmes. We would like to hear from other universities about these issues at [sian.tiley@up.ac.za](mailto:sian.tiley@up.ac.za).



## Awards & Honors

Georgia Museum of Art, University of Georgia, USA, exhibition honored for region's best exhibition

The Georgia Museum of Art at the University of Georgia in Athens, Georgia, USA, has been awarded the Southeastern Museum Conference's (SEMC) Exhibition Award of Excellence for *Classic Ground: Mid-Nineteenth Century American Painting and the Italian Encounter*.

Paul Manoguerra, the museum's curator of American art and the curator of the exhibition, received the award on behalf of the museum during the SEMC's annual conference in Jekyll Island, Georgia, in October.

"We are pleased and gratified by this recognition from our peers, who have once again noted the excellence of our exhibitions," said William U. Eiland, the director of the Georgia Museum of Art. "*Classic Ground* is a harbinger of future great exhibitions we expect from our gifted curator of American art, Paul Manoguerra."

*Classic Ground* brought together paintings by American artists as a result of their mid-nineteenth-century Italian travels on what was known as the "Grand Tour." Included in the exhibition were Thomas Cole, Martin Johnson Heade, Albert Bierstadt, and Jasper Francis Cropsey, as well as other American painters who created work featuring Italian landscapes, people, buildings, and life.

The exhibition included American painting with Italian subject matter from the 1840s and the 1870s and focused on their reception and context in America just prior to and after the American Civil War.

The Georgia Museum of Art also earned exhibition awards from the SEMC in 2003 (*Sacred Treasures*) and 2001 (*Athens Treasures: A Bicentennial Celebration by the Athens Historical Society*). The museum also captured the SEMC's Best in Show in 2000 for *His Horne Made: Engraved Powder Horns from the Collection of James E. Routh, Jr.* [www.uga.edu/gamuseum](http://www.uga.edu/gamuseum)



# Conferences

## UMAC Annual Conference New Roads for University Museums

Preconference September 25th, 2006

Conference September 26th-28th, 2006

Postconference September 29th-October 2nd, 2006

Mexico City, Mexico

The 2006 UMAC Conference, New Roads for University Museums, will take place in Mexico City during the last days of September 2006. The conference will provoke thinking about the specificity of university collections and their interdisciplinary applications, the interpretative possibilities of our institutions within the university community, ways to attract new audiences, and new management models for university museums.



*Mural of David Alfaro Siqueiros, located in the Tower of Rectoría*

The UMAC 2006 conference will give participants a chance to learn about the rich museum culture of Mexico City as well as the museums of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), our host.

In 1551, the Royal and Pontifical University of México (today's National Autonomous University of Mexico, UNAM) was founded by royal decree. UNAM's function as a university has been interrupted numerous times throughout its history due to political turmoil (the war for independence, the civil war and others), though many of its individual colleges continued to function independently during such periods.

UNAM has produced many of Mexico's most distinguished scholars, artists and leaders, including the three most recent presidents, all of whom served as faculty members before embarking on political careers. The university enrolls more than 425,000 undergraduate and graduate students. The main campus, University City, is located in the southern part of Mexico City.

The University City campus could be considered a museum, with gardens and murals by famous Mexican artists. The university has museums on the University City campus and other locations.

Contact Gabriela Fong <gabfong@yahoo.com.mx

# Conferences

## Universeum Meeting Inventorying and Preserving University Collections: What For?

June 22-24, 2006

Strasbourg, France

During the last few years, due to a significant rise in concern about academic heritage, special attention has been given to university museums and collections. Numerous initiatives have emerged all over Europe, mainly focused on building databases, i.e. inventories made accessible online on websites.

Although necessary as a first step to understand what is at stake and to improve the visibility of academic heritage, mere inventorying is far from enough. It does not guarantee the preservation of university museums and collections nor help us understand why all this material should be preserved.

Progress is very different in each European country. Nevertheless, these points are recurrent and are linked to broader problems faced by all museums today.

Local, national, or even disciplinary specificities must be considered. However, it is possible—indeed essential—to build collective guidelines to frame the preservation of university museums and collections.

These guidelines should be linked with the missions of universities and collections: teaching, research and promoting the public understanding of science and knowledge. These themes will underpin the conference:

- What is the place of university museums and collections in teaching today?
- How can we make collections gain or regain their value as research tools beyond the areas of research for which they were created?
- Apart from guided visits, what kind of pedagogical or cultural actions should be considered and directed towards whom?

Curators, historians of science and technology interested or in charge of university museums and collections, are more than welcome to submit proposals before the end of February 2006.

Contact Sebastien Soubiran [sebastien.soubiran@adm-ulp.u-strasbg.fr](mailto:sebastien.soubiran@adm-ulp.u-strasbg.fr). Universeum: <http://www.universeum.de/>

## News

### Yale Peabody Museum Report on Engaging our Communities

One of the most fundamental challenges facing museums today is how to engage museum audiences that are truly representative of the community. This task is particularly difficult for university museums since they are part of a parent institution that may be perceived as elitist and not concerned with its neighboring population. In 2004 the Yale Peabody museum of Natural History began a project, Engaging Our Communities, to examine what our audiences and potential audiences have to say about us and how we can better serve their needs.

Focused on our local economically and ethnically diverse community of New Haven, we worked with Randi Korn and Associates, an evaluation firm based in Virginia, to discuss the museum with our visitors and also with nonvisitors. We wanted to know about their perception of the museum and what were the barriers to their engagement with the museum; how we could attract visitors from our local community; and how being part of Yale University affected people's relationship with the museum.

The research was organized into two parts. Using a standardized questionnaire, specially trained staff and volunteers conducted face-to-face interviews with 790 adult visitors. To reach nonvisitors four focus groups were held in a local library located near the museum in an underserved New Haven neighborhood. In addition to formal evaluation the project coordinator met with over twenty-five community leaders to discuss key questions about the museum's public activities and its future.



Peabody Museum

Overall the results of this study were similar to those from other museums in urban settings. There was an obvious contrast between Peabody visitors and nonvisitors in terms of education, ethnicity and museum-going behavior. Generally museum visitors were positive about their experience. However nonvisitors' attitudes and perceptions were almost completely opposite – they saw the museum as having no connection with the community; its content being irrelevant to them; the museum did not

## News

### Yale Peabody Museum Report on Engaging our Communities *continued*

communicate with the community; the museum's target audience was not clear; and the experiences offered were uninteresting and static.

The differences between the focus group participants and museum visitors seemed to be attributable to three reasons: museum visiting patterns (focus group participants had little experience visiting museums and as such had different expectations for their free time); past Peabody museum experiences (many of the focus participants had not visited since they were a child and remembered negative experiences with frontline staff, feeling intimidated and being bored by the school programs); and poor attitudes about Yale University.

This last finding was of particular interest and the university more generally. Focus group participants voiced negative opinions about Yale and its relationships with the surrounding community. Not surprisingly this acts as a barrier to their visiting the museum. It was strongly recommended that the museum (and university) needed to actively reach out to the community by visiting neighborhoods and personally inviting people to visit. The university needed to reach people in their churches, community centers, and "places where regular people go." It was not enough to put ads in the paper, make events free, or paste up fliers. It was also recommended that the museum form strategic partnerships with social service agencies, churches and other groups that would be a bridge between the museum and the community.

