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IACM Annual Report

Official Journal of the International Association of
customs and Tax Museums



IACM ANNUAL REPORT 2011

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE INTERNATIONAL
ASSOCIATION OF CUSTOMS AND TAX MUSEUMS

www.customsmuseums.org

EDITORIAL

Up and down



Dear colleagues

Nearly one year has passed since we have met the last time for our annual conference and general assembly in Prague. We are already looking forward to the next meeting in Rotterdam and Antwerp. A lot of events and actions have taken place during this period. But as in life there were highlights on one side, but also bad news on the other.

The highlife of this year was the official opening of the renovated Dutch customs and finance museum. I had the pleasure and the honor to assist at this well organized event and I can only congratulate our dutch friends for the work, they did and the event itself. I will not go further in details, because you will be able to see by yourself a wonderful museum. I'm also looking forward to see the Belgian museum, moved to another place and reopened 2 years ago. So our next conference and general assembly will be very interesting for us customs people and I hope we will have a lot of fruitful discussions.

In Austria, our friend Ferdinand Hampl has definitely pass over his museum to a colleague and the museum has moved to another place. I want to profit from the occasion and thank Ferdinand for his work and also his presence during all these years at the IACM activities. He will always stay in our minds and I wish him all the best for the future and if you are in Vienna, just contact him, you can't get a better guide. I wish also our new austrian colleague all the best for his work in the museum.

Bad news arrived from Denmark, the museum is closed and will be replaced by a virtual collection, so only to be seen on the internet. Let's see how it looks like. Also Finland has some problems with the museum due to a reorganisation of the finish customs administration. All this problems are mainly due to the budget situation in the countries and unfortunately museums are mostly the first to be cut down.

Also Luxembourg has to close his museum because the building is demolished and we have to look for a new place. A big museum is in planning, but also due to financial reasons, the project is postponed for more than 1 year and will not begin before 2014. But together with our director who is also president of our museum association we are looking for solutions. Meanwhile, we are organizing temporary exhibitions all over the country.

But I must also say some words about our annual report, you can just read. It's a pity that only half of the members have sent in their contribution. We all agreed that this is a very good tool for our association to be present in the world. Therefore it's a little bit frustrating to see the lack of interest in the report. That gives also a bad picture of our association to the public. It is not so much time consuming to write some words and add some photos and have advertising for free. So I wish that after the conference in September, we will have at least 25 contributions for the annual report 2012 and a complete picture of our association to be shown to the public.

Hope to see you all in September in Rotterdam and Antwerp and have nice holidays.

Henri Nimax

President IACM

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Museum pieces preserve large amounts of information about the history of humanity. Not depending on its type and destination, duly protection, acquisition of every specimen of collections, its studying as the object of scientific research and promotion is an integral part of museum affairs. At present, branch of Customs History museum of the State Customs Committee is located in the administrative building of “Azerterminalcomplex” Self-financing External Economic Union. Museum collection has been provided with rooms considered for complex protection of fund and permanent expositions accordingly. The works of art creating the collection have been placed at the storage allocated for the fund, as per their types. Pictures are kept on multilevel shelves, and the specimens of decorative and applied art are placed on the racks. Exposition halls have been provided with equipment, air-conditioner and lighting system and are constantly observed via hardware. Opening and closing of the showcases where the works of art are kept is carried out by the security team in the course of cleaning work. The steel doors of exposition and fund are sealed.

As the protection of the “Azerterminalcomplex” building is provided continuously within the day by “S.G.S” LLC on the basis of agreement concluded between the Union and security service, the protection of the museum is ensured accordingly. The officers of the security service have been provided with pneumatic weapons and special means.



Sealing of the doors, signalization, keeping the valuables and documents in the fireproof safes ensures the museum security, and protects it from any problems. Via digital watching cameras installed at the corridors and landings of the administrative building of the Union, as well as at the utility areas all video recordings are directly and continuously checked and recorded in the security room within 24 hours via installed monitor. At the same time all recordings made by the camera are stored in the memory of digital video recorder (DVR) within 25 days. Fire detectors manufactured in Russia have been connected directly to the control panel installed in the security room and security officer is informed on any fire danger through it by transmitting sound and light signals to the security room. Also movement detectors have been connected to central panel, and central panel has been connected to control panel installed in the security room. The premises are secured by dialing the code. The movement detectors and glass-break-detectors inform the security officer about any actions through transmitting sound and light signals to the security room and restrict the access of unauthorized persons to the premises.

Temperature-humidity and biological regime of the museum and its lighting system are kept under control and it prevents any dangers. Protection of exhibits having different features and included in the collection require special attention and care. For minimizing the factors deteriorating the pieces, they are classified as per their types. Actions are taken against the factors such as biological pests damaging carpets and carpets goods, defective products used in making the items and losing their original appearance within a short period of time, corrosion of metal used in manufacturing of weapons, mechanical damages, etc. In such case the rules of museum management studies, and “Manuals on registration and protection of museum resources and museum collections” approved by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism are referred.

