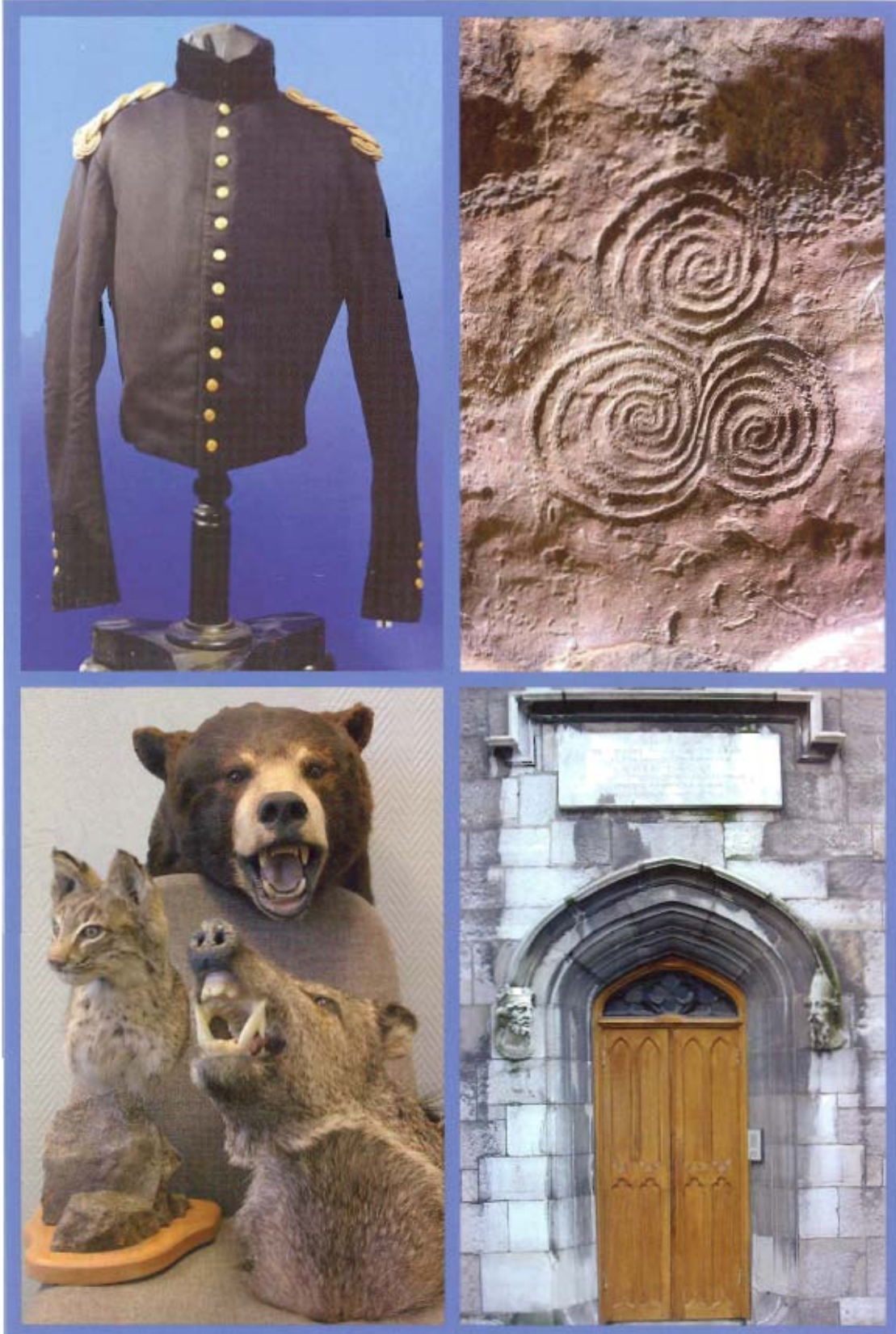


IACM Newsletter

Official Journal of the International
Association of Customs Museums 2005
www.customsmuseums.org



Contents

The IACM Newsletter is published once a year.

It is the official Newsletter of the International Association of Customs Museums.

This Newsletter is published by The Office of the Revenue Commissioners, Ireland.

Editor

Paddy Ryan

Production Team

Martina West
Paddy Ryan

Printed By

Future Print Ltd.

Cover

Clockwise, l-r:

Uniform, Irish Revenue Police (circa 1840);

Irish Celtic Stone decoration at Newgrange (circa 3,200 BC);

Entrance to new Revenue Museum, Dublin Castle (circa 1814);

Animal heads, seized under CITES Regulations, to be displayed in New Revenue Museum (2005).

Special Thanks

To Glenn Thompson, Tony Roche (Office of Public Works, Photographic Department), Shay Doyle and Sinéad Hartnett (Customs, Dublin Airport) and all who contributed features/articles.

President	....	....	....	3
Opening Address	....	....	....	4
Commandant Dan Harvey	....	....	....	5
Sugar and Saccharine	....	....	....	6
Food For Thought	....	....	....	7
Tanks and Special Tanks	....	....	....	8/9
Bananas and Cables	....	....	....	10
A Fishy Business	....	....	....	11
A Hair's Breadth	....	....	....	12



Fake Bananas - page 10



Fake Hair - page 12



Fake Concealment - page 21

Lamps From Lebanon	....	....	....	13
13th Conference And General Assembly of IACM				14/17
Alert Artánd	....	....	....	18
Choc A Block	....	....	....	19
Skirting With Smuggling	....	....	....	20
X-Ray Eyes and Indian Rubber	....	....	....	21
IACM Conference - Ireland, 2005	....	....		22
Members And Guest List Of IACM	....	....		23



President

While it seems only the day before yesterday since our last Conference and General Assembly in Dublin, time has passed. It is now fourteen years since IACM was founded in Copenhagen and it is time to examine our progress and where we go from here as we celebrate our fourteenth birthday.