The museum has been successful in building partnerships within New Haven, particularly around our special events program, but we still have a long way to go. We have started distributing free admission passes to local aldermen to include in holiday packages for their constituents, and have extended our library admission pass to local churches. We started an afterschool program for local middle and high school students and hope that they and their families will be ambassadors for the museum in their neighborhoods. None of these activities in isolation will be effective and all of them will require nurturing new partnerships. Changing a museum's relationship to its community is a long-term undertaking that requires

# News

## Yale Peabody Museum Report on Engaging our Communities *continued*

considerable commitment. However it is essential if university museums are to fulfil their public mission.

The Engaging Our Communities project was supported by the Jessie Ball du Pont Fund.

Copies of the full report, which includes more detailed results, conclusions and recommendations, can be downloaded from the museum's web site at <http://www.peabody.yale.edu/contact/pdfs/ypmEOCproject.pdf> or to obtain a hardcopy please contact Jane Pickering, Assistant Director of Public Relations, Peabody Museum of Natural History, at [jane.pickering@yale.edu](mailto:jane.pickering@yale.edu)

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## Council of Europe Adopts Recommendation on Governance and Management of University Heritage

The recommendation on the governance and management of University heritage was unanimously adopted by the Council of Europe on December 7, 2005.

The recommendation results from the collaboration of two sections of the Council, Higher Education and Research and Cultural Heritage, and is primarily aimed at governments. The document includes specific recommendations on policies, legislation, governance and management, finance, access, professional training, research, awareness raising, relations with local communities, and international cooperation.

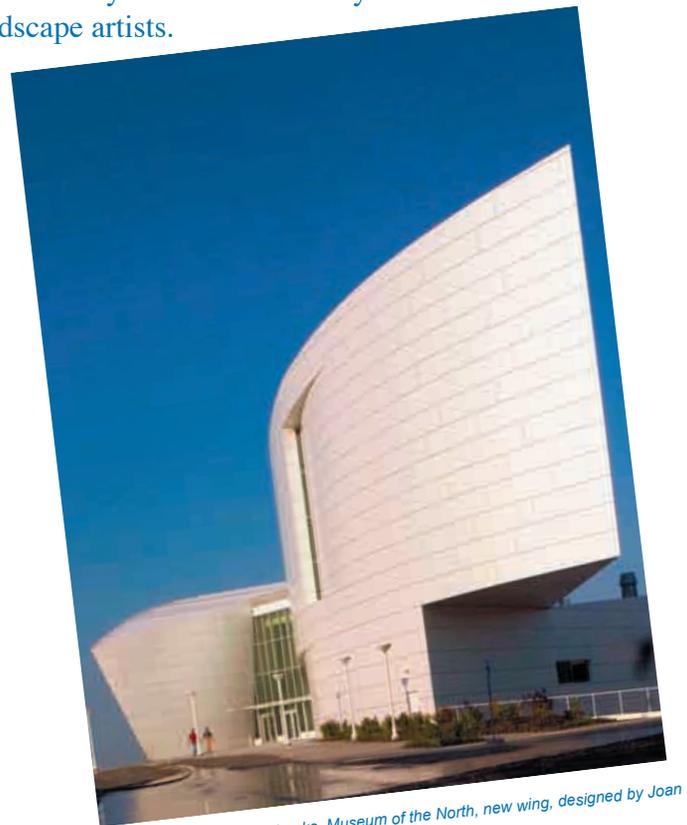
Although issued by a European institution, the recommendation is a powerful tool. It provides arguments and political legitimacy for university museums and collections worldwide. The recommendation asks university administrations "to consider all parts of the heritage of a higher education institution as falling under their ultimate legal, administrative and moral responsibility" and calls for dedicated funding of university heritage in the budget of higher education institutions.

Full text is available at: **English:** <http://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?id=946661&BackColorInternet=9999CC&BackColorIntranet=FFBB55&BackColorLogged=FFAC75> **French:** [http://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=Rec\(2005\)13&Sector=secCM&Language=la\\_nFrench&Ver=original&BackColorInternet=9999CC&BackColorIntranet=FFBB55&BackColorLogged=FFAC75](http://wcd.coe.int/ViewDoc.jsp?Ref=Rec(2005)13&Sector=secCM&Language=la_nFrench&Ver=original&BackColorInternet=9999CC&BackColorIntranet=FFBB55&BackColorLogged=FFAC75)

# News

## University of Alaska Fairbanks, USA, Museum of the North opens new galleries

Rose Berry Alaska Art Gallery (opens spring 2006) Just as the dramatic architecture of the expanded museum will convey a sense of Alaska, the Rose Berry Alaska Art Gallery will interpret art as an expression of the Alaska experience. Ancient ivory carvings, coiled grass baskets and other Alaska Native artworks will be featured side by side with works by Alaska's beloved landscape artists.



University of Alaska Fairbanks, Museum of the North, new wing, designed by Joan Soranno

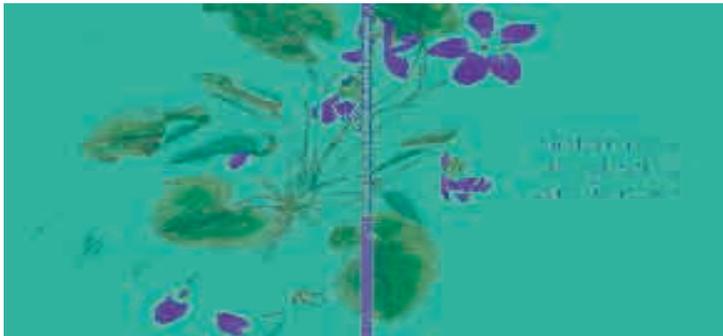
The Arnold Espe Multimedia Auditorium, opening fall 2006, will feature an enhanced version of *Dynamic Aurora*, a presentation on the northern lights, developed in partnership with the University's Geophysical Institute. The show uses high speed videos that capture the movements and colors of the aurora in real time, and hands-on experiments that show how auroras are created in the earth's upper atmosphere. Easily understood terms explain the aurora from scientific and historical approaches.

# News

## Toulouse University (France) Publishes Catalogue on Ancient Medicine and Botany Based on its Collections

*Botanique et médecine anciennes à travers le patrimoine des Universités toulousaines. Text by M. Mouranche, I. Fouraste et D. Mazeau. Toulouse, SICDT, 2005. 96 pp., 50 colour ill. €12 ISBN 2-9517097-1-4*

This catalogue was published by SICD (Service interétablissements de coopération documentaire de Toulouse) to mark the exhibition *Ancient Botany and Medicine*, 15 November—15 December, 2005, at the University Paul Sabatier, Toulouse. The book explains the development of knowledge and use of medicinal plants prior to the 19th century, when botany and medicine were intimately connected, through the rich botanical heritage of the universities of Toulouse (ancient books, herbaria and materia medica).