Branch of the Customs History museum and museum of National leader Heydar Aliyev are considered not for general public, but for limiting number of audience – colleagues and visitors from foreign countries. The above-mentioned high-level protection of building and exhibits not causing any damages to human health, and vigilance of officers accompanying the visitors ensures the safety of the audience as well.

“Azerterminalcomplex” regulates the physical security of museums and collections, using of exhibits, their demonstration at the exhibitions and strictly observance of the routine required.



Safer and more secure

In a number of museums priority is given to safeguarding the objects on display and those in the depot. However, for those who have an historical documents section as well, safety and security have to be looked at from different angles.

The National Museum on Customs and Excise in Belgium has some 400 running metres of documents in its documentation centre. A large portion of these are official records on loan from our Administration, like personnel files dating from the 1870's onwards. Other documents relate to the rich history of our administration, smuggling and border protection. These include the books and magazines in our library and the photographic collection.

In the past we were faced with a number of problems. First of all, the records were kept at various locations which were not always up to standard regarding climate control and other important guidelines. Another problem was the easy access. As we shared the floor on which our main archives room was situated with the busy Antwerp Customs Office it was proving difficult to keep people out who were not there to consult documents.

Recently the regional directorate has taken up residence in the newly built Finance Centre "Noordster" and consequently our situation has improved significantly. The brand new museum itself is situated on the 3rd floor, the secretariat is to be found on the 11th floor. We plan to have transferred most of the documentation centre to a solid, underground storage facility in the same building by the spring of 2012. Distinct assets are a steady temperature and humidity level, no sunlight and no access for people not wearing specific badges. Moreover a reading room can be provided for, with a photocopy machine and scanner at hand. In preparation for the move we have packed most of the records in acid free boxes and binders.



It is clear that a number of important steps have been taken, but this matter needs to be looked into on a regular basis.

Francis Huijbrechts (Belgium)

Czech Republic

SAFETY AND SECURITY IN OUR MUSEUMS

To protect the collections against unauthorised entry to the museum, the building of the Regional Customs Directorate in which this exhibition is located is equipped with a security camera system. Furthermore, the glazed entrance door is fitted with a security foil to stop or slow down potential perpetrators. 90% of the exhibited objects are stored in glazed cabinets, the remaining items (that are freely accessible) are shown to visitors in guides' presence. To protect the exhibits against adverse ambient impacts, particularly increased humidity which is a usual risk factor in basement premises, the building's ventilation system is set to provide enough quantity of air and circulate it throughout the premises. Furthermore, we maintain a steady temperature in the exhibition premises, and whenever the air humidity exceeds the respective limit, we switch on air driers to eliminate such humidity. Addressing both security and exhibit preservation aspects, this system is well-tried and has proven to be sufficient. In addition, the cost of the measures described above is fairly low.



Safety and security in our museums

The French Customs museum is quite protected from safety matters as most of its artefacts are displayed in showcases. Therefore, the risks that the visitors can represent are excluded, even though remain risks related to preventive conservation : light, bugs,... However, many artworks are displayed on the walls and the pillars of the hall. For those items, the museum counts on its personnels thoroughness at operating a surveillance of visitors behaviour, to prevent theft or damages, completed by a video-surveillance system as well as detection and alarm systems. For instance, our masterpiece, an authentic painting by Claude MONET, is strongly fastened to its cyma and protected by a specific alarm device. It also has a small barrier in front of it to prevent visitors from getting too close. To protect the artefacts from the sunlight, the curtains that block all the numerous windows are done in specific material to prevent the UV and IR to pass through.

As those questions may be difficult to understand for the public, who often does not see the harm he might inadvertently provoke, the customs museum developed a temporary installation for the 2011 Museum Night that dealt with all the protocols, rules and customs that are usually observed in museums. The aim was to explain the constraints that communicating and displaying artefacts impose on their preservation and conservation. Safety and security were of course some of the topics developed. The museum was divided in two parts : one “Regular museum” (Musée à l’endroit) and one “Up-side down museum” (Musée à l’envers), where unusual displays and workshops were presented. For instance, “work in progress” red and white tape was displayed in front of the painting by MONET, as well as small magnifying glasses : this installation clearly demonstrated the contradiction between showing and protecting ! By this fun experience, the visitors immediately understood the dilemma we all face. Another workshop displayed handling collections where the public could try to guess the usage of several items. They then realised that handling an object doesn’t always help understand it, that descriptions and examples are often necessary.



Nearly 2,400 people came to the museum during that night (from 7 pm to 1 am).



Safety and Security at the German Customs Museum

Theft of exhibits, theft of loan, vandalism and wear and tear are serious problems for museums today. Modern exhibition design is using free standing arrangements instead of objects in glass cases. But how can precious objects be shown at the museum without being damaged or stolen?

The innovative and positively „Hand on“ policy at museums to get visitors in touch with history causes difficulties. How to survey visitors that interactive elements are not misused or destroyed? At the German customs museum a car dashboard with five smuggled hidden objects was completely broken after one year in use. Badges from a historic uniform were detached and stolen. Even a handful of peanuts in a drawer (merchandise at the turn of the century) locked by a glass panel were taken off and eaten.