Fourteen years of age is an awkward stage of life with acne, angst and anxiety about one's place in the world. But it is a comforting thought that the vast majority of fourteen year olds make their way, however painful, to mature adulthood. How? Mainly by doing their best at each stage and not trying too hard to become fully fledged adults before their time. It is also by being aware of the support of friends and family who are there to provide advice and suggestions when needed.

IACM has expanded since its inception and we have an active working party exploring the possibility of increased membership, which I expect over the next few years. Member countries have built up important contacts and fostered excellent relations with others in the same field of work. Museum work, especially in Customs and Tax museums, can be isolating as it is usually somewhat removed from the core work of collecting and protecting revenue. That does not in any way diminish the importance of preserving the rich tapestry of our Customs and taxation histories. Indeed it has been pointed out that there is no better guarantee of the future than that people should care about the past.

IACM has been very fortunate in the support given by all our Administrations. However, there are no fairy godmothers or magic potions and it is a long time since the last leprechaun was seen sitting on a pot of gold, making silver shoes in Ireland. Consequently, at this time it is difficult for us to undertake large projects requiring much finance and manpower. However, we have the means to work in smaller groups and bring our findings to the General Assembly where they can be advanced. But the support and energy of all members are required to enable this organisation to advance into mature adulthood as our history becomes even more important in a world that is changing with such speed.

On behalf of IACM, I extend sincere gratitude to:

- The Office of the Revenue Commissioners for the hospitality and generosity shown to us all throughout the Annual Conference and General Assembly in Dublin from September 28-30, 2005;
- Mr. Frank Daly, Revenue Chairman, who took so much time out of his hectic work schedule to offer his support and encouragement;
- Commissioners Josephine Feehily and Michael O'Grady who were equally generous with their support and time;
- Arthur Hendrick, Emer Kelly, Trevor Nicholson, Jean Sinclair and Martina West who were so attentive to detail; and a special word of thanks to:
- Ciarán Pringle who seemed to be tri-locating with his camera and Myles Hollowed without whose support and excellent notes we would have been floundering.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh go léir.

Paddy Ryan, President IACM.



Opening Address



Welcoming guests, delegates and partners to the 13th Annual conference and General Assembly of IACM, Revenue Chairman Frank Daly referred to the long history of Customs and taxation in Ireland.

'Although this history stretches over hundreds of years, we have not been as good as others in preserving it,' he remarked, 'but that is something we are about to tackle. And before much longer we will have our own Revenue museum here in Dublin Castle. I am delighted to announce tonight,' he went on, 'that agreement has been reached that the Crypt underneath the Chapel Royal has been designated as our new Revenue Museum.' This last statement was greeted with much applause.

Paying tribute to the Revenue Museum committee, Mr. Daly extended special thanks to retired officials - Bill Leahy, Pat Fitzpatrick and Seán Connolly - who give freely of their time and energy to the committee. He went on to speak about the early years of the Irish State and the importance of

revenue collection to its survival, which was helped by valuable assistance from the United Kingdom.'

'But from these difficult times,' he continued, 'Ireland has become one of the world's most successful economies. And a most important factor in this success is our participation in wider European affairs. One of my predecessors on the Board of Revenue was a founder member of the World Customs Organisation - an organisation in which this country still plays an active role. I am pleased that Paddy Ryan here is continuing that tradition as the current President of IACM.'

"Your President is Irish, your Secretary is an Icelander working for Norwegian Customs, and your Treasurer is from Luxembourg"

'While European involvement has brought fundamental changes, especially in the Customs area, the abolition of internal frontiers has brought countries much closer together. Indeed, IACM is another example of the spirit of co-operation of the global village of Customs/Tax collection. Your President is Irish, your Secretary is an Icelander working for Norwegian Customs, and your Treasurer is from Luxembourg.'

'But,' he said, 'in this spirit of co-operation we must not forget our history because without the foundations of the past, we would not have built the present. It has been claimed that tax collection is the

second oldest profession in the world. However, an Irish writer with close Revenue connections, Flann O'Brien, stated that banking is actually the second oldest profession in the world. He also pointed out that banking is much more profitable than the oldest profession which is of course - hair dressing.'

Mr. Daly spoke of his earlier years, as an Officer of Customs & Excise, which were very special to him. 'Perhaps,' he continued, 'what made it so special was that spirit of camaraderie. For many of us it was our first job and our first time away from family in other parts of the country. But one felt part of a proud tradition and a certain sense of privilege in working with senior people who had lived through more difficult times. It is the good work of those officials, now long gone, that our Revenue museums must preserve.'

In welcoming you all here this evening, I would like to extend a special welcome to Loes Pepperkorn van Donselaar, former President of IACM and to Holger Peterssen from Copenhagen, one of its founders. With my fellow Revenue Board members, Josephine Feehily and Michael O'Grady, I wish you all a very successful conference and General Assembly.

Commandant Dan Harvey

Commandant Dan Harvey was the driving force behind the new Army Museum, Collins Barracks, Cork, officially opened by Mr. Willie O'Dea, TD, Minister for Defence, in February 2005. A major personal achievement for Commandant Harvey, it was also an important milestone for Cork during its year as European City of Culture.

While that Museum is mainly concerned with the history and stories of the Irish Army presence in Cork, it does not ignore the long and turbulent history of this beautiful city and county. During the IACM Conference in Dublin, he very kindly gave us a most informative presentation on setting up a museum. He advises those setting up or refurbishing a museum to carefully consider the following ten "A" words:

Artefacts

Museums are mainly a collection of artefacts. These must be real objects that are important to the story the museum has to tell. Some pictures and/or memorabilia of people who served in the organisation can be very powerful, as visitors like to see and hear about real people. Many visitors to museums like ours have a family interest as a relative may have been a staff member.

Aim

The aim should be to display the development or evolution of the organisation to its present position.