The authors are: Marielle Mouranche, Curator of Ancient Books at the S.I.C.D., Toulouse; Isabelle Fourasté, Professor of Pharmacognosy, University Paul Sabatier, Toulous; and Dominique Mazau, Professor at the University Paul Sabatier and Director of the Botanical Garden Henri Gaussen

The book includes essays on the botanical heritage of the universities of Toulouse; describing, naming and classifying: the evolution of our botanical knowledge; healing: the use of medicinal plants in medicine; history of some medicinal plants; present importance of medicinal plant; and a glossary.

To order contact Catherine Gadon at [gadon@adm.ups-tlse.fr](mailto:gadon@adm.ups-tlse.fr)

# News

## UMAC Welcomes Twenty Eight New Members

Twenty eight individuals and institutions are new members of UMAC this year. If you have recently joined UMAC but your name is not on this list, please be in touch with the Eloisa Zell, the Membership Service Officer of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) at [zell@icom.museum](mailto:zell@icom.museum) to check on the status of your membership.

To become a member of UMAC, you must first join ICOM at <http://icom.museum/membership.htm>. When you join ICOM indicate that you want to join the international committee UMAC. That's all it takes. Do it today!

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Prof. Dra Norma Acerbi Cremades, Museo Historico Hospital Nacional de Clinicas, Córdoba, Argentina
- Museum voor de Geschiedenis van de Wetenschappen (Museum for the History of Sciences); Prof. Dr. Jozef Uyttenhove, Universiteit Gent, Gent, Belgium
- Mrs. Jaana Tegelberg, Helsinki University Museum, Helsinki, Finland
- Mme. Catherine Gadon, Université Paul Sabatier Toulouse 3, Toulouse, France
- Dr. Fabienne Galangau-Quérat, Maître de conférences des universités, Département des Galeries, Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France
- M. Patrice Josset, Musée Dupuytren, Paris, France
- Mlle. Véronique Leconte, Université de Paris V René Descartes, Paris, France
- M. Jérôme Thomas, Centre des Sciences de la Terre, Université de Bourgogne, Dijon, France
- Prof. Dr. Hans Walter Lack, Botanical Garden and Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem, Freie Universität Berlin, Berlin, Germany
- Ms. Molood Valadi, Cultural Heritage, Hamedan, Iran (Islamic Republic of)
- Ms. Karen Brown, Queen's University Art Gallery, Queen's University Belfast, Belfast, Ireland
- Dr. Christine Haywood, Classical Museum, Department of Classics, University College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland

## News

### UMAC Welcomes New Members *continued*

- Mr. Ian C. Brown, Geology Museum, Department of Geography and Geology, University of West Indies, Kingston, Jamaica
- Mrs. Reina de Raat, Medical Collections, University Museum Utrecht, Utrecht, Netherlands
- Mr. Bjørn Vidar Johansen, Museum of University History, Oslo, Norway
- Mr. Vyacheslav B. Khorev, University of Nizhny Novgorod, 603022 Nizhny Novgorod, Russian Federation
- Patronat Martínez Guerricabeitia, Universitat de València, Attn: Sr. Ricard Huerta, València, Spain
- Prof. William U. Eiland, Georgia Museum of Art, The University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, USA
- Dr. Bonnie G. Kelm, University Art Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara, California, USA
- Ms. Eva Kirsch, Robert V. Fullerton Art Museum, California State University, San Bernardino, California, USA
- Ms. Lenore D. Miller, University Art Galleries, Luther W. Brady Art Gallery and Dimock Gallery, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C., USA
- Dr. Dewey F. Mosby, Picker Art Gallery, Colgate University, Hamilton, New York, USA
- Dr. Edna Carter Southard, Miami University Art Museum, Oxford, Ohio, USA
- The Wolfsonian-Florida International University, Ms. Cathy Leff, Miami Beach, Florida, USA
- Ms. Ann Compton, University of Liverpool, UK
- Mr. Ramon E. S. Lerma, Ateneo Art Gallery, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines
- Sra. María Cristina Moreno Moreno, Universidad de Caldas, Manizales, > Columbia
- NUS Museums, National University of Singapore, Singapore

## News

### *Between Two Worlds: Marta C. Lourenço's thesis examines origins and history of European university collections*

*Between two worlds: The distinct nature and contemporary significance of university museums and collections in Europe* by Marta C. Lourenço

*Review by Steven de Clercq & Dominique Ferriot*

On October 20th, 2005, Marta Lourenço received a PhD degree in the history of technology and museology from the Conservatoire national des arts et métiers in Paris. The research was supervised by Dominique Ferriot and Steven de Clercq. Full text is at <http://correio.cc.fc.ul.pt/~martal>

The first outline of her research had been presented at the inaugural conference of UMAC in Barcelona in July 2001. In the course of a “grand tour” through 10 European countries and 50 universities she visited and interviewed staff of 236 museums and collections.



Students at the University of Tartu, Estonia

Based on data and observations collected during these visits and data from the literature, we now for the first time have a thorough, reliable, multifaceted and in-depth picture of the origins and history of university museums and collections in Europe and of the present state of the art. This information is made accessible through the introduction of a practical typology, the

distinction between 1st and 2nd generation museums and collections and their three missions (research, teaching and public display) and placed against its historical background and the challenges for the future, including suggestions for further research.

An important contribution of the thesis to the understanding of university museums and collections – as reflected in the title “Between Two Worlds” – is the fact that the description is not restricted to museums and collections and their immediate environment, but that, on the one hand, their development is described as an integral part of the history of universities as institutions for higher research and education and on the other hand as belonging to the museum-world, i.e. part of a wider intellectual, sociological, political and economic pano-

## News

### *Between Two Worlds, Marta Lorenço's thesis examines origins and history of European university collections* *continued*

rama. The dilemmas of the position of university museums and collections at the intersection between continued on university and the world outside and their potential possibilities are well described and analyzed.

The thesis confirms the general picture of abandonment, lack of clear identity, lack of adequate funding, lack of space, low professional standards, etc., which is in sharp contrast with the immense importance of the heritage involved. The thesis also explores successful cases where university museums and collections have managed to stay at the forefront of state of the art research, providing evidence for their potential viability. The study also points to a number of collaborative initiatives, both at national and international levels – including, of course, UMAC – and analyzes their strong and weak points.

The importance of the research lies, first of all, in the fact that a general perception of the present situation of academic heritage felt by many working in the field is now well documented, described, analyzed and brought together and made accessible to a broader audience. As such, it can – and most certainly will – serve as a most welcome and stimulating source of information and inspiration for everyone involved in the future maintenance and management of academic and scientific heritage, not only for the individual museum and/or collection, but also for museums and collections within a university and/or institution. The same goes for those “using” collections for educational purposes, for ongoing and future research and in the wider cultural framework.

The publication comes at a crucial moment for university museums and collections and their parent institutions, when both find themselves at a crossroad. Universities will continue to perform research and collections will remain the primary source of information for research (and education) in many fields of scientific exploration. However, traditional disciplinary boundaries will probably lose their importance and take on a new dimension. Universities may expect their museums to play an active role as their “show case” (the 4th mission). One of the questions to be faced is whether such university muse-

## News

### *Between Two Worlds, Marta Lorenço's thesis examines origins and history of European university collections* *continued*

ums can simultaneously act as archives of the material evidence of our scientific heritage and as keepers of active research and teaching collections.