To counter this development actions were taken. Free standing objects were visibly or invisibly fixed. Access panels with a magnetic closure were installed and special tools for glass cases and to fix objects were used.



In 2009 we installed security cameras and motion detectors so that we now can survey the museum by 18 cameras. These measures of precaution seemed to be successful. Maybe that the impact of the measures was just because visitors got aware that we protect our collection and have an eye on them.



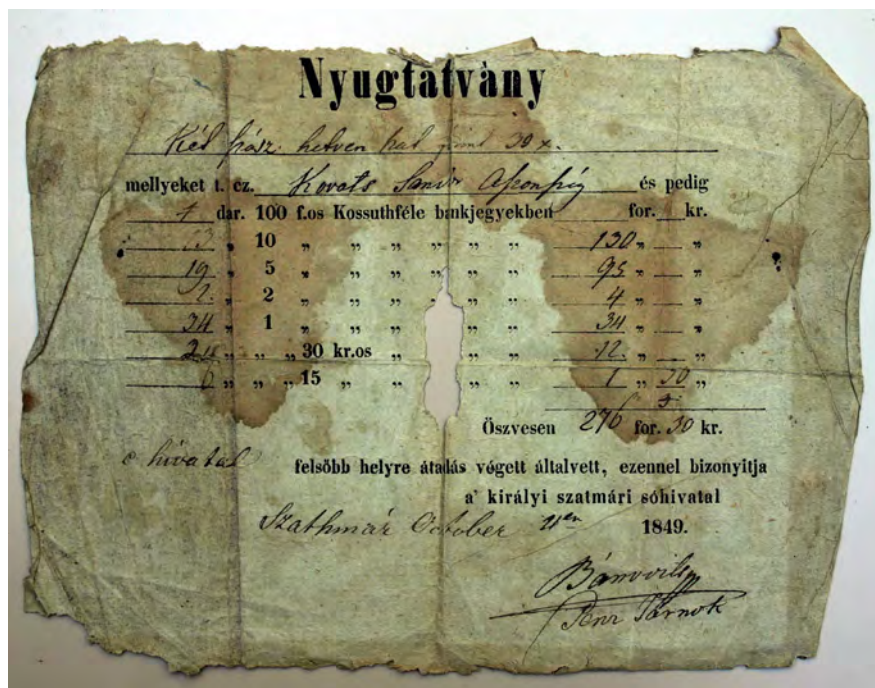


Protection of art objects at the Museum of Hungarian Customs and Tax History

The Museum of Hungarian Customs and Finance Guard and the Hungarian Taxation Collection were integrated into the Museum of Hungarian Customs and Tax History on 1st January 2011. A part of the museum is located in a building called Schiffer Mansion which was declared a historic monument in 2011.

The art nouveau style building was originally a home for the Schiffer family, while today it functions as a museum. The exhibition of the History of Customs and Finance Guard is in the grand living room of the mansion where the glass-windows are decorated in art nouveau style. The protection of the elegant mansion's original state have to be taken into consideration when organizing exhibitions. Visitors can see vulnerable art objects which require special attention because of the light conditions of the Schiffer Mansion so it is necessary to employ a restorer-specialist.

There are many traditional objects, documents, books, maps, money, photos, arms and uniforms in the three exhibition-rooms. Covering the windows with blinds is not possible because of protection



regulations so two things can be done. On the one hand the most vulnerable original documents are substituted with copies, on the other hand spotlights in the museum cases are replaced by LED-lights. Due to the replacement of the lighting system the strain on the art objects and the use of electricity is reduced significantly. Thanks to the restorer-specialist the documents and books that can be viewed at the exhibition have been renewed in the past year.

before the restoration (document from 19th century

In the field of art objects protection the Museum cooperates with other institutions for example The Hungarian Natural History Museum. The fruit of one of these cooperations was an armadillo (*Dasypus novemcinctus*) from Nicaragua and a giant snake skin which were confiscated at the Hungarian border.

One of the main aims of the Museum of Hungarian Customs and Tax History in the future is to protect art objects at exhibitions and storing procedures furthermore to validate aspects of conservation.

Museum of Hungarian Customs and Tax History Budapest, Hungary

Translated by: Luca Madarassy, Ágnes Dobozi



After the restoration (photo 1911)

The administration had a little exhibition of certain objects and souvenirs of the custom's past in the hall of the customs headquarters.

The creation of a museum is very recent: the inauguration was in 2004.

For the festivities of the anniversary of the union, a collection was build up, and afterwards a certain number of artefacts was not called back by the owners or simply given to the organizing committee. That was the basis of the museum collection.

During the years, the collection was enlarged and a local to store the objects had to been found and eventually to have an exhibition possibility.

The collection was stored in various places, like the old customs offices in Echternach and Wormeldange.

