

UMAC

University Museums and Collections
<http://umac.icom.museum>



ICOM's International Committee for University Museums and Collections

Newsletter

From the Chair

July 2005

UMAC People



Greetings to all UMAC members. A lot of behind the scenes activity goes on at UMAC, and I invite you to become part of the action by joining

a working group. All the working groups are described in this newsletter, so please, contact the chair and let him or her know that you are interested in joining. Museum workers in universities have much in common. Of course, some of the issues we face are shared by our colleagues outside universities, in all museums, but we also have many concerns that are unique to university museums. By working actively in UMAC you will have access to a group of colleagues with whom to discuss these special concerns openly and productively. I hope you will take this opportunity to join a working group that interests you, and that you will attend UMAC conferences so you can meet your colleagues face to face.

Cornelia Weber

The conference in Uppsala, September 25 until September 30 and Helsinki, October 1 is coming closer. Our theme is "Communicating University Museums: Awareness and Action - University Museums Today".

Please have a look on our homepage: www.akademikonferens.uu.se/umac2005 to register.

Cornelia Weber, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, is chair of UMAC.

Vice-Chairs:

Steven de Clercq, Netherlands

Peter Stanbury, Australia

Secretary: Peny Theologi-Gouti, Greece

Treasurer: Sue-Anne Wallace, Australia

Web Editor: Peter Tirrell, USA

Newsletter Editor: Lyndel King, USA

At-Large Members:

Dominique Ferriot, France

Kati Heinamies, Finland

Inge-Marie Munktell, Sweden

Other officers of the Executive Board are

Working Group Chairs:

Aldona Jonaitis, USA

Marta Lourenco, Portugal

Rafaella Simili, Italy

An Apology from your Newsletter Editor

I apologize to all UMAC members for the lateness of this newsletter, and promise that the next one will reach you in a more timely fashion. Please send announcements of awards, promotions, new jobs, or calendar items to kingx001@umn.edu.

Use UMAC newsletter as the subject of your email.

Spotlight

Museum Gustavianum Uppsala University Museum Uppsala Sweden

The Gustavianum was erected in the 1620s to be the main building of Scandinavia's oldest university, and served as such through most of the 19th century. The building is now home



to the University Museum, containing five permanent exhibitions. The anatomical theatre erected on the roof of the Gustavianum by Professor Olof Rudbeck in 1663 gives the building its characteristic appearance. The history

of the university from 1477 to the present day is highlighted, as is the Anatomical Theater with an exhibit on early anatomical and medical studies. One of the most intriguing items is the Art Cabinet of Augsburg, which has been in the University's collection since 1694. The Cabinet was designed and put together in the 17th century in order to represent the wonders of nature as well as the advances made by man in art and technology. The Cabinet contains hundreds of compartments filled with nearly 1 000 miscellaneous objects. Other scientific objects, such as Celsius' thermometer, are also displayed, as well as collections of Nordic, Classical, and Egyptian antiquities.

In Uppsala, the city of learning in Sweden, the Museum Gustavianum occupies a unique position as an interface between the academic world and the general public.

<http://www.gustavianum.uu.se/english.shtml>

Working Groups

UMAC has five working groups. If you would like to be involved with the work of any group, please contact the Chair of the group.

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 weber@mathematik.hu-berlin.de

Ethics

To have input into the ongoing revision of Statutes and Code of Ethics of ICOM, particularly in those areas especially relevant to university museums and collections; to produce guidelines on matters concerning university museums and collections after reviewing policies of different institutions. Chair: Aldona Jonaitis ffaj@uaf.ed

Staffing

This group will seek possible hosts and interested parties for staff exchanges between museums both university and other types of museums. Chair: Inge-Marie Munktell Inge-Marie.Munktell@Gustavianum.uu.se

Recognition

This group works towards increasing the profile of university museums and collections in academic and political spheres. Chair: Rafaella Simili simili@philo.unibo.it

Publications

This newly established group will work in close cooperation with the Directories group to improve the structure and to further develop UMAC's web site.

Chairs: Peter Stanbury & Marta Lourenço Peter.stanbury@mq.edu.au MCLourenco@fc.ul.pt

Your museum could be in the **Spotlight**

Send 250 words plus several small jpgs to
kingx001@umn.edu

Use UMAC newsletter as the subject for
your email.

Conferences

WORKSHOP: Curating 20th Century Science, 17 - 18 October 2005, Universiteitsmuseum Utrecht, the Netherlands.

The Nederlands Scheepvaartmuseum Amsterdam and the Universiteitsmuseum Utrecht announce a jointly organized two-days workshop titled “Curating 20th Century Science”. The workshop will be organized under the auspices of the Scientific Instrument Commission. All sessions will be held at the Universiteitsmuseum in Utrecht.