Audience

The business of a museum is to attract people to view the exhibits and hear your story. Consider the range of people you wish to attract. Keep displays refreshed by telling other aspects of your story. Along with attracting more visitors it will also keep up staff interest. Displays have a shelf life.

Articulation

Carefully consider the view or messages that you wish your museum to give. What do you want people to remember afterwards? It is worth considering a good audio-visual (10-15 minutes) and an integrated booklet for visitors to take away.

Area

The space available will limit your exhibits. Allow extra space for temporary exhibitions to commemorate certain events or for special times of the year.

Access

Plan for likely visitor times. What if they are evenings or weekends? Remember that your museum as a place of public access must be accessible to everyone. It must have adequate security and insurance cover.

Archives

While archives are not necessary, they are an important facility. Students, scholars, historians and others will have a deeper interest than the displays. Consider providing for them.

Audit

Museums funded from the public purse will be subject to audit. To be audited, you must have a budget. This is certainly an area where size matters - the bigger your budget, the better.

Art

Commission artists directly to do what you want and save on the budget. Artwork and visuals are a most important feature of any museum - they catch the eye and can be powerful magnets.

Audacity

Be bold. Try telling your stories in different ways. The mixture of art and science is important, along with being exciting. That is what museums should be about.

[Commandant Harvey is attached to the Southern Division and based in Cork. He is also involved with the National Museum of Ireland's exhibition on the military history of Ireland, scheduled for next July. The Office of the Revenue Commissioners and IACM gratefully acknowledge Commandant Harvey's assistance and that of his superior officers who facilitated it.]



Dan Harvey pointing out the image of a horse and chariot in the clouds of a painting in the Army Museum.



Some of the artefacts in the Army Museum, Collins Barracks, Cork.



Two Irish soldiers, one wearing a German helmet, guarding the Army Barracks.



President Kennedy inspecting soldiers on a visit to the Cork Barracks.



Sugar and Saccharine

Before the First World War, Saccharine became the most commonly smuggled commodity in Czechoslovakia. To ensure the biggest profit for sugar producers, the Government banned imports of artificial sweeteners. German chemical factories were the primary producers of these sweeteners in the late 19th century for very low prices, which generated major interest among people unable to obtain the more expensive sugar.

Ban on imports

In 1898, imports of Saccharine were prohib-

ited as were syrups used in its manufacture. The exceptions were Saccharine imported under special conditions by pharmacies and wholesale businesses for the production of pharmaceutical and diabetic products.

Smugglers

Because the demand for Saccharine was increasing due to an increase in prices for basic necessities, small-time smugglers as well as large organized groups began smuggling it. Only 25 grams of Saccharine per one person, for personal use, could be imported. In the years before WWI, the legal import of

Saccharine was about 3,500 kilograms per year while that confiscated by Customs from illegal imports was many times higher. Again the high prices of sugar and growing economic difficulties during the Great Depression of the last century negatively influenced many people to smuggle Saccharine and other commodities. Saccharine was mainly smuggled via mountains near the borders with Germany.

Illustration

The illustration shows a walking/smuggling cane specially designed to smuggle Saccharine. 94 cm long, it has a wooden cover where a metal support was inserted to conceal four ampoules of Saccharine. The cane was formerly exhibited in the city museum in Frýdlant but is now on display in the Customs Museum in the city of Plzeň.



• Jan Hlinka,
Czech Customs
Administration,
Czech Republic.



Food For Thought

Last August, during a control on the "Aire de Capellen" on the motorway A6 from Belgium to Luxembourg, Customs officers stopped a French registered vehicle. It was soon noticed that the five young men in the vehicle began to behave very nervously as the control proceeded.

Acting Nervously

The Officers decided to carry out a more detailed control of the car. This involved the drug dog, which was not long discovering why the young men were acting so nervously. They were smuggling a total of 22 grams of marihuana and 31 grams of hashish.

Cleverly Concealed

While the quantity seized was not unusual, the methods of hiding the drugs were different. They were cleverly concealed in toiletries and foodstuffs that would never arouse suspicion. These included ordinary toothpaste, cocoa and peanut butter - items that many travellers would pack.

Invisible To The Eye

The drugs were simply mixed into the food and toiletries to be invisible to the eye. However, the smugglers reckoned without the sniffer dog that gave the Customs officials food for thought on new methods of smuggling.

•Luxembourg Customs Museum

Tanks and Special Tanks

Historically the eastern border with Germany and the southern frontier with Belgium were areas frequently used by smugglers to bring their contraband into the Netherlands. Dutch ports and, from 1928, when the present-day Schiphol airport was opened, also provided opportunities for smugglers to bring their illicit goods into the Netherlands.

Smuggling depends on a number of preconditions:

- There has to be a national boundary
- Certain products must be available in two States at very different price levels, whereby a greater profit margin can be achieved. The differences can be caused by variation in cost price, taxation, or government subsidies (economic preconditions).
- Possible shortage of products in one country and a surplus in another.
- Import and export restrictions or bans.

- Widespread poverty because of a weak economic and social structure, etc.

Smuggling has often been portrayed as a romantic and exciting activity, but for most it was the profit motive that counted. A newspaper in the Netherlands reported on 17 November 2005 that 2,570 Dutch nationals were languishing in foreign jails, almost all of them for drug-smuggling offences. In many cases, this involved taking packages containing drugs through airports for strangers. The packages come in



every shape or form imaginable. Drugs in dolls, tubes of shaving cream, shampoo, in tins hidden on or inside the body. In the past, too, some remarkable methods were used for smuggling goods.



Smuggling tank

During the 1920s, spirits were exported abroad (to Belgium) from the Netherlands duty-free. At that time, a litre of Dutch gin - jenever - cost NLG 3.30, of which duty was NLG 3.00. Belgian import duties were low - NLG 0.80 per litre. The total cost in Belgium was therefore NLG 1.10 per litre (i.e. the production cost for 1 litre of jenever, NLG

0.30 plus NLG 0.80 import duty). This meant that an illegal consignment returned to the Netherlands was worth an average of NLG 2.20 per litre.