Finally a good opportunity was found in the local of the customs office in Esch/Alzette.

The building, constructed after WWII, was the property of the national railway company who had an office there and rented one part of the building to a union, a music band, a political party, a traditional association and a Portuguese importer of food.

Before 1993, the customs administration installed there a railway office with warehouse. As the warehouse was closed in 1993, the customs had suddenly a large space where nobody knew what to do with it. So, the museum association created in 1992 could move into the old warehouse and had the possibility to stock the exhibition and the collection.

The actual museum was officially inaugurated in 2004.

Since the opening, the museum as a sub rent of the office had to cohabitate with the last. The hall with the desks was also the welcome room for visitors and the warehouse was also used by the office as archives, and restroom for the cleaning people.

The warehouse was also used as storage room for alcohols coming from a ruined company and nobody felt responsible to pay for the heritage. Finally, the alcohol was sold and the museum could enlarge the space of exhibition. But the office was also enlarging his space and so the warehouse was used to park the service car.

Only the central part of the museum is only used by himself, but the office has the key for all the doors and as the door to the warehouse isn't closed, all the officers had a simple access to the heard of the museum.

The problems of this cohabitation are far from being resolved:

In 2006, the director Mr Schaack gave the autorisation to the customs association of friendship to distribute wine at the warehouse;

In 2009, the inspection of Esch/Alzette came into the building and the warehouse was used to park a second service car;

In 2010, the administration bought the entire building. All the other renting people had to leave and a big transformation was planned. But due to the reorganization of the customs administration the plans are not yet realized.

So the collection was always in danger during the short existence, first with an unsafe storage and second with the cohabitation with the customs office and finally with the traffic of cars and people inside the warehouse.

Concerning the security, it was the same as the whole building on a very low level. An alarm system was never installed.

Concerning the external protection, the site of the museum is near to the border to France and there are a lot of places not to be visited during the night as there are known due to drug consumption and so on.

In the interior of the museum, the visitors are welcomed and given a guided tour. At the beginning, there were only some show cases who could be closed and the museum had some losses due to people. At the moment, the exhibition is better secured by a larger number of show cases closed by key.

Finally the association hopes that the new museum who is in planning will fulfill all the security standards needed for a good function of a museum.



Office of Marc Schloesser

General Director 1986-2004

'Safety and security in The Tax & Customs Museum Rotterdam, the Netherlands'

Since May 2010 the Tax & Customs Museum in Rotterdam is closed and under construction for a enormous renovation. The opening is scheduled for June 2012.

The reconstruction of the two museumbuildings offers many possibilities to reflect on 'safety' in our museum and to think of improvements in this field. With/By 'safety' we think both of the safety of our collection as of the safety of our museumvisitors and the museum staff.

Collection

The collection is protected and secured by an electronical alarm system on all doors and windows of the museumbuilding. On the inside, the collection is displayed behind glass in showcases or picture frames. Some very valuable objects are individually protected by electronical equipment. 30 safety camera's will monitor the in- and exterior of the museumbuilding 24 hours a day. The museum is part of a central burglary alarmsystem which alarms automatically both our colleagues of Customs as the Rotterdam police department. A fire detector system alarms the fire brigade automatically in case of the slightest smoke detection.

Since a couple of years the Tax & Customs Museum has a Collection Safety Plan. This protocol describes a large number of emergency measures to react adequately in case of theft, fire or floodings.

Visitors

The safety of the museum visitors is a matter of permanent attention of the museum staff. The museum works with a Calamity Assistance Plan (CAP). Following this plan we are obliged to have at least one Emergency Medical Technician at work during opening hours.

In the CAP protocols have been listed for the museum staff how to act in case of calamities (f.i. evacuation of the museumvisitors from the museumbuildings) and how often the museum staff has to practice clearances and fire drills every year.

Museum staff

The safety of the museumworkers is guaranteed by the Calamity Assistance Plan and the obligatory, periodically trainings and practices. These trainings and practices of the museum staff are necessary for both the safety of the museumvisitors as of their own.



The Bridge (Customs Museum, Portugal)

Visiting a museum is travelling through history, through memory, through imagination... And travelling is freedom.

Museums are no longer the house of authority, no longer the owners of wisdom. Museums are nowadays reflexive and proactive proposals that lead us to think about our past, teach us to deal with our present and involve us in the construction of future. Museums communicate and we know that a new paradigm for global communication is being issued with Web 2.0, allowing us to simultaneously communicate, search, participate and share. This is all about freedom and democracy.

Our exhibitions are constructed under appellative design and with adequate communication tools and circulation, so that we can reach and please the public's special needs; promote their comfort and amusement; assure they want to come back; make them feel like talking about us. This means freedom, democracy and accessibility.

People go through exhibitions discovering history and stories about history and about objects, about themselves. We no longer count visitors, we now deal with visitors who count, as Hooper-Greenhill says. Museums must be appellative, stimulate curiosity and multisensory experiences. This means freedom, democracy and accessibility, but it also means emotional connection.