The thesis – on-line at <http://correio.fc.ul.pt/~martal/> – will serve as an important source of inspiration for those who consciously make these kinds of fundamental decisions and will stimulate further debate and research.



Botanical collections, University Louis Pasteur of Strasbourg, France

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## News

### National University of Singapore will acquire Tan Cheng Lock Baba House Museum

The National University of Singapore will open the Tan Cheng Lock Baba House Museum in September 2006. The house is among the last surviving Peranakan houses in Singapore. The Baba House Museum was made possible by a generous gift of \$4 million in 2005 from Agnes Tan, the last surviving child of Peranakan leader Tan Cheng Lock, to National University of Singapore. The funds will be used towards the purchase and restoration of a house at 157 Neil Road, which is the ancestral house of the Wee family.

Peranakan” is a Malay word that means “born locally” but in Singapore it refers to the descendants of the old immigrant Chinese community that settled in what was known as the Straits Settlements: Malacca, Penang and Singapore. The community can trace its presence in Malacca to at least the 17th century. The culture has managed to maintain many ancient Chinese traditions while adopting customs of the land the immigrants settled in and of their colonial rulers. You can find traces of Portuguese, Dutch, British, Malay and Indonesian influences. The term “baba” also refers to the Peranakans.



© Lee Kip Lin  
Tan Cheng Lock Baba House Museum exterior

Tan Cheng Lock Baba House will play an important role in conserving the distinctive Peranakan heritage as well as preserving the memory of a highly respected Peranakan community leader, Tan Cheng Lock. Visitors will be able to see a completely restored Peranakan structure and will, at the same time, be exposed to the customs and material culture of the

Peranakan community in a living context. Exhibitions and events will showcase fascinating aspects of the Peranakan eclectic mix of signature decorative ornaments, and their cuisine, social customs and lifestyle.

Tan Cheng Lock (1883-1960) was born in Malacca and was the founder and first president of the Malaysian Chinese Association (MCA) as well as a respected business leader in Malaya and Singapore. Under his leadership, the MCA played a vital role in negotiating independence from the British.

## News

### National University of Singapore will acquire Baba House Museum *continued*



© Lee Kip Lin  
Ancestral Portrait at Baba House Museum

The Wee family has a history connected to Singapore’s early development as well as to the Peranakan community in the island. Illustrious forebears include Wee Bin (1823-1868), a shipping tycoon. The house on Neil Road has belonged to the family since the 1860s.

The ornate style of Peranakan houses incorporates features from southern Chinese and Malay cultures as well as colonial Dutch and British architecture. This eclectic fusion of influences can be found in the Tan Cheng Lock Baba House. The museum’s aim is to recover and conserve the architectural tradition of the Peranakans and to offer the house as a case study for restoration practices.

In addition to preserving the exterior, interior spaces will be restored as much as possible to the original architectural intent, while accommodating multiple uses of the museum. One of the main features of the museum will be the Peranakan bridal chamber, revealing the important traditional customs, preparations, and rites of a Peranakan wedding. The museum will also operate as a venue for corporate and tourism-related events. Last but not least, the Tan Cheng Lock Baba House will be the office of the Peranakan Association of Singapore. [www.nusedu.sg/museums/](http://www.nusedu.sg/museums/)

### Trondheim University museum administration gets new offices

In June, the museum’s administrative moved into new premises of 15 large offices and 2 meeting rooms (named Hugin and Munin after the ravens of Odin in Norse mythology). One is equipped with the latest audiovisual technology. Both the facade and the interior are designed to provide a more exciting architectural experience and comfortable working environment.

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## News

### Vitenskapsmuseet, The University Museum of Trondheim, Norway, exhibits artifacts from Xian, China

From Sept 18 to Dec 18, 2005, the University Museum of Trondheim, was invaded by Chinese warriors, horses, pigs and other artifacts from the Emperor Jingdis' mausoleum in Yangling, north of Xian, China. *China under Emperor Jingdi* was the result of a cooperation between the university museums of Oslo, Stavanger, and Trondheim. The exhibition, sponsored by the Ministry of Research and Education, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Culture, celebrated the 50 year anniversary of diplomatic relations between Norway and the People's Republic of China. The exhibition included nearly 300 items from Emperor Jingdi's mausoleum and the nearby "minister-graves." It was the first time these objects were shown in Scandinavia. Nearly 50,000 people visited the exhibition at its three locations. After the opening, the museum hosted an international seminar on "Managing World heritage Sites – Problems and Possibilities."



Chinese and Norwegian officials signing exhibit agreement



### Trondheim University makes natural history and archaeology collections a priority.

Though the Museum of Natural History and Archaeology curates one of Norway's largest collections of natural and cultural objects (more than 2 million), these collections have long been disregarded. Recently the museum established a comprehensive 10-year plan (the REVITA-plan) for protecting, preserving, and enhancing public access to the collections. In December, the university board decided to make the REVITA-plan one of the new high priority programmes.



Specimens waiting to be moved to new storage cabinets

## News

### First International Numismatics Conference for Australia hosted by Macquarie University

The inaugural National Numismatics Conference of the Numismatic Association of Australia (NAA) was held in Sydney between the 25th and 27th November 2005. The NAA, which represents the numismatic societies and collections of Australia, launched what it hopes will be a bi-annual event at the Powerhouse Museum. The conference then moved to Macquarie University where the Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatic Studies (ACANS) hosted the majority of the program at the Museum of Ancient Cultures.

The conference was opened by Dr G. Richard Doty, curator at the Smithsonian Institution in the US, who outlined the history of attempts by an international numismatics body, ICOMMON, to monitor the progress of numismatics in public museums. Other overseas speakers included Dr S. K. Bhatt (India) who spoke on Indian tribal coinages and Mr P. Holland (USA) who examined Australian pre-decimal coinages. From Macquarie University, anthropologist Professor Barrie Reynolds spoke on ethnographic currency

The important section dealing with ancient coins was dominated by speakers from Macquarie University's Australian Centre for Ancient Numismatic Studies (ACANS) These included Kenneth Sheedy (ACANS director) who spoke on Alexander the Great, Miss Clare Rowan (2005 ACANS junior fellow) on the procession of the god Elagabalus, and ACANS board members Prof. Ted Nixon on the excavations coins from Jebel Khalid, and Mr C. Pitchfork on the cistophoric coinage of Asia Minor. Other speakers included Peter Edwell, a former ACANS junior fellow, on Simeon Stylites. The conference highlighted the fact that Macquarie now leads the study of ancient numismatics in Australia.



Elagabalus, 218-222 AD.

In his concluding remarks, Dr Doty noted that given the high quality of the papers delivered, the strength of the discussions, and the competence of the overall organisation of the event, this was perhaps the best international numismatics conference of this variety he had ever attended.

## News

### Exhibition on Greek Cafés organized at MacQuarie University, Australia, will tour US and Australia

A major photographic social history exhibition *Selling an American Dream: Australian's Greek Café*, will open in Chicago in 2007, and travel to Washington, D.C., and New York before touring Australia. The exhibition challenges existing notions of how Australian culture, particularly in regard to its food style, was Americanised.