"The chance of being caught was slight as a physical inspection was only allowed if there was a 'strong suspicion' of smuggling".

Special tanks, containing between three and five litres were attached to the smuggler's body.

'Travellers' in the border areas who crossed the frontier every day imported considerable quantities in this way. It soon became routine, as Customs officials did not check the same people every morning and every night.

The chance of being caught was slight as a physical inspection was only allowed if there was a 'strong suspicion' of smuggling. Male Customs Officers were not allowed to conduct body searches on women - only female officials were permitted to do this.

Smuggling vests

The smuggling tanks on display were not only used for jenever but also for other substances such as perfume from Belgium and eau de Cologne from Germany, which were smuggled in quantities of dozens of litres at a time.

Other methods besides smuggling tanks were used, too. These included milk churns and coffee jugs with false bottoms (hidden compartments).

The use of soft cotton vests became popular.

Such smuggling vests were easy to make with a needle and thread.

Cotton smuggling vests were easy to wear under clothes and a reasonably sized overcoat would provide the necessary "cover". These vests made smuggling cigarettes, tobacco and cigarette papers simple.

Smuggling methods were adapted and became a question of supply and demand.

Charges

Even longer ago, in 1915, a total of 36,679 criminal charges were brought for smuggling offences. On average, each post seized 10,000 kg of smuggled goods.

Every year, hundreds of people were jailed in the prisons at Veenhuizen.

● ***Geert Nieman, Curator, Belasting & Douane Museum, Rotterdam.***

Sources:

- ***Belasting & Douane Museum documentation***
- ***Smokkelen langs de Nederlandse Grens, Vrouwenfelder J.E. 1987***
- ***Algemeen Dagblad, 17 November 2005***

Bananas and Cables

Some of the most refined methods of smuggling and concealment are to be found in the drug trafficking business. One of the objects at the Antwerp Museum that never fails to amaze our visitors is an innocent looking bunch of hollow bananas (see photo right). These were used to smuggle narcotics into the European Union via Antwerp harbour.

Proof of the fact that Customs teams on luggage duty at Zaventem are becoming ever more efficient is the increasing number of interceptions of smugglers who have swallowed pellets of hard drugs.

This number has tripled over recent years. These people now have to take into account the increased risk factor. The record stands at 180 capsules - or 1,6 kilograms - of cocaine hidden in one man!

• **Francis Huijbrechts, Belgium.**



In October 2001, our renowned sniffer dog, Flap, discovered more than 750 kilograms of cocaine in these innocent looking fake bananas. (To the left of the picture, courtesy of NOD - Antwerp, is a bunch of fake bananas while the genuine article is on the right.



Another ingenious and probably very time-consuming method was discovered at Zaventem (Brussels National Airport) in August 2004. More than 50,000 XTC pills were found vacuum packed, wrapped in aluminium and hidden in plastic cables that resembled television connections. A controlled delivery to the other side of the globe in New Zealand led to the arrest of two suspects and the confiscation of another 8,500 pills (photo, courtesy of GAD - Zaventem).

A Fishy Business



● *Concealment of Ketamine*

It was opium, not alcohol that tormented China and Taiwan in the 19th century. And we still have plenty of drug smuggling cases - a man with bags of heroin strapped to his thighs, a woman with ketamine in her sanitary pad, and some people even swallowing the drug in little plastic containers. But a recent case has echoes of the days when alcohol smuggling was rampant in the western world, if plastic had been invented early enough.

In September 2004, Taipei Customs at Chiang Kai Shek Airport intercepted a large amount of frozen liquid ketamine. This followed

confidential information to the effect that on September 7, a certain amount of heroin disguised as bags of ice to keep a shipment of fish fresh would be smuggled from Thailand to Taiwan. The information was even more specific in that it stated the heroin would be concealed in a consignment of fresh-water turtles.

Investigating the documentation on flights from Thailand, the Taipei Customs Mobile Inspection Brigade (MIB) focused their attention on a shipment of 8 cases of fish, scheduled to land at 18:05. The MIB members waited at the Perishable Import Center, where goods are normally released in twenty or thirty minutes.

After a thorough examination of the 8 cases of fish, no powdery material resembling heroin was found. Even more frustrating

was the fact that the ice showed no chemical reaction to the reagent. As the MIB was about to give up the search, one of them thawed a little piece of the ice in his palm. He noticed that its color changed immediately to lavender. The hoard of ketamine thus detected was 61 kg in weight and NT 126,000,000 (€3,150,000) in market value. It was packed in 56 transparent plastic bags. The smugglers were arrested when they showed up as consignees for the "goods".

● *Mei-feng, Taiwan Customs.*



● *Liquid ketamine*

A Hair's Breadth

Every year, about 15,000,000 passengers go through Gardermoen Airport, Oslo. Customs and Excise have two divisions stationed there - one deals with passenger traffic, the other with goods. The passenger control is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. In total there are about 80 Customs Officers stationed at the airport. The officers sometimes find themselves in unusual situations, meet all kinds of people, and very often see the strangest of things.

On 23rd July 2005, Customs Officers stopped a lady from the Netherlands for a routine control. According to her papers, she was born in 1962. Her ticket showed she was returning to the Netherlands the following day. But when asked how long she would be staying in Oslo, she replied she would be here for the next 10 days, visiting family and friends and that she would stay at a specific hotel.

While talking to the lady, the Customs

Officer noticed her hair. It turned out it was a wig. This interested the Officer, who decided to have a closer look at the wig. It turned out that the female passenger

had sewn a package with 528 grams of Cocaine into the wig.