The chosen theme for International Museum Day 2012 reflects this new thinking: Museums in a changing world. New challenges, new inspiration.

A museum is an institution regularly open to the public that promotes the democracy of culture as well as it promotes people and the development of society (ICOM Statutes, 2007). So museums do not own heritage, they just keep it for the next generations, which means a great responsibility. They have to conciliate the emotion of discovering and the pleasure of sharing with control and vigilance that guarantees safety and security, though this may inhibit one's freedom as well.

Let's think about Custom Museums - an institution traditionally seen as the official authority voice, dealing with taxes, control and vigilance, that has now the mission to promote its historical role, as well as its present and future, in an accessible museum, where there must be control and vigilance.

Safety and security deal with different levels: the museum collections (and building); the museum visitors; and the museum staff. Accidents, natural catastrophes, vandalism, robbery do happen. The keyword must be the balance between the needs of the museum and those of visitors. Safety and security must be built over redundancy in our procedure: the way we communicate; how objects are preserved; how we allow people to circulate; how we look at our exhibitions; how we pay attention to what we do and others do inside the museum. All the staff must participate as alert and active vigilantes, with the

help of some tools such as environmental measuring, regular maintenance, CCTV systems...

But we also have to think of safety and security built over the heritage knowing, respect and emotional connection. Heritage belongs to all of us but each one needs to know and recognize it so that we can respect it, which makes museums and publics accomplices in its preservation. Heritage is our memory and contributes to our identity.

The Portuguese Customs Museums develops several activities directly involving its public, such as performances of music or dance by school students; or inviting the local community to talk about their memories, giving voice to their/our objects.

Suzana Faro

Customs Museum – Porto, Portugal





Switzerland - Security in the Cantine di Gandria Customs Museum

The Swiss Customs Museum was built in 1853. It is to be found on the left bank of Lake Lugano on the waterside. The museum can only be reached by ferry. This poses an immense challenge for security concerning protection from natural hazards, fire and theft. In 2009/2010, the museum underwent a complete renovation, whereby security issues were also addressed.

Before the overall renovation, security experts from the Swiss National Museum examined the most important security issues for our museum on site and provided practical tips and recommendations. For the most part, it was possible to implement these measures. Today the Customs Museum is in line with internationally applicable safety standards, with one exception: the museum cannot be continually supervised and monitored by the museum staff.

Due to its location directly on the waterfront and the possibility of damage being caused to the museum contents at any time due to flooding, the Swiss Customs Museum pushed for the necessary construction measures to be taken. In addition, with the installation of new windows, it was possible to reduce the high humidity level. Due to the installation of additional doors, the museum was able to be converted and rendered fire-proof.

Although theft and acts of vandalism constitute a minor issue in our museum, these aspects were also taken into account in the new security concept. For reasons to do with cost and due to the shortage of personnel, it was not possible to realise all of the measures recommended. It is for this reason for example that the exhibition rooms have not been fitted with video cameras. And because monitoring from the other side of the lake is undertaken by Swiss Customs, the arrival of the security forces would take too long in the event of an incident, so the installation of an alarm system was dispensed with.

There has been no major damage caused by natural phenomena, fire or theft since the museum opened in 1947.

Cantine di Gandria, 18 March 2012 – Maria Moser, Head of the Cantine di Gandria Customs Museum

Welcome to Switzerland in Cantine di Gandria

The Swiss Customs Museum in Cantine di Gandria lies on the shore of Lake Lugano, surrounded by lush vegetation. An exclusive location for a museum, and one that does not lack symbolism. There is a wonderful view of the lake and Monte Brè from the terrace, but the border cannot be seen from here. Swiss Customs are even more impressive, with the many different tasks presented in the museum, housed in a building which was once a border guard post. Goods smuggling, drug searching, economic crime, migration, precious metal control, the protection of cultural property and species protection – visitors get a glimpse of the day-to-day work of border guards and customs experts in Switzerland, from 1848 when the Swiss Confederation was founded, up to the present day. Customs-related duties are manifold. We hope that you enjoy your visit to the Swiss-Italian border in Cantine di Gandria and take vivid impressions away with you.

Maria Moser-Menna, Head of the Customs Museum, Cantine di Gandria, Switzerland



When to display the “real thing” or replicas?

That was the question we were facing earlier this year at the UK Border Agency National Museum - when to display a real rhino horn or a replica. For a curator that can be a huge dilemma; after all our jobs are to make collections and stories accessible to a wide audience and promote the work of UK Border Agency.

But there are times when that becomes impossible, and security of our objects, staff and visitors takes priority.

The issue of rhino horn thefts has become a concern in the UK, and the advice is to remove any real rhino horn from public display and replace with replicas (clearly labelled).

One of our roles is to highlight wildlife crime and we were offered a pair of rhino horns, and because of their topicality we felt we should showcase the issues. So for the safety reasons we had replicas produced and these were put on display. In some respects the replicas actually add to the story - we are discussing animal crime, and because of organised crime we have to show replicas and not the real thing.