The workshop will discuss themes related to curating 20th century scientific heritage. Sessions of the workshop will focus on history, materials, uses, and policies. The workshop wants to raise questions such as:

—what is specific about 20th century science, such as globalization, multi-disciplines, and big science, and how is this manifested in the design of technical apparatus?

—how do we deal with the increasing number of complex and often new materials in our collections and how can we care for them?

—how can we make use 20th century apparatus in museums, how can we open these “black boxes”, explain their use, for example in exhibitions or research?

—how can we develop a collection policy for the 20th century and what are the criteria for making future choices on acquisitions?

Session organizers will include: Paolo Brenni (FST, IMSS, Firenze), Deborah Douglas (MIT Museum), Rob Lukens (Chemical

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Heritage Foundation), and Roland Wittje (Universitet Trondheim). For further information: www.museum.uu.nl/workshop
For registration please contact: Diederick Wildeman Nederlands Scheepvaartmuseum Amsterdam

Kattenburgerplein 1
1018 KK Amsterdam
The Netherlands

Registration is officially closed but places may still be open. Contact Deiderick Wildeman immediately.

Email: dwildeman@scheepvaartmuseum.nl

Tel.: +31-(0)20-5232222

Fax.: +31-(0)20-5232213

SYMPOSIUM: Who needs scientific Instruments? October 19 - 22, The Museum Boerhaave, Leiden, the Netherlands

The symposium examines scientific instruments and their users. There is a discount for participants attending both the Utrecht workshop and the Leiden symposium. For further information:

<http://www.museumboerhaave.nl/conference/overview.html>

Conferences

Symposium: Near Eastern Archaeology and the University Museum, Michael C. Carlos Museum, September 24

Emory University

Atlanta, Georgia, USA

Saturday, September 24

9 am - 5 pm, Reception Hall

For more information email Peter Lacovara at placova@emory.edu.

Near Eastern archaeology and the University Museum have had a long, complex and evolving relationship over the past century and more. Born of antiquarian, historical, and religious studies, Near Eastern archaeology followed a distinct path from American, Asian and Classical Archaeology. Dating back to its conceptual beginnings under the pioneering work of Sir William Matthew Flinders Petrie, archaeological excavation in Egypt and Mesopotamia was much more than a search for artistic masterpieces and treasure.

The systematic study of mankind's ascent to civilization in the Fertile Crescent and Nile Valley, principally through the remains of material culture became an important part of the curriculum in many of the world's great universities. Through synergies in the academic community, archaeological fieldwork led the way to later anthropological and cultural studies. In addition, the teaching collections built up by these institutions not only benefited students and scholars, but had broad popular appeal. For many institutions of higher learning these collections were their public face and did much to enhance the life of the community

Conferences

beyond the ivy-covered walls.

Through the generous support of the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, scholars from the Petrie Museum at University College, London, the Semitic Museum at Harvard, the Oriental Institute, the University of Michigan's Kelsey Museum, and the Phoebe Hearst Museum at the University of California, Berkeley, will join scholars from Emory for a day-long look at the development and growth of the field of Near Eastern archaeology and the collections of great university museums.

UMAC CONFERENCE PROPOSED FOR MEXICO CITY

Graciela de la Torre, General Director of Visual Arts at the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), has proposed the UMAC Conference with ICOM-México for 2006, September 28 to October 2, 2006. The proposal for the theme of the conference is "New Roads for University Museums." The National Autonomous University has become one of the most important educational institutions in Latin America because of its independence. The museum at this University is in charge of preserving scientific and humanistic collections.



Mural of David Alfero Siqueiros in the Tower of the Rectoria

Awards & Honors

Lewis Glucksman Gallery at University College, Cork, Ireland, named best public building in Ireland in 2005 by Royal Institute of Architects Ireland

Fiona Kearney, Director, announces that The Lewis Glucksman Gallery, University Col-



lege, Cork, has been named the “Best Public Building in Ireland” by the Royal Institute of Architects in Ireland. The Lewis Glucksman Gallery is Ireland’s newest cultural space.

An Taoiseach (prime minister) Bertie Ahern, TD, accompa-

nied by his cabinet, toured the gallery in June, 2005, viewing one of the most important visual art exhibitions for the year—a joint show from the collections of the two Irish Arts Councils, North and South. This is the first time the two Arts Councils have jointly shown their collections and is a significant contribution to Cork European Capital of Culture 2005.

The Lewis Glucksman Gallery is a flagship project, which demonstrates UCC’s commitment to artistic and cultural values. Set in a mature landscape on former tennis courts in UCC’s Lower Grounds, with the River Lee as a backdrop, the challenge in design was how to insert a modern building without damaging the beautiful trees or the riverside amenity space surrounding it. This was achieved using only the footprint of the old tennis courts and by putting the Gallery on stilts, so that it is

Awards & Honors

higher than it is broad. In fact, the building was specifically designed to reflect its surrounding environment in the most sympathetic way possible. The Glucksman is clad in limestone at various levels and the angelim hardwood wrapped around the building mirrors its woodland setting.