• **Jon Agust Eggertsson, Norwegian Customs Museum.**



Lamps From Lebanon

A request from a former business partner for permission to use his Danish SE number alerted a Copenhagen resident. The former partner who was then living in the Canary Islands said that he required the SE number to import a consignment of lamps from Lebanon to Denmark.

The Danish resident went to the police who agreed that the transaction looked suspicious and arranged for telephone calls from Copenhagen to the Canaries to be tapped.

Liaison

A Danish Customs Officer who had been involved from an early stage, acted as the liaison between the Customs authority and the police. His job was to read all documents relating to the import of the container and to check the Customs register for the persons involved.

It was also his task to "train" a police officer to act as a real shipping

agent. In the spring of 1983, a meeting was arranged in Copenhagen to make the final arrangements.

Special substance

When the container arrived in Copenhagen, it was found to contain 51 boxes.



Each box contained 'lamps' fitted with a double bottom in which 5 kilos of fine quality hash was concealed. The whole 255 kilos of hash had been treated with a special substance to prevent detector dogs sniffing it out. This substance had obviously

"What was the substance used to prevent the detector dogs sniffing out the hash?"

been used in other cases and hash had come unnoticed into other countries.

Co-operation

The suspicions of a former business partner and excellent co-operation between police in Denmark, Spain and Lebanon and, last but not least, the Danish Customs authorities led to the detection and seizure of this large amount of hash.

However, this case has a more problematic dimension.

What was the substance used to prevent the detector dogs sniffing out the hash? Today, twenty-two years later, it has still not been possible to identify it.

● **Tora Ribers, Denmark.**

13th Conference and General Assembly of IACM

The 13th Conference and General Assembly of IACM took place in Dublin from September 28-30, 2005. Sincere gratitude is extended to the Board of the Revenue Commissioners for hosting the event in historic Dublin Castle.

Proceedings commenced in the Coach House on the evening of September 28 when Revenue Chairman, Frank Daly and Commissioners Josephine Feehily and Michael O'Grady welcomed guests and their partners. Mr. Daly's speech is reproduced at page 4 of this Newsletter. His announcement that agreement had been reached on the opening of a new Customs/Taxation Museum in the premises known as the Crypt in Dublin Castle was greeted with rapturous applause, especially from the strong home contingent.

IACM President, Paddy Ryan, thanking the Chairman for his kind words, especially his announcement on the new museum, spoke of the rich history of Customs and Taxation around the world. Remarking on the similarities between the different countries and the global bond of tax gathering, he concluded with a tale about two Irish nuns whose habits included turkey smuggling. In conclusion, he extended the gratitude of the IACM to all those who worked so hard in planning and organising this conference.

On September 29 Revenue Chairman Frank Daly, formally opening conference, stressed the importance of preserving the past for the future. Reiterating his delight on the new Customs/Taxation Museum in Dublin Castle, he wished Conference and General Assembly every success and hoped that the guests and their partners would enjoy their stay in Ireland. Thanking Mr. Daly for his support and hospitality, Jon Agust. Eggertsson presented him with a token of IACM appreciation.

Outlining the program, the President said that in line with the conference theme of 'Setting Up A Museum', he was delighted to introduce Commandant Dan Harvey - the driving force behind the new Army Museum at Collins Barracks, Cork. A summary of his excellent and informative presentation is on Page 5. After dealing with audience questions and thanking them for their kind words, Commandant Harvey was presented with a token of appreciation from IACM/Office of the Revenue Commissioners.

After coffee break, the conference divided into themed workshops as follows:

1. Newsletter: Loes Pepperkorn (Rapporteur)

Praising the Dutch format and production of the previous year, it was suggested continuing the IACM Newsletter in 2006. The content should be similar to the previous year, including a page on Conference, features on smuggling methods, list of IACM members' contact details, exhibitions and activities in the museums, along with local news. Agenda for Conference 2006 should be included, if possible.

Above all, it was suggested that the IACM core business of collecting, displaying and preserving artefacts should be stressed in the Newsletter, along with pointers on the organisation's future direction. Paddy Ryan, agreeing that Ireland would compile and edit the IACM Newsletter, requested that features and photographs be with him before 1st December, 2005. Depending on space and finance, features or sections of the project on the *Week in the life of a Customs Officer* might be included.

Attendance At Conference and Assembly

Paddy Ryan (Ireland), President IACM; Jon Agust. Eggertsson (Norway), Secretary IACM; Henri Nimax (Luxembourg), Treasurer IACM; Myles Hollowed (Ireland) Conference Secretary; Seppo Malkki; Leena Koonen (Finland); Ferdinand Hampl (Austria); Francis Huijbrechts, Anne Van Puymbroeck (Belgium); Jan Hlinka, Karel Sedlacek (Czech Republic); Tora Ribers (Denmark); Susanne Mehrkuhler (Germany); Jean-Pierre Reuter, Jean Ensch (Luxembourg); Frans Fox, Geert Nieman, Wim van Es (Netherlands); Holger Munchaus Petersen (Denmark, now retired); Loes Pepperkorn van Donseelaar (Netherlands, former President IACM); Chun-Sheng Ho and Mei-Feng Hwang (Taiwan) were specially invited by the IACM President. Members of the Irish Revenue Museum Committee attended the functions and conference. Karen Bradbury and Steve Butler (HM C&E Museum, Liverpool); Jan Berggren (Sweden); Dr. Bocsó Gábor (Hungary); Antonio de Nisi and Alessandro Rossi (Italy) forwarded apologies for non-attendance.



13th Conference and General Assembly of IACM. Members and guests with Commissioner Josephine Feehily (front, 3rd left), Chairman Frank Daly, Commissioner Michael O'Grady and Liam Irwin, Deputy Secretary (standing, 5th from right).