An illegal export – what happened to the rhino horns

Border Agency officers at Manchester Airport stopped an antiques dealer who was carrying a sculpture in his suitcase. Officers x-rayed what was declared as a ‘Vienna Bronze’, and saw two horn shapes inside.

CITES officers in UK Border Agency broke open the seized fake sculpture to reveal the suspected rhino horn. Officers undertook a rigorous investigation and discovered the horns had been removed from a rhino named Simba who had died of natural causes at Colchester Zoo. The zoo had legally disposed of the body of the rhino for cremation to ensure no part of the animal could be illegally traded. However the horns were stolen from the crematorium before they were destroyed. The antiques dealer pleaded guilty and was jailed for a year.

Endangered

White Rhino are critically endangered and protected under the CITES international agreement (Convention for the International Trade in Endangered Species). Trade in rhino horn has been restricted since 1980 in an attempt to stop extinction of the species. The Black Rhino has now been declared as extinct in West Africa, and poachers have wiped out the Java Rhino in the Far East. In Africa during 2011 over 400 were poached.

However some communities believe powdered rhino horn in traditional medicine has properties to cure cancer and other ailments, and this has fuelled poaching and thefts.



Marc Granville (UK Border Agency officer) and Rachael Krueger (Wildlife Officer, Merseyside Police) at Seized! in Liverpool

© UK Border Agency National Museum, National Museums Liverpool

19th CONFERENCE OF IACM
THURSDAY, 22 September 2011
Prague
General Assembly – Minutes

1. Official opening of the Conference and 2. Report of the President

IACM President Henri Nimax welcomed all present members and presented his report.

The economic situation is very difficult for most countries and almost half of the members could not join the General Assembly this year. All members have already been informed about the bad news from Finland concerning holding next General Assembly. The issue will be discussed later on.

The president gave report of the activities of the Board since the last General Assembly in Luxembourg. Belgium Customs Museum was opened this year. Work in the Museum in Rotterdam is ongoing and the Museum will be reopened next year.

Henri Nimax also declared that in case of his a Jon's reelection in their functions, they will do all the best for the association.

The 19th General Assembly was declared opened.

3. Report of the Treasurer

The (deputy) treasurer informed about the difficulties in obtaining the report from the previous treasurer who was unable to attend the General Assembly.

However, there is a positive balance amounting to 8.335.25 EUR in June 2011. Two members have not paid their annual contribution, Hungary and Ireland. Ireland has not paid for the last two years. The treasurer indicated that according to the Statutes a member who does not pay the contributions for two consecutive years, is considered not to be a member anymore. However, the treasurer did not recommend to quit Ireland.

The president proposed steps to be taken with regards to Ireland, such as contacting the representative and clarifying the matter.

The UK representative proposed that as the balance is positive and countries are having financial difficulties, it could be an idea to reduce the membership contribution.

4. Adoption of a new member: Switzerland

The president proposed Switzerland to be accepted as a new member.

The Switzerland's representative gave a presentation of the Swiss Customs Museum in Lugano.

5. Elections

The President asked whether there are any candidates for the Board and as there were no other candidates, both Henri Nimax and Jon Agust Eggertsson agreed to go on with their positions as president and secretary. The General Assembly confirmed their appointment.

Francis Huijbrechts from Belgium was the only candidate for treasurer. Francis was elected and appointed as treasurer by the General Assembly and he thanked for the trust put in him.

Resolution: Henri Nimax has been appointed as President.
Jon August Eggertsson has been appointed as Secretary.
Francis Huijbrechts has been appointed as Treasurer.

6. Amendments of Statutes and Rules

The president presented the background of the intended amendments of the Statutes concerning honorary representatives and proposed a wording that was sent to all members before the General Assembly. The intention is not to loose long-year representatives who made efforts in promoting the IACM.

UK representative proposed a minor clarification „this has no implication on the country’s membership“.

There were, however, certain concerns expressed in terms of their presence at the General Assembly, as they have no voiting rights, plus possible tension between the previous and the new representative of a country.

A discussion followed on the issue.

The question was raised concerning the implications of the Medal award. The Medal award does not implicate that you can still attend to meetings or activities of IACM once the representative is no more active. It was proposed that the Medal could be connected to awarding someone as a honorary representative.

Vote on „wheather we shall have honorary representative“

In favour: 9

Against: 2

Abstention: 0

Resolution: The General Assembly adopted the proposal concerning honorary representative.

Vote on implementing the honorary representative by the following wording: „Former members who have been awarded the honorary medal can be proposed by the member country of origin for the honorary membership.“

Resolution: The wording has been adopted by the General Assembly.

(Note: The additional proposal of the UK representative „In acceptional circumstances the honorary membership can be proposed by the President.“ has not been adapted.)

The secretary recalled that there are now 9 people who have been awarded with the medaille. No medals have been awarded since the Rules have been amended. The Rules providing for awarding the medal have to be revised as the Committee previewed by the Rules has never been formed and the wording appears difficult. The amended Statutes and Rules will be sent by the Secretary to all members and the issue will be prepared the next General Assembly. The procedure of appointing candidates for the medal has to be clarified.