Designed by O’Donnell + Tuomey architects, the Glucksman has four separate exhibition spaces, differing in scale, on three floors. The 2,200sq metre building with curved, angelim wood cladding, includes a 12 metre cantilevered section, basement gallery store, and an innovative heating/temperature control system, grant aided by Sustainable Energy Ireland, which removes the need for unsightly rooftop installations. Since the Glucksman opened in October 2005, it has received over 45,000 visitors, a major achievement and one that indicates the possibility of genuine links between town and gown. <http://www.glucksman.org/>



Awards & Honors


Arpeanum Museum at University of Helsinki awarded Finnish-ICOM Museum Achievement Prize in May, 2005

Kati Heinämies, Director, announces that on International Museum Day, May 13, Helsinki University Museum, was awarded the Museum Achievement of the Year Prize by the Finnish National Committee of ICOM. The citation said the Museum has succeeded in merging the many small collections of the University into one interesting and coherent whole.



Petrie Museum at University College, London, wins 2005 Museum and Heritage Award

In May, 2005, The Petrie Museum at University College, London, was awarded a Museum and Heritage Award of Excellence. The museum was cited for its ability to remain relevant after more than 103 years. The Petrie Museum, an academic institution known mainly for its huge collection of Egyptian archaeology, has recently made great efforts to open itself up to the public. Its catalogue is online: <http://www.petrie.ucl.ac.uk/>



News

Brazil university museums form an association

After a visit to Brazil, Marta Lourenco reports that Brazil is mobilising its university museums and collections.

An informal group has existed since the early 1990s, but now it is being formalised into an association. The contact is Prof. Maria das Graças Ribeiro, Director of the Museum of Morphological Sciences, University of Minas Gerais in Belo Horizonte (mgracas@mono.icb.ufmg.br). Marta anticipates that Professor Maria das Graças Ribeiro will become a UMAC member soon.

Brazil has a higher education system very similar to the American one, with research and state universities and then higher education institutes and polytechnics.

Old and traditional universities like the University of São Paulo, the University of Campinas, and the University of Rio de Janeiro have 28 to 30 university museums and collections. The National Museum in Rio is a university museum too.

The country is huge (4th in the world) and the University heritage very rich and diverse. Brazil was colonised by Portugal but it is a case of early independence (1824), therefore most of the anthropological, botanical, palaeontological and zoological expeditions inside the country were made by Brazilians and the materials remain in Brazilian universities.

News

Construction begun for new museum for the University of South Australia, scheduled to open in 2007.

Erica Green, Director, announces that construction has begun for a new UniSA Art Museum (University of South Australia) scheduled to open 2007.

The new museum is designed by award winning architects John Wardle Architects and Hassell in Association and will be the second largest public gallery in South Australia. The new Art Museum will include three distinct gallery spaces on two floors, and will be adjacent to lecture theatres and a coffee shop. A new home for the South Australian School of Art and its student gallery, also part of the arts development on campus, was begun earlier and will open in 2005.

The museum has commissioned a site-specific public art piece by Adelaide based artist, Fiona Hall.



News

Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem University refurbishment of permanent exhibition scheduled to open by the end of 2005

Prof. Dr. H. W. Lack, Director at Botanischer Garten und Botanisches Museum Berlin-Dahlem, announces the refurbishment of the permanent exhibition of the Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem.

The Botanical Museum of Freie Universität Berlin is currently working on a complete refurbishment, renovation and inventory of major parts of its permanent exhibition, expected to reopen by the end of 2005. The current improvements have been made possible by a legacy from Prof. Eva Potzta (1924-2000), late director of the Museum.

The Botanical Museum Berlin-Dahlem is unique in Central Europe both in content and design. Its permanent exhibition, created in the sixties, mainly aims at students of botany and visitors of the Botanic Garden Berlin-Dahlem. Instead of showing originals, i.e. plant specimens and plant products, the display focuses on enlarged models of plants and plant parts, dioramas and interactive installations. The Museum offers a (macro) perspective complementary to the living collections in the Botanic Garden and allows the study of plant life independently from the seasons.

Redesign of the Museum started in 2002 with the renovation of the entrance hall. Currently, work is concentrated on the exhibition in the first floor of the Museum, showing fungi, lichens, algae, mosses, ferns, seed plants, ancient Egyptian plant material, and economic

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plants.

The Museum, originally designed for the instruction of university students only, will become more attractive for a wider spectrum of visitors in order to keep botany in the minds of the general public.