Historian Leonard Janiszewski and documentary photographer Effy Alexakis, the exhibit curators, have been researching Greek-Australian historical and contemporary presence in both Australia and internationally since 1982. Their project and archive, *In Their Own Image: Greek-Australians*, encompasses visual, oral and literary material and is based at Macquarie University, Sydney, in association with the Department of Modern History and the Australian History Museum. The exhibit will marry historical and contemporary images, oral history, and multimedia components.

The exhibit shows that the “Greek café”—broadly regarded as a quintessentially Australian phenomenon—was a ‘Trojan Horse’ for the Americanisation of Australian eating habits early in the twentieth century.

American influence was transmitted by Greeks who had relatives or friends working in the United States in food catering enterprises, or who had been there themselves working in such establishments. The classic Greek country café experienced its golden period from the mid-1930s to late 1960s. The Greek café evidences a marriage of American food catering ideas to British-Australian tastes, including the association of food with entertainment and fantasy.

This union of food with entertainment was seen earlier in Australia’s Greek-run food catering enterprises such as the oyster saloon or “parlor” (American spelling was usually used) of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries. The American style soda bar/sundae parlor had ap-



Capitol Theatre Milkbar, Wagga Wagga, New South Wales, Australia c. mid-1930s  
Photo courtesy X. Stathis, from the Greek-Australians: In Their Own Image National Project Archives.

## News

### Exhibition organized by MacQuarie University will tour US and Australia *continued*

peared in Australia by the mid-1910s, and the American style milk bar by the early 1930s.

Names such as the California, Niagara, Monterey, Astoria, Hollywood, New York and Golden Gate, suggest the American origin of the Greek café. This was reinforced by its menu of American sundaes, milkshakes, sodas and freezes or crushes, American confectionery (hard sugar candies and milk chocolate bars), and another popular product, American ice cream.



Astoria Café interior, Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia, 1940s  
Photo courtesy N. Raftos, from the Greek-Australians: In Their Own Image National Project Archives

During the Greek café’s golden age, an important and close working relationship developed with picture theatres—an association between food and entertainment which had initially been suggested by early soda fountain service and back

bar designs which emphasised fantasy by use of coloured lights, mirrors and stained glass (“the light fantastic”). Again, these relationships had been adopted from the United States by Greek-Australian café proprietors. A significant number of picture theatre operators were Greek-Australians who had or continued to run cafés.

By the 1950s many Greek cafés had introduced jukeboxes. American and British popular music attracted a youth clientele where young Australians mimicked the clothing, attitude, and language of their overseas singing idols. In a sense, for most of the twentieth century, Greek cafés were selling a dream—essentially an American dream. Even the Art Deco style of architecture of Greek cafés and picture theatres appears to have been influenced by American rather than European Art Deco.

The Australian Greek café’s link to America also hastened its demise in the final decades of the twentieth century. American fast food replaced family cafés. Television challenged cinema. Highways by passed country towns and their road houses supplied both fuel and food. Supermarkets and convenience stores sold packaged ice creams, chocolates, bottled flavoured milk, and aerated drinks. Except in tourist areas, Greek cafés were forced to become take-aways or were relegated into memory or oblivion.

## News

### Hurricane Katrina devastates museums in the American South

One of the biggest stories of the year was the natural disaster of Hurricane Katrina that struck the gulf states of the United States on August 29, 2005, with considerable loss of life and damage in excess of 80 million dollars. It is likely that some parts of the historic city of New Orleans, Louisiana, will never be rebuilt. New Orleans now has only half the population it had before the storm. Though the plight of New Orleans is most visible, many smaller cities, historic houses, and small museums were also damaged. Katrina was followed, a few weeks later, by Hurricane . It affected much of the same area.



Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum, Biloxi, Mississippi, after Hurricane Katrina

American university museums rallied to assist colleagues in the area. A number of university museums donated their admission fees or asked visitors for donations for museum relief in the affected area. The Southeast Museums Conference, based in

Atlanta, Georgia, USA, has been a major coordinator of museum relief efforts. The American Association of Museums has pledged \$100,000 to help affected museums. While some of the information below relates to non university museums it is a reminder of the need for all of us to have a disaster management strategy. It also points out that most disaster plans assume that some catastrophe has struck the museum and do not fully explore a situation in which the homes and families of all staff members are struck at the same time.

The most up to date information is at the website of the American Association of Museums at <http://www.aamus.org/aamlatest/news/hurricane.cfm>

Seven staff members of the New Orleans Museum of Art, including security guards and engineers, stayed through the storm to protect the collection and were there through the chaos that ensued. The staff members refused to leave the building untended even when urged to leave by officials of the Federal Emergency Management Agency because of fear of looting. In October, the museum laid off 70 of its 86 employees because city funding was eliminated. The museum remains closed. The fish collection of the Audubon Nature Institute in New Orleans was nearly completely lost when power

## News

### Hurricane Katrina devastates museums in the American South *continued*

failed, but some marine animals were saved and moved.

University museums have not figured so heavily in national news but some reports have been posted. The staff and the collections at University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University and Troy University Herbarium in southern Alabama are all OK, as is the herbarium and the jazz archives at Tulane University, New Orleans. Tulane's zoological collections were housed in hurricane-proof bunkers below New Orleans where there was minor flooding. The Newcomb Art Gallery, also at Tulane University, reported some flooding in galleries and extensive flooding in offsite collections storage. The herbarium at University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Lab, a collection with 5,000+ specimens, was completely flooded and mostly destroyed. The prolonged lack of electrical power and air conditioning have affected even collections that escaped direct storm or flooding



Herbarium at Southern Mississippi University Gulf Coast Research Lab after Katrina



Library archive in Biloxi, Mississippi, after Katrina

damage. Staff are being laid off at the same time they are struggling to rebuild their homes and personal lives.

While money may be available for restoration and conservation, the larger question for these institutions, university and otherwise, is how they will survive over the long term. American museums are decentralized. There is no federal ministry to support them through this crisis.

Many universities in the affected area closed. Some reopened in January, 2006. However, their financial situation is shaky because they have lost tuition income for a full semester. Some universities have not yet reopened. State and city governments, faced with the huge task of rebuilding and diminished citizens and businesses to pay taxes, can no longer support museums. And, tourists, who made up a large part of the visitors to museums, particularly in New Orleans, will not be returning to the devastated city for some time.

# News

## Report on UMAC 2005 Conference in Uppsala, Sweden

Awareness and Action – University Museums Today  
September 25 – October 1, Uppsala, Sweden  
By *Dominick Verschelde*

### *The scene*

After UMAC 2003 in Oklahoma, USA, I thought that nobody would ever be able to match the very high level of organisation skills, welcome, professionalism and infrastructure. But Uppsala (I cannot speak for Seoul as I wasn't able to join you there) proved me wrong. Our hostess, Ing-Marie Munktell, and her team, gave us such a warm welcome in magnificent historical surroundings and with such professional timing and organisation that even the local weather turned hot. Having seen several presentations in Uppsala of future host candidates for UMAC conferences, I'm happy to predict that this high level of professionalism is assured for years to come.

The conference was attended by 42 people from 20 different states or countries. For me the importance of the UMAC committee and UMAC conferences was yet again illustrated in our Uppsala conference as again I met for the first time a lot of interesting university museum colleagues, some of them from my own country. It is clear to me that UMAC conferences bring us, the university museum people, closer together to exchange ideas and to brainstorm on future actions, creating a tradition of cooperation inside and outside our own countries.