7. Working Groups:

IACM Web page – Jean-Pierre Reuter (Luxembourg)

Wim van Es reported on the use of the website. The use tends to be increasing. It had over 6.600 hits already. However, the data is not update. The web sites need new input to be living, such as photographs, information on exhibitions, news, etc. The new member has been asked to send information about the Swiss Customs Museum. All members have been asked to update the date of the representatives of the relevant countries.

Postcard Working Group – Wim van Es (The Netherlands)

Wim van Es reported over a new working group was formed including the representatives of England, the Netherlands, Belgium and France.

Wim presented the new IACM postcard and the ideas behind the picture reflecting the important elements of Customs and, in particular, Customs museums.

It was noted that Swiss' flag is missing on the postcard (flags in the bottom) – that will be added.

The publicity aspects

Who is the publicity aimed for? Is it meant to promote the role of each single museum, IACM, role of Customs ...

Foreign (general) visitors, to get new IACM members, international customs delegations, internal public relation, preserve and present the heritage

Who is the publicity aimed at?

General visitors, policy makers, students, other museums, groups, departamental staff, local turism, international visitors.

Main reason for the card was to seduce visitors to visit Customs museums or to visit the IACM web site.

Where to place the images?

notebook, poster/flyer, calender, postcards

Most members are in favour of flyers.

1 country (Sweden) would not use it.

1 country (Sweden) is interested in notebooks. 1 country (LUX) is interested in calenders.

Question concerning copyright: Are the countries allowed to use the image and print it?

The UK representative proposed to send an email asking the members to complete the quantity they require.

Question arised whether the publicity should be financed by the IACM budget.

The General Assembly approved financing the flyers from the IACM budget.

The proposal is to go for 10.000 which would make 500 per country.

As to the size, the A5 size was favoured, however France would opt for a smaller size.

It would be handed out or sent by mail.

An email with questionnaire will be sent by the UK representatives to the Secretary who will distribute it to the members. The deadline for submitting the completed questionnaire end of October was agreed.

Jean-Pierre suggested that 20.000 could be orderd as the price difference is only 300 EUR. Countries will indicate their needs in the questionnaire and based upon that a decision will be taken.

IACM Survey results – Renata Pstrag (France)

The French representative presented the survey conducted. 10 countries replied including France. It was based on 2009 statistics.

Most of the respondents indicated that their museums are young, are public, consider themselves as historical museums, the museums are mainly in city center, some are aimed at large public and are opened regularly and others that open for specific groups or visitors; data were collected on collections as to the number of items, composition of collections, etc. Data on staff, guided tours, etc. was collected as well. As to income, only scarce information has been provided by the respondents. 3 museums rented their museums on certain occasions, but the income has not been stated.

FRIDAY, 23 September 2011

Prague

The president welcomed everyone and proposed a small change of the agenda, as some members need to leave earlier.

1. General Assembly in 2012

First point on the agenda was venue for holding the next General Assembly (2012). Members were asked to volunteer for holding the next conference.

The Dutch representative, Wim van Es offered to host the General Assembly, as 2012 is an important year for the Dutch Customs Museum that is to be reopened. First week of October was suggested as the date for holding the Conference.

2. Safety and Security in our museums

Karel Sedláček (Czech Republic)

A short presentation was given of restauration of an artefact – painting that was a shooting target. The General Assembly members had the occasion to see the picture on Thursday during the visit of the Czech Customs Museum. The Czech representative explained the history of the picture and the complicated restauration procedure.

Susanne Mehrkühler (Germany)

Susan gave a small presentation about safety and security as it is dealt with in the Customs Museum in Hamburg. She draw the attention to some targets of thieves, such as a very precious scale that was stolen. Sometimes people steal exhibits because they think they are real narcotics, cigarettes. Susan went on by presenting one specific exhibition and specific modes of exhibiting objects whilst being aware that glass cases are safe for the exhibits but do not invite the visitors to explore and interact the exhibits. Vandalism is a problem for musea. Susan presented some of the applied methods of protecting the exhibits using special tools to fix exhibits on the wall or fixing the glass cases. Also security camera's are used. The German colleagues are still looking for a solution for protection of free standing objects.

The Belgium representative informed that the museum in Antwerps has some new technology working with electromagnetical fields. He will send some contacts.

Suzana Faro (Portugal)

The Portuguese representative presented the ideas associated with museums and especially with a Customs museum. Exhibition need to communicate and there are many aspects that need to be reflected. Museums are changing and need to cope with new challenges. She also informed about an important activity aimed at local community and interaction with them.

Customs House – Robert Murtagh (USA)

Robert informed about the website that was created and cooperation with universities and students who volunteer in the museum. Robert dedicated his presentation to an exhibition and

a ceremony held in San Francisco, with Customs women as theme of it. The invited female commissioner turned out to be the key speaker at the ceremony. Family of the first female inspector visited the ceremony and donated the badge belonging to her.