2. IACM website: Myles Hollowed (Rapporteur)

This group recommended more interesting and attractive features and graphics, along with more links to WCO, WTO and other relevant sites. It was decided that items could be made available in the language of the provider and also in English, if possible, as expensive translation costs could not be met from IACM funds. It was suggested that the IACM website should seek a higher Search Engine profile (Google etc.) by having "International Association of Customs Museums" in the code of the home page in a variety of languages.

The group stated that a request for €500 from IACM funds would be presented to the General Assembly on the following day. This was required to finance improvements to the website and enhance its professional appearance.

3. Public Relations: Wim Van Es (Rapporteur)

To improve public relations, we need more exhibitions involving all or several member countries. These should be moveable between member countries. It was also suggested that the services of retired staff should be availed of more as volunteers in museum projects.

On the internal side of IACM, it was suggested that more use should be made of the Internet to enable

members exchange information and discuss ideas on a regular basis. It was suggested that we work towards a situation where artefacts for new exhibitions might be exchanged.

4. Archive Software: Francis Huijbrechts (Rapporteur)

Francis stated that older museums catalogue their artefacts and exhibits different to newer museums. Similar collections should have similar methods of registering items and, where possible, the same software should be used to enable a standard artefact registration system throughout the IACM. This group will issue a Questionnaire asking what procedures are followed in each museum. The resulting analysis should help all IACM members. Francis said that he was creating a bilingual Thesaurus to enable access to our international information resource.

Newgrange

In the afternoon, the delegates and guests travelled the short distance to Newgrange, a megalithic chamber, or passage grave, erected around 3,200BC and older than the Pyramids of Egypt. While Newgrange has no connection with Customs and Taxation museums, it is of enormous interest to those with a love of heritage. A UNESCO Heritage site, it has a most intricately woven set of standing and cap-stones enclosing the central chamber. The ancient builders erected the passage with a roof box that ingeniously filters the sunlight to directly illuminate the chamber each summer and winter solstice

13th Conference and General Assembly of IACM



Revenue Chairman Frank Daly welcoming the guests and their partners to the Coach House on Sept. 28.

(i.e. June 21 and December 21). It is particularly spectacular on the winter solstice when daylight is failing. While access on these rare occasions is by invitation only for dignitaries, there was no restriction during our visit when the Office of Public Works very kindly provided an excellent guide for us.

Although the stone roof was constructed thousands of years ago, inside the chamber there was no hint of the rain quietly falling outside. Indeed, our guide pointed out that the way in which the stones are placed together like a jigsaw cleverly seals the roof from the elements. There was also a feeling that somehow one was close to those ancient people who survived without mobile phones, deodorant and digital equipment.

Newgrange is situated in the rich pastoral landscape of County Meath, which looked even greener and fresher with the soft Irish rain on that September afternoon. The interpretative centre was most informative and the shop so attractive that our schedule fell a little behind. However, we are all at the coach again by 8pm for the short journey to the formal reception in the gracious setting of Farmleigh House. A 19th century stately pile, for more than a century of its existence Farmleigh was a home of the Guinness family whose name and fame need little introduction in Ireland or abroad. A guided



Assembled Guests and partners in the Coach House listening to Revenue Chairman Frank Daly's speech.



Commandant Dan Harvey addressing the delegates in the Bedford Hall, Dublin Castle.

tour of the house was provided, where our excellent guide - with a strong Revenue connection - pointed out, among other items, the debtor's chair, which we were assured had not been used by tax collectors for some time. Good food, music and song made it a most memorable evening. Liam Irwin, Deputy Secretary, Revenue Commissioners, welcomed the guests and spoke of the importance of our heritage. Paddy Ryan, President IACM, thanked him for his kind words and spoke of the magnificent surroundings, which he hoped would help the General Assembly on the following morning. He thanked the Office of Public Works for the facilities of Farmleigh and the visit to Newgrange earlier in the day.

The General Assembly took place on Friday. Minutes have been forwarded to IACM members. All outgoing officials, President, Secretary and Treasurer, were re-elected for a further three years. Tora Ribers, Denmark, was elected as IACM representative to ICOM. At the invitation of the President, Holger Petersen was invited to speak about Customs boats and cutters - a subject on which he continues to carry out extensive research.

The following Working Parties will report to the 2006 General Assembly, to be held in Oslo, Norway from 6th September, 2006.

1. Extension of IACM membership
(Chairperson, Wim van Es)
2. Origin of Objects
(Chairperson, Frans Fox)
3. Statutes and Rules
(Chairperson, Paddy Ryan)
4. IACM Website
(Chairperson, Jean-Pierre Reuter)

The General Assembly was officially closed by Mr. Liam Irwin, who stated that the Office of the Revenue Commissioners was proud to host the 13th Conference and General Assembly. Thanking the delegates and guests for their contributions to the Conference and General Assembly, he wished all present every success in the future.

The President thanked Mr. Irwin and the Revenue Board for their marvellous support. He also thanked Myles Hollowed who had been an excellent Conference Secretary; Ciarán Pringle for the photographs and being everywhere; Arthur Hendrick, Emer Kelly, Trevor Nicholson, Martina West and Jean Sinclair for ensuring that everything ran smoothly.



Liam Irwin, Deputy Secretary, welcoming the guests at Farmleigh.



Alert Ártánd

Early on the morning of Sunday 26 June 2005, a truck coming from Romania applied for entry to Hungary at the Customs Office at Ártánd. This is an external border of the European Union and Customs control is strict.

According to the documents, the truck was transporting rolled polar textile from Turkey en-route to the Czech Republic.

Agitated

Using a mobile X-Ray unit, the Customs Officers detected other goods. It was also noticed that the Czech driver was becoming remarkably agitated as he found himself unable to offer any explanations for the presence of other goods not declared on the documents.

The next step was to call in the Customs drug-sniffing dog to check out the suspicions of the Customs officials.

Presence of Drugs

Almost immediately, this well-trained dog indicated the presence of drugs among the rolls of textiles. A full examination revealed that there were 165 packages containing a total of 92 kg of heroin concealed in the cargo.