### *The program*

Our Swedish hosts found the perfect balance between paper presentations, discussion sessions, group meetings, impressive museum visits, and strengthening meals. Each event was as exciting as the last and not for a moment did we lose our attention. The centre of the conference was the Museum Gustavianum at Uppsala University. It is a marvelous impressive oldest building with equally impressive collection and is the centre of Uppsala University.



Our hostess, Ing-Marie Munktell

# News

## Report on UMAC 2005 Conference in Uppsala, Sweden *continued*

### *The arrival*

On Sunday, September 25 Deputy Vice-Chancellor Lena Marcusson welcomed us at a reception. Ing-Marie Munktell, director of the Museum Gustavianum, introduced us to Canadian artist, Jacques Deshaies, whose artwork, on exhibit, gives a satirical and alternative view of genetic engineering.

### *The presentations and discussions*

We heard a range of very interesting papers on specific issues and various problems, all of which evoked lively discussions. The papers and abstracts of the presentations can be found on the UMAC website at <http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/umac/2005/index.html>. In this report I will restrict myself to one or two statements that characterize each speaker's talk, and the most interesting discussion points they triggered.

### *Monday, September 26*

Professor Claes Göran Granqvist welcomed us to the Uppsala University and the University Museum. He gave the conference a good start off by presenting the history of the museum and commenting on the importance of lighting. He discussed the natural light conditions of historical Anatomical Theatre (about 1600) on top of the building and interesting contemporary research on techniques to fine tune lighting conditions in museum exhibitions.



Conference participants in the Anatomical Theatre at Uppsala University

Professor Lars Burman, Chair of the Museum Council of the Uppsala University, elaborated on university museums as important strategic tools in education, and as tools

of communicating university values. Museums are expensive, but universities must understand that there comes a price tag with goodwill and cultural capital.

These talks stimulated discussions. Steven De Clercq proposed to create a PhD student working group or thesis on evaluating this cultural capital. Dominick Verschelde pointed out that it all comes round to the presence (or absence) of respect. If university

## News

### Report on UMAC 2005 Conference in Uppsala, Sweden *continued*

administration, faculty, and the public recognize and respect the cultural and scientific value of university museums, they will support them. Cynthia Ann Bettison adds that this cultural value, indeed, is important to convey to decision makers. Christine Khor stated that we perhaps are too nice at times: “If you want to see money, you have to talk money.”

Professor Pierre de Maret, rector of the ULB, Brussels, convincingly explained that universities and museums have a common ancestor, followed by a parallel evolution, struggling to survive and sometimes interacting. He wondered if or when the tangible museum will change into a virtual museum: “going from brick to click.” He pointed out weaknesses, strengths, and future opportunities.

Professor Steven De Clercq, vice chair of UMAC, talked about the effects of university research on the history and development of university museums and collections. Nowadays there are too many unknown collections : he estimates the there are about 30,000 unknown collections in Europe alone.

Professor Kerstin Smeds, Umeå University, Sweden, illustrated the historical growth in taxonomy, going from “collecting for the collection’s sake” to exhibiting for the visitor. The museum tries to link the object with the subject, the item with the visitors, the object with the name. Andrew Simpson commented that people nowadays get more information in one month than earlier generation received in a lifetime. People are starting to have trouble coping with so much information.

Professor Christine Khor, director of the Singapore University Museum, described her museum as having a daring, contemporary view on managing a university museum combining modern management methods with the preservation of a valuable and historic arts collection.

Dr. Sébastien Soubiran, historian of science at Strasburg, explained that contemporary scientists are

## News

### Report on UMAC 2005 Conference in Uppsala, Sweden *continued*

not inclined to take heritage seriously. How can you integrate new scientific renovations with heritage? He showed what France is doing to market scientific heritage.

PhD student Zenobia Rae Kozak, Scotland, suggested that university museums are used to collecting specimens, but are bad at inventorying and collecting data on the objects. She pointed out a possible role for UMAC in correcting this.

Dr. Geoffrey Metz, curator at the Uppsala University, told incredible stories of some neglected collections. He related a case study on the skulls of Egyptian mummies he found stacked in the attic of the faculty of medicine. Unbeknownst to the faculty of archaeology, these skulls were once used for phrenology studies.



Mummified Egyptian head in Uppsala University storage area

*Tuesday, September 27*

The theme of this day was UMAC business. Some colleagues reported on ongoing or upcoming projects at their museums; work group meetings and discussions followed.

Rolf ter Sluis, Groningen, the Netherlands, showed views of the renewed Groningen University Museum.

Nathalie Nyts, ULB, presented “Diana,” a newly established Museum Association in Brussels.

Roland Wittje of Trondheim, Norway, talked about their teaching collections.

Isidro Abano, Philippines, talked about a feasibility study at his university to determine what could be realized with the available funding and material. This resulted in a Centre of Preservation of Natural Sciences of the Tropics.

Julia Cordova-Gonzalez, Chile, informed on the abstracts for a website.



Gabriela Fong

Gabriela Fong, Mexico City, presented the proposal for “UMAC 2006: New Roads for University Museums.” Gabriela proposed a three day program and asked for further suggestions. Tantalized by the beautiful pictures of Mexico, the audience eagerly asked her to stretch the period to a week, so to make

## News

### Report on UMAC 2005 Conference in Uppsala, Sweden *continued*

more time for working group discussions but most of all to be able to taste more of Mexico's cultural heritage and collections.

Cornelia Weber, chair of the UMAC, showed the renewed UMAC website and elaborated on UMAC's structure.

The Ethics working group was founded because of the rethinking of the ICOM Code of Ethics. Steven De Clercq proposed to put this working group in sleep mode until further notice.

A Strategic Planning working group was proposed. Peter Tirell will chair this group. He stated that evaluation is very important and that budgets are not plans. In the afternoon, Peter Tirell opened the discussion in the working groups with the statement: "We have to look at what we say, whether we want to change things, and what we actually want to do." Ing-Marie Munktell argued that the sharing of working experiences with colleagues is important. Cynthia Ann Bettison commented on the website: "We don't really express what the meetings do." Dominick Verschelde said that UMAC should send a letter to the rectors of every university in which UMAC is represented. "Universities are too ignorant of our existence and function to be impressed by what we stand for; we are too unknown by our universities to be taken seriously." Andrew Simpson wants us to use the structure of ICOM to get in touch with other subcommittees of ICOM and hence strengthen our position. He also stated that publications would give UMAC more prestige. Steven De Clercq reported on the Publications working group. He explained what procedure will be used in publishing the conference's papers. Gabriela Fong says that Mexico is willing to pay for publication costs of UMAC 2006. Cornelia Weber wants all papers on the website and in addition she asks everyone to get their databases on the UMAC website.

#### *Wednesday, September 28*

Curator Dominick Verschelde, Belgium, explained his museum's strategies on marketing university museums strategies. He stated that it was an honor to present at the speaker's platform from which the great Linnaeus himself once taught at the Uppsala University.