David McKinney, representing the US Customs and Boarder Protection informed that during 9/11 tragedy also a Customs House was destroyed and presented a magazin edition dedicated to this issue. He further informed about the exhibition that is being prepared. He expressed the hope that they would qualify for becoming a member of the IACM from 2012.

Hidden Treasures - Anne Carine Oskarsen

Gave a presentation on a research focusing at garments and a project she is involved in called Hidden Treasures. The object of the research is clothing used for hiding things, for smuggling. The project focuses on the period 1900 – 1960 in Europe, the project team studies the objects, makes replicas of it and relate the garments to what was happening at the relevant locations at the specific times. Anne presented some of the objects and shared the plan of placing this exhibition in IACM museums which would also support the project. Anne proposed a possibility to have such exhibition paralelly in all museums. For those who would join, they would receive a box with a minimum of 20 items (replica's), with instruction on how to put it and leaflets. A minumum of 10 participating museums is necessary. The costs are over 3000 Euro, just a minor part of it is for the research, because most research is to be financed by sponsors. The price includes the costs of the replica's.

The members requested more detailed information on how the exhibition would look like. The Dutch representative expressed concerns concerning sponsorship.

Presentation of the Azerbaijan Customs and Azerbaijan Customs museum

A movie was shown presenting the Azerbaijan Customs, its activities, international involvement and the Azerbaijan Customs Museums and Training Center as well as the Canine Training Center.

There has also been a speach of the representative of the Azerbaijan Customs.

3. Any other business

The members have been asked to send articles on this years topic "Safety and Security of Museums" to Jan Hlinka (250 – 300 words + pictures). The articles are to be sent before **1 December 2011.**

Topic for next year's Conference: Relationship of the Museum and the Customs Department. Mutual benefits. Corporate Identity. Publicity.

Information of the French representatives

Roland Giroire informed about an exhibition in Bordeaux on smuggling in the harbour from the 16th century. Renata from France informed about a visit of Chinese delegation in France and their plan to open a Customs Museum in China.

4. Official closing of the IACM General Assembly

The presidend thanked the Czech Customs Administration and in particular to Jan and Jiri for hosting the Conference and the hotel for their efforts in making feel everyone comfortable. Thanks went to Katy as well for writing the minutes. The president wished everyone a safe journey back home.

The minutes have been approved by:

Henri Nimax
President

Jon Agust Eggertsson
Secretary

Jean-Pierre Reuter
Member of the Board

Francis Huijbrechts
Treasurer







IACM Conference 2012

Rotterdam 26-28 september

The renewed Rotterdam Customs & Tax Museum

After closing our doors in 2010 the employees of the Dutch Tax & Customs Museum have worked intensively on rebuilding and refurbishing the museum. Not only have said doors been replaced by brand new ones, but the accomodation for lectures, the temporary exhibition room and the education room are new additions to our building.

Trust and Justice

In the spacious permanent exhibition, named; 'Trust and Justice', the tax payer plays the central role. The impressive changes to our interior present our collection with a brand new stage from where modern presentation techniques – multimedia and interactive exhibits - support the story of the objects.

You will find a 'Magic Ceiling', a 'Room of Actualities' and a 'History Theatre cabinet', telling the history of the introduction in the Low Countries of the 10th Penny, a tax levied by the Spanish rulers in the 16th century. We have also created a special room where children aged 4-12 can connect with the world of customs in a harbour, at an airport or on a land border in a hands on presentation.

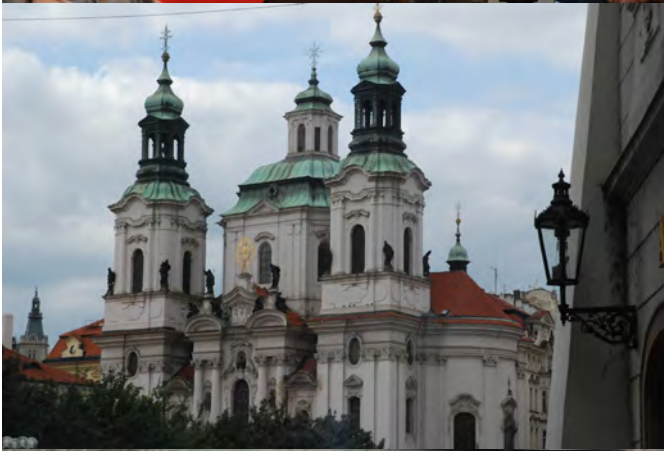
Besides the objects presenting Dutch tax history, like paintings, documents, uniforms, silverware, instruments and smuggled goods, the museum expanded its modern art collection with works from artists like the Amsterdam based Caspar Berger and American kinetic artist Reuben Margolin.

On June 7th of this year, secretary of state mr F. Weekers officially opened the Customs and Tax Museum. As from that date the museum is open for public. We welcome everyone to have a tour through the museum and enjoy to a nice cup of coffee in the also renewed museumcafé.









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Praha september 2011

