



# IACM Newsletter

Official Journal of the International Association of Customs Museums - 2000



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# Words of our President

## Drs. Loes Peeperkorn van Donselaar

Belasting & Douane Museum

### News from your Chairperson

#### Extra workingparties in Porto? Up to you!

and  
**Between growth and consolidation: the IACM dilemma**

This IACM Newsletter arrives at your desk in spring 2001, when we are halfway between the conference in Hamburg in September 2000 and the one to follow in Porto next September. It will be the 9th Conference since the start in 1993 in Copenhagen. In the past three years we developed a method of organising the conference by dividing it into plenary meetings and workingparties. This proved to be especially succesful as far as the workingparties are concerned. The workingparty which occupies itself with the production of the IACM Newsletter has got a permanent character and by now has become a tradition! Also successful was the workingparty which occupied itself with the creation of the IACM-website, which is to be activated by our Luxembourg-colleagues by the end of the year 2000.

Advantages of this approach are that delegates get the opportunity to participate in the workingparty of their choice, which of course stimulates discussion and enthousiasm. In Hamburg we decided to keep on the agenda the workingparties concerning the subjects of 'Public Relations', 'Museum Ethics (including Archives)' and the 'Making of a file of multilateral customs & tax related agreements'. Bearing in mind the ICOM-definition of a museum<sup>1</sup> with

<sup>1</sup> 'A museum is a non-profit making, permanent institution in the service of society and of its development, and open to the public which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits, for purposes of study, education and enjoyment, material evidence of people and their environment.' (ICOM statutes



these subjects, we largely cover the different aspects of the museumwork. The advantage is that within the IACM we exchange knowledge and experience and stimulate mutual contacts. In the long run I am sure plans for larger projects shall develop. **Besides these more or less permanent subjects on the workingparty-agenda, I should like to invite member States to bring forward new subjects for workingparties.** Please send your proposal(s) to secretary Ann van Puymbroeck or myself, so we can discuss it, preferably before the 1st of June..

The IACM was started as a very loosely knit organisation. The sheer necessity for this approach was and is, that the majority of the member States hardly have any possibility to devote time, money and/or energy into the IACM. One of the consequences is that our organisation is not in a position to start large scale projects or ambitious plans. If we are no longer satisfied with this situation, we

amended version july 1995)

should discuss it during our general assembly, to find out into which direction we should like to change our policy. The preparation of such a change in policy will certainly effect the tasks and responsibilities of president, secretary and treasurer of the IACM. Their function will have to be defined more clearly and specifically than is the case just now. A workingparty might look into this matter to formulate proposals for the general assembly to decide about. Via this democratic system, in the end we might even again decide that our IACM remains a loosely knit and informal organisation for the time being, mainly focussing itself at the mutual exchange of knowledge and experience and at the promotion of our collections and museums within the customs services. I suppose this dilemma between growth and

consolidation is the usual process for a young organisation such as ours. To reach a new stage we need a large support and agreement amongst member States. Please let me have your reactions on this subject, so if necessary we can prepare the subject for the agenda in Porto in september.

By the way, I am sure you are, just as myself, enviously looking forward to our stay in Portugal with our colleagues in customs and in the museum for transport in Porto. I am sure the atmosphere in this beautiful country shall inspire our conference to fruitful cooperation!

Loes A. Peeperkorn-van Donselaar  
President IACM

## Words of our executive secretary, Ms. Ann van Puymbroeck

Douane & Accijensen, Belgium

Dear Colleagues,

When the IACM decided to create the post of treasurer, it was a great honour for the Belgian delegation, but also for me personally.

In comparison with museums like those in the Netherlands, France, Germany and England our Nationaal Archief en Museum van Douane en Accijnzen in Belgium is rather small and has less financial means, but my predecessor Marcel Buyst taught me that putting your shoulders to the wheel, together with some enthusiasm and creativity, are positive contributions as well. Therefore I will do my utmost to achieve our goals of international cooperation.

When Marcel Buyst at the IACM conference in Rotterdam proposed that Belgium would produce the first IACM Newsletter, I supported this