## News

### Report on UMAC 2005 Conference in Uppsala, Sweden *continued*

Cynthia Ann Bettison, New Mexico, USA, illustrated how to use word of mouth to advertise university museums on a small budget.

Peny Theologi-Gouti, Director of the Patras University Science and Technology Museum (Greece), reported on the problems and obstacles she met when setting up a new university museum.



*Peny Theologi-Gouti (on left) and other conference participants*

#### *Thursday, September 29*



*Andrew Simpson*

Andrew Simpson, Head of the Science Museum of Sydney, Australia, argued that museums should be integrated in the university's research. In addition he defined a role of which he finds an example in Uppsala. Here the community is really integrated in the university, we find a true "communiversity." He also promoted the idea of museum teaching programs. Andrew's presentation was entertaining and substantial, similar to his healthy appetite during the morning breakfast at our hotel. To quote "Peter T": "After Andrew's talk, I should do a strip-tease, but Dominick already did that."

Associate Director Peter Tirell, University of Oklahoma, USA, discussed on-line distant learning museum study programs as agents for change in the university museums world.

Assistant curator Kiralynne Hill, Sydney, proved with "Sculptures under the stars" that integrating university museum collections into the university community (or should I say 'communiversity') is possible and very rewarding. A daring and innovative initiative.

The afternoon sessions were Scandinavian. They had a common theme : the role of university museums to the image and function of the university by disseminating knowledge and reaching out to the public.

Professor Thomas Söderqvist, Copenhagen, presented the Medical Museum of Copenhagen. After a rich history of collecting medical specimens and instruments, the museum now faces a new and difficult challenge as modern medicine turns molecular and digital. Recent biomedical heritage is not yet being collected, and it is difficult to present to the public.

## News

### Report on UMAC 2005 Conference in Uppsala, Sweden *continued*

Professor Astrid Forland, Norway, told the history of the Bergen Museum. During its history it had different periods during which different important scientists put their marks on the collection.

Professor Håkon Anderson, Norway, commented on the history of the Science Museum of Trondheim. Different societies, governments and even countries controlled this collection during its history. This resulted in an internal culture of fear towards outsiders. The challenge is overcome this fear and respond to a new time.

Professor John Collett, Oslo (Norway), started with presenting a happy story of a government that stated that collections were essential to the university, and hence acquired natural history as well as cultural collections. But the story turned sour when later, university professors complained that research, and not the showing off of collections, was the way to knowledge. Professor Narve Fulsås, Tromsø (Norway), described the growth of the Tromsø museum starting as a science centre.

#### *Friday, September 30*

We left Uppsala and traveled to Stockholm where we visited the extraordinary Vasa Museum. In the early afternoon two more speakers presented papers and we discussed the UMAC working groups.

Dr. Michael Mares, University of Oklahoma, USA, presented LINNE, a network for natural environments. Copyright Coordinator Matt Connors, Sydney, Australia, closed the presentations with his model for a National Collections Database. He demonstrated the sometimes difficult steps involved in building a database.

Participants discussed plans of the working groups, and inquired for possible candidates for future conference host countries. The response showed great enthusiasm for UMAC conferences and was as astonishing as it was vivid.



On Friday evening, some of us embarked on a cruise to Helsinki, Finland. It was the first time during the whole week that I was able to cool down. Who would have thought that Sweden

## News

### Report on UMAC 2005 Conference in Uppsala, Sweden *continued*

would be so hot and sunny. We certainly didn't. We packed lots of warm sweaters and a thick coat, which, I have to admit, only left my suitcase when I arrived back home in Belgium. I will not elaborate much further on what happened on the "Sylvia Symphony," but let me say it was a love boat experience! The views were spectacular and I would like to thank Alan Knox for my first ever migrating birds observation at night.



#### *Saturday, October 1*

The closing session was started by the rector of Helsinki University, a man with a clear love, vision and respect for his institution and its heritage.



Helsinki University Auditorium

The rector showed us how the university closely guarded and cared for their heritage. The auditorium in which we were welcomed, spoke for itself. Though having all modern amenities, this auditorium has been kept in its original beautiful state. This degree of respect should be an example for any university in any country in the world.

#### *Cultural leisure time*

Every day the illuminating and intense work was softened by either visits to marvellous museum collections or exquisite meals and sometimes both. I have to admit that I am not sure what impressed me the most: was it the excellence of the museums and accompanying guide or was it the charming presence of all our colleagues? Of one thing I am certain—I had a marvellous time! Enjoying the Swedish treasures and culture in the presence of an animated and sometimes wacky group of people—what more can a person hope for? If people want to say that scientific conferences are dull, it cannot possibly be said of UMAC conferences. It shouldn't surprise us, then, that many of these cultural day experiences prolonged themselves into the night. My wife, Ann, and I also visited some important sites in Carl Linnaeus' life. Linnaeus, who dedicated his life to science in Uppsala, is to systematics what Darwin is to evolution. So for us, Uppsala was heaven.

# News

## Report on UMAC 2005 Conference in Uppsala, Sweden *continued*



On Sunday, Ing-Marie's husband drove us to a lake near their home, where I actually took a dip into the deep water. People, take it from me—it was cold. They say that a swim in

a Scandinavian lake is good for your health, but the only thing I noticed was a shrinking feeling. It was a lifetime experience, which maybe I will do again



.....or not.

On Monday we visited the Uppsala Botanical Garden, where they still have, among other, two laurel trees that Linnaeus himself planted and cared for.

On Tuesday we visited the storage room, Castle art collection, and the Uppsala Cathedral, where I was moved by Linnaeus' grave and Belgian artwork. But the absolute main event was the trip to Skokloster Castle. It was a castle fit for royalty, but built by a self-made military man.



Bust of Linnaeus in the Uppsala Botanical Gardens

We were allowed to see all treasures of the castle, from working tools to hunting weapons to beautifully carved cabinets. While we were guided around, Saint Ing-Marie and her little helpers were busy organising our late meal. It was a true late-night party feast. We had singing (did Saint Ing-Marie taste the schnaps before we came in?) toasting, tasting, and fun.

On Wednesday some went for a guided tour in Stockholm, but most of us visited the Museum of Medical History and the University Library Carolina Rediviva. I have to admit, however, that my wife and I slipped away to visit Linné's Hammersby. What a visit! We walked in Linnaeus' garden, we saw his trees, we entered his house, and marvelled at his wallpaper in his room. He actually used his own first print drawings to hang on his walls, and they are still there! We looked at his letters, his Chinese tea set, his baking oven—do I really need to go on? Well, what are you still doing reading this! Get on a plane now, and go! After being stunned for quite a while, we returned to Uppsala, luckily in time to still be able to visit the University Library, where we stood close to pages from the silver

# News

## Report on UMAC 2005 Conference in Uppsala, Sweden *continued*

bible, original maps of Scandinavian waters, drawings, and books of Linnaeus' pupils,

On Thursday we visited Old Uppsala. The museum there has a fine Viking collection displayed in a modern, up-to-date, schoolchildren and family friendly setting with a view of the original grave mounds.

What could top this? Did we need more? Ah, but we cannot have a conference without a banquet. And what a banquet! Our hosts, Uppsala Municipality and the Uppsala County, treated us to dinner at the Uppsala Castle. Try to imagine it. Good speeches, short and to the point; a fine meal; and the most beautiful music. What made such good music? One woman, two men, costumes, and replicas of ancient bone-flutes and other instruments, dug up from Viking graves.