Preliminary expert reports valued the seized drug at 1.5 thousand million HUF (approximately). This converts close to €62 million.

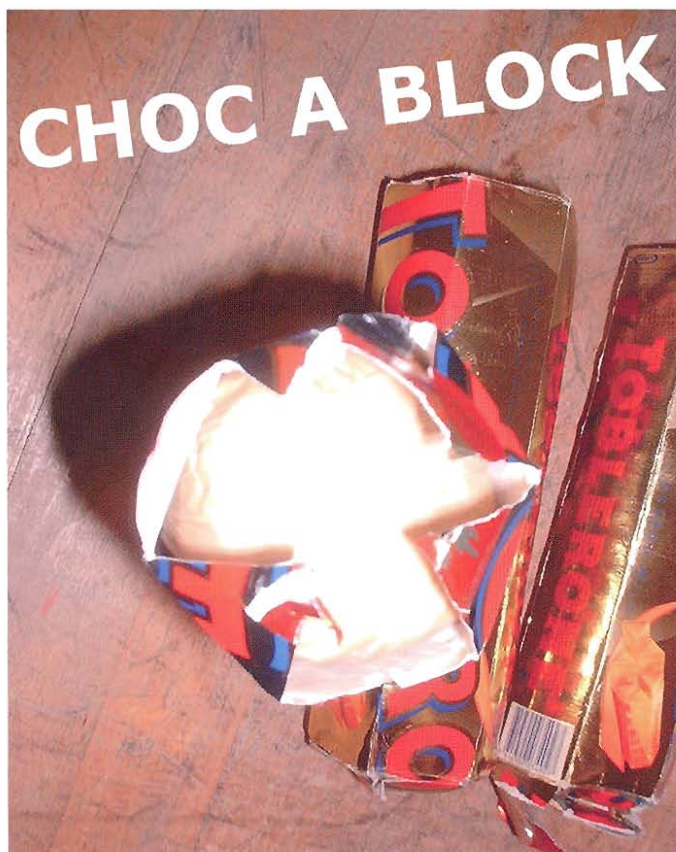
The driver was arrested and criminal proceedings have been started against him, based on strong suspicion of drug smuggling.

Wakeful and Watchful

The Commissioner of the Hungarian Customs and Finance Guard commended the staff involved in this major detection. The moral of this case is that the Hungarian Customs officers are wakeful and watchful, even in the very early mornings on the external border.

- **Dr. Bocsó Gabor,**
Hungarian Customs
& Finance Guard





In the movie 'Forrest Gump', the main character remarked: 'Life is like a box of chocolates, you never know what you're gonna get...'

That remark makes much more sense after the following incident at Dublin Airport where the alert Revenue Officers take little at face value.

In February 2005, something about a 28 year-old Nigerian male

aroused suspicions of the Officers on duty at Dublin Airport. He had travelled on a Canadian Passport from Lagos, via Paris, to Dublin.

His replies to questions about his reasons for coming to Ireland were inconsistent, arousing further suspicions. He was detained, but a search of person and a urine test proved negative. The Officers, who have much experience of smugglers and their ways, were still not satisfied.

The traveller's luggage was examined again but there was nothing suspicious among the clothes and toiletries. Then one of the Officers wondered why a passenger on long flights would pack three innocent looking Toblerone chocolate bars between warm clothing where they could easily melt.

Suspensions proved correct when the boxes were opened. They contained round solid taped packages that tested positive for cocaine. The total amount was two kilos of cocaine with a street value of €140,000. The most expensive candy in history and the traveller certainly didn't know he was going to get a prison sentence when he packed the boxes of chocolates.

He was convicted at Dublin District Court on February 9, 2006 and sentenced to six years in prison.

● ***Sincere thanks to Shay Doyle and Sinéad Hartnett for their assistance.***



Other Methods of Concealment

Cosmetic bottles, used for smuggling drugs, seized at Dublin Airport.

Skirting With Smuggling

It was 1931 and as the lady walked through the Customs, Officers heard a gurgling sound. Unfortunately for her, the Officers had heard it many times before and they were fairly confident it wasn't a medical problem that was causing her skirts to make this sound.

Size XXL

Further examination revealed that the lady was wearing a strong undergarment - size XXL - which was fitted with special pockets.

96% proof

These pockets were not for loose cash or smelling salts but for carrying flasks. When they were opened the flasks were found to contain alcohol 96% proof. This could make several bottles of lighter proof alcohol and a nice profit for the smuggler.

• **Jan Berggren,**
Swedish Customs Museum, Stockholm.



Illustration

This photograph was taken of the exhibit in the Customs Museum in Stockholm. The pockets illustrated were for carrying flasks found to contain 96% proof alcohol.



EXHIBITION

History of the bicycle-tax in the Netherlands (1924-1941)

Starts Thursday, April 20, 2006

Ends Sunday, September 3, 2006



X-Ray Eyes And Indian Rubber

"2,53 tons marihuana were found in packs of Indian rubber".

In April 1997 a container from Tema/ Ghana arrived at the port of Hamburg.

container, which was brought to the brand new X-Ray unit at Hamburg Freeport.

X-Ray's

The X-Ray picture clearly showed rectangle shapes inside the balls of Indian rubber. As such shapes are unusual for these goods, our Customs Investigation

first major drug concealment found at the X Ray Unit in the Hamburg Port.

If you visit the German Customs at Hamburg, you can see the last preserved original ball of Indian rubber among the exhibits.

● **German Customs Museum**
12.09.2005



Its contents were declared as 300 balls of Indian rubber for final delivery to the Czech Republic.

Tip-Off

After a tip given from an anonymous caller, the Customs Investigation team decided to further investigate the

team decided to take a closer look.