With the help of architect Dr. Christina Petersen, steps taken so far include:

- renovation and complete textual revision of the theme areas mosses, ferns, seed plants and economic plants by maintaining the 1960's design of the showcases
- new concepts and showcases for fungi, lichens, algae, aiming at a more popular approach (e.g. including economic use)
- new concepts for the theme area of ancient Egyptian plant material, stressing its importance for the early use of economic plants.
- infrastructura work to improve room climate (shading) and visitor orientation (linoleum floors in different colours to identify theme areas)
- complete data-based inventory (Museum Plus)

<http://www.bgbm.fu-berlin.de/BGBM/default.htm>



News

University of Alaska, Fairbanks, Alaska, USA, Museum of the North will open its new wing September 10, 2005.

Inspired by Alaska's extraordinary landscape, environment and cultures, the University of Alaska Museum's expansion will embody the spirit of the land. Light-filled spaces will welcome and inspire scholars, visitors, and staff with expansive windows that highlight the spectacular views of the Alaska Range, Denali, and the Tanana River Valley. The expansion is designed by Joan Soranno of Hammel Green & Abrahamson in Minneapolis, Minnesota, and will double the size of the Museum to 7,525 square meters.



New space will include a 2,600 square meter Research Center nearly double the size of the Museum's current collections area. The new 930 square meter Rose Berry Alaska Art Gallery will interpret art as an expression of the Alaska experience. This centerpiece of the expanded museum will bring the Museum's art treasures out of storage and into public view to give visitors a deeper understanding of artistic creation, interpretation and history in Alaska. The expansion also includes a new 275 square meter Learning Center.



Aldona Jonaitis is the Director of the Museum.

News

Utrecht University Museum telescope featured on 350th anniversary of discovery of Titan by Dutch astronomer

Steven de Clercq reports that March 25th, 2005, was the 350th anniversary of the discovery of Titan, the largest moon of Saturn by Dutch astronomer Christiaan Huygens. Huygens made this discovery with a telescope he made himself. Only the objective lens of this telescope has been preserved, and it is at Utrecht University Museum.

On its popular website “Astronomy Picture of the Day” NASA features today an image of this lens, which shows the signature of Huygens, scratched with a diamond along the border of the lens.

Also visible along the border of the lens is its focal length and the date Huygens completed the final polishing of the lens. The lens also bears an anagram Huygens wrote and a short verse from the Roman poet Ovid. The anagram along the lens was about claiming to be the first to see that Saturn also had moons, like the “Medicean stars” discovered some 45 years before by Galileo Galilei around Jupiter, and to avoid Galileo’s fate of having to denounce what he had seen. This message is especially poignant because of the attacks on science and science museums, particularly in the United States.

For more detailed information about the lens:
<http://antwrp.gsfc.nasa.gov/apod/ap050325.html>

News

UMAC moved its web site to another server. Bookmark the following address:

<http://umac.icom.museum>

Please pass this newsletter along to colleagues and urge them to join.

How to join UMAC

If you are a member of ICOM and wish to be a voting member of UMAC, please send the Secretariat (secretariat@icom.org) the following message:

“I am a member of ICOM and wish to become a voting member of UMAC. Please register me with UMAC and change my voting choice to UMAC” Add your name and the date.

To Join ICOM: Application forms can be downloaded at http://icom.museum/member_form.html or obtained either from the National Committees or from the Membership Service of the ICOM Secretariat. Completed forms should be returned directly to the National Committee, if such a committee exists. If you do not have your National Committee’s address, see <http://icom.museum/nationals.html> or contact the Membership Service secretariat@icom.org.

The Membership Service of the ICOM Secretariat is not allowed to process any application without the consent of the National Committee that is concerned.

When submitting your request, please ask to be a voting member of UMAC.

News

UMAC has 131 official members in the following countries.

Argentina - 1
Australia - 17
Austria - 1
Belarus - 1
Belgium - 5
Brazil - 2
Canada - 5
Denmark - 1
Estonia - 1
Finland - 5
France - 11
Germany - 3
Greece - 2
India - 1
Iran - 1
Ireland - 3
Israel - 2
Italy - 5
Jamaica - 1
Korea - 3
Latvia - 1
Madagascar - 2
Mexico - 2
Netherlands - 7
Norway - 3
Philippines - 3
Poland - 3
Portugal - 1
Russia - 1
South Africa - 1
Spain - 3
Sweden - 2
Switzerland - 1
United Kingdom - 13
United States of America - 16
Zimbabwe - 1

Miscellaneous Announcements

Professor of Architecture Antonello Alici has a new e-mail address. It is a.alici@archiworld.it

Greg Liggett, Director, Northern California Natural History Museum California State University, Chico, CA has a new email address. It is gliggett@csuchico.edu

Lyndel King, Director, Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, was elected to the boards of the American Association of Museums and the Association of Art Museum Directors.

Send announcements, information about exhibits that are available, and other miscellaneous information to kingx001@umn.edu. Please use **UMAC newsletter** as the subject of your message.