If you think it couldn't get any better, I saved the best for last! My personal favourite was our visit to Linné's Hammersby. My favourite museum visits were the Museum Gustavianum and the Vasa Museum.

To prevent you from accusing me of favouritism towards Ing-Marie, I will only say about the Museum Gustavianum that what really knocked my socks off was their Royal Cabinet, the Anatomical Theatre, and the professionalism of the guides.

At the Vasa Museum our guide was Klas Helmersson, the museum director. In this extraordinary museum you get everything : a superb collection beautifully exhibited with perfect information on the complete history of the vessel itself (time-frame, making of, etc.) and on the salvaging, preservation and restoration

### *Conclusion.*

So, in conclusion, I do not like the Olympic tendency of expecting the chairperson (a Belgian, by the way) calling out "the best games ever," but I do want to say this: the most perfectly organized conference is the most interesting conference to enjoy. This can be said of the Oklahoma UMAC 2003 conference and of Uppsala—remember, I missed Seoul. I am confident we will be able to say it of the upcoming UMAC conferences in the years to come. Thank You, Ing-Marie!

## News

### New Home planned for Berndt Museum of Anthropology, University of Western Australia, Perth

A community consultation process has begun to plan a new, national Berndt Museum of Aboriginal and Asian Art. The new site will be in a park overlooking the river.

Consultation began in September 2005, with a meeting with 20 senior representatives of the local indigenous community. Seated amongst the many ritually powerful objects and works of art in the museum, those elders were the first to hear about the university's plans for the creation of a new home to house its unparalleled collection of historic and contemporary art work and cultural items—Australia's first national museum of Aboriginal and Asian Art

A local Nyungar aboriginal elder, Mr Ken Colbung, chaired the meeting. Dr. Sally Morgan of the School of Indigenous Studies spoke about the School's role and her hopes for the new facility. Museum director John Stanton detailed the museum's history and its origins in the cultural works assembled during almost fifty years by eminent anthropologists Professor Ronald and Dr Catherine Berndt, who donated the core collection to The University of Western Australia in 1976.



*The Berndts and their collection*

The current lack of space means that less than one percent of the collection of 11,500 artworks and 35,000 photographs are on display. The museum staff has grown from one curator in 1976 to six, half of whom are indigenous Australians.

The vision for the new museum is as a vibrant, outgoing, accessible, and interactive museum that promotes a deeper understanding of and respect for Australian indigenous and Asian cultural achievements. Its success will be dependent on close collaboration with the Australian indigenous community. In a lively discussion, responses were highly supportive, with quite a few elders urging people to get behind the project and making spontaneous statements of encouragement.

## News

### New Home planned for Berndt Museum of Anthropology *continued*

Following this initial meeting, the Berndt Museum hosted a forum for the wider Perth-based indigenous community. More than 60 people attended. Strong votes of support came particularly from the oldest and the youngest members of the community. Mrs Kath Yarran, senior member of the Kellerberrin community, made an impassioned plea for the need for the new museum and Kylie Farmer, representing Yirra Yaakin Noongar Theatre and one of the youngest attendees at the forum, spoke strongly about the importance of the museum for young people. She emphatically claimed, "Things need to be taught and the museum can help do this."

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URL: [www.berndt.uwa.edu.au](http://www.berndt.uwa.edu.au)

### Berndt Museum Exhibition of its Collection to travel through Western Australia

An exhibit of the collection of the Berndt Museum opened at the Western Australian Museum in 2004. It has received a Visions Australia grant to commence interstate touring early 2006.

The premier of Western Australia, the Hon. Dr Geoff Gallop, asked the Museum to organize this traveling exhibit from its collection to mark the 175th anniversary. A selection of 32 works purchased by the Museum primarily during the past decade are included. It was a principle of founder Ronald Berndt, who started collecting in the early 1940s, to purchase works only within a year of their creation. That policy has shaped the Berndt Museum's collection. The exhibit focuses on Western Australian art from both settled and remote areas.



Berndt Museum Logo

## News

### University of Copenhagen Medical Museum begins project on Danish Biomedicine

The Medical Museum at the University of Copenhagen has employed four postdoctoral fellows for the project *Danish Biomedicine, 1955-2005: Integrating Medical Museology and the Historiography of Recent Biomedicine*. The aim of the project is to fill the gap between history of medicine, a text-oriented research, and curatorial practice, an object-oriented practice. It will focus on the documentation of recent biomedicine and biotechnology, so far a largely neglected field for medical history museums.

The four postdoc fellows are Soren Bak-Jensen (PhD, University of Copenhagen) who will work on the recent history of transplantation surgery; Susanne Bauer (PhD, University of Bielefeld) who will study visualization practices in epidemiology; Sniff Andersen Nexø (PhD, University of Copenhagen) who will focus on the relation between medical practices and meanings of the body; and Jan Eric Olsén (PhD, University of Lund) who will study the emergence of virtual surgery. All four positions combine research and curatorial work. The project is funded by the Novo Nordisk Foundation and is led by Professor Thomas Soderqvist, Director of the Medical Museum. See <http://www.museum.ku.dk/forskning/fire%20postdocs.as>.



Medical Museum, University of Copenhagen

## Miscellaneous Announcements

### UMAC Leaflets Available

If you are planning a conference about university museums and collections, we would appreciate your informing your conference participants about UMAC. Brochures in English are already available, and other languages (Spanish, French, Italian, Portuguese and German) will be ready for use soon – on the Web or as printed documents. Contact Cornelia Weber for information at [weber@mathematik.hu-berlin.de](mailto:weber@mathematik.hu-berlin.de)

### Harn Museum of Art at the University of Florida, Gainesville, Florida, USA, announces museum lectures

More information is at <http://www.arts.ufl.edu/harnscholar/>

Glenn D. Lowry, Director, Museum of Modern Art, New York, USA

*Rethinking the Modern.*

January 17, 2006.

Mary Jo Arnoldi, Curator of African Ethnology, National Museum of Natural History, New York, USA  
*Monuments, Memory, and Public Culture in Mali:*

*Issues in African Art.*

October 12, 2006

### Museologia 3 sold out, proceedings available on web

See: <http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/umac/proceedings2002/>

### Adriana Mortara Almeida

UMAC member, Brazil, has a new email address  
[adrianamortara@ajato.com.br](mailto:adrianamortara@ajato.com.br)

### UMAC Web Site has papers, reports and posters presented at the 2005 conference in Uppsala

Many are full texts. <http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/umac/2005/index.html>

Also, see the text “Adapting to Change” on the Web under the heading Guideline and policies for further discussion: <http://publicus.culture.hu-berlin.de/umac/guidelines.html>

## UMAC People

Please contact any member of the steering committee or working group chair to get more involved with UMAC. The working groups section earlier in the newsletter gives more information about each working group.

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*National Autonomous University of Mexico, Site of UMAC 2006 Conference, Central Library*

Send information and photos about your museum, conferences, awards, or announcements to kingx001@umn.edu. Use UMAC newsletter in the title of your message.