Marihuana

The first ball opened revealed packs of marihuana. When all 300 balls of Indian rubber in the container were opened, a total of 2,53 tons of marihuana were found. This was the

"you can see the preserved original Ball of Indian rubber in the exhibition of the German Customs Museum"

FARMLEIGH HOUSE, DUBLIN.



Conference Secretary Myles Hollowed in the Debtor's Chair at Farmleigh House, Dublin.

NEWGRANGE, CO. MEATH.



Newgrange, Co. Meath - a megalithic chamber, or passage grave, erected around 3,200 BC and older than the Pyramids of Egypt.

COACH HOUSE, DUBLIN CASTLE.



Members and Guests at the official opening of the 13th IACM Conference, Coach House, Dublin Castle.

DELEGATES AND GUESTS OF IACM.



Delegates and Guests at the 13th IACM Conference and General Assembly, Coach House, Dublin Castle.

IACM Conference - Dublin Castle, September, 2005.

Members of IACM and Guests

Austria

Zoll-Museum
Alois Kellner-Str. 2-12/1
A-2320 Schwechat.
Tel: 0043 664 4425 753
e-mail: f.hampl@kabsi.at
Mr. Ferdinand Hampl

Belgium

Nationaal Museum van
Douane en Accijnzen
Kattendijkdok-Oostkaai 22
B-2000 Antwerpen
Tel: 0032 3229 2259
Fax: 0032 3229 2261
e-mail:
deschakel.damagazine@
antwerpen.be
Mrs. Ann Van Puymbroeck
Mr. Francis Huijbrechts

Czech Republic

General Directorate of
Customs
Budějovická 7
14096 Prague 4
Tel: 00420 26133 2134
Fax: 00420 26133 2130
e-mail: hlinka@cs.mfcr.cz
Mr. Jan Hlinka

Denmark

Told Skat Museet
Langelinie Alle 21
DK-2100 Copenhagen
Tel: 0045 7237 9197
Fax: 0045 7237 9053
e-mail:
tora.ribers@toldskat.dk
Ms. Tora Ribers

Finland

Tullimuseo
Information Services
PI 512
SF-00101 Helsinki
Tel: 00358 2049 21830
Fax: 00358 2049 21840
e-mail: tullimuseo@tulli.fi
Mr. Seppo Malkki

France

Musée National des Douanes
1 Quai de la Bourse
F-33064 Bordeaux
Tel: 0033 556 48 82 82
Fax: 0033 556 48 82 88
e-mail:
conservation.mnd@free.fr
Ms. Michèle Périssère

Hungary

Vám-és-Pézügyorség Szociális
Mátyás u. 16
1093 Budapest
Tel: 0036 1 218 0724
Fax: 0036 1 218 0912
e-mail:
vpszksk@mail.vpop.hu
Mr. János Kosztyu

Germany

Deutsches Zollmuseum
Alter Wandrahm 16
D-20457 Hamburg
Tel: 0049 40 300 876 23
Fax: 0049 40 300 876 20
e-mail: museum@zoll.de
Susanne Mehrkühler

Ireland

Office of the Revenue
Commissioners
Dublin Castle, Dublin 2
Tel: 00353 1 67 48459
Fax: 00353 1 67 48458
e-mail: padryan@revenue.ie
Mr. Paddy Ryan
Mr. Myles Hollowed

Italy

Museo Storico Della Guardia
di Finanzia
Piazza Mariano Armellini 20
I-00162 Roma
Tel: 0039 06 4422 2510
Fax: 0039 06 4422 3793
e-mail: denisi.antonio@gdf.it
Mr. Antonio De Nisi

Luxembourg

Musée de Douanes et Accises
51 rue Hiel
L-5485 Wormeldange-Haut
Tel: 00352 290 191 258
Fax: 00352 290 191 238
e-mail:
jean-pierre.reuter@do.etat.lu
henri.nimax@do.etat.lu
Mr. Jean-Pierre Reuter
Mr. Henri Nimax

Netherlands

Belasting en Douane Museum
Parklaan 14 - 16
NL-3016 BB Rotterdam
Tel: 0031 104 400 200
Fax: 0031 104 361 254
e-mail: info@BDMuseum.nl
Mr. Frans Fox
Mr. Geert Nieman

Norway

Norsk Tollmuseum
Tollbugata 1A
PO 8122, Dep.
N-0032 Oslo
Tel: 0047 223 46876
Fax: 0047 228 60221
e-mail: museum@toll.no
Mr. Jon Agust Eggertsson

Portugal

Associação para o museu dos
Transportes e comunicações
Rua Nova da Alfandega 5
Edifício da Alfandega
P-4050-430 Porto
Tel: 00351 22 340 3000
Fax: 00351 22 340 3098
e-mail: museu@amtc.pt
Ms. Maria L. Domingos

Sweden

Tullmuseet
Alströmsgatan 39
Box 12854
S-11298 Stockholm
Tel: 0046 8 4050 460
Fax: 0046 8 4050 511
email:
jan.berggren@tullverket.se
Mr. Jan Berggren

United Kingdom

H.M. Customs and Excise
National Museum
Merseyside Maritime Museum
Albert Dock L3 4AQ
Liverpool
Tel: 0044 151 478 4529
Fax: 0044 151 478 4590
e-mail:
karen.bradbury@liverpool
museums.org.uk
Ms. Karen Bradbury
Steve Butler

Guest from the Museum Taiwan

Customs Museum Taipei
No 9 Lane 1
Jiao-Xiao st.
Keelung, Taipei
Tel: 00886 2 2465 9703
Fax: 00886 2 2451 2490
e-mail:
mf44@webmail.dogc.gov.tw
Ms. Mei-fong Hwang



Delegates of IACM with (front row, 3rd left) Commissioner Josephine Feehily, Chairman Frank Daly, Commissioner Michael O'Grady and Liam Irwin, Deputy Secretary (standing, 5th right), Dublin Castle, Ireland, September 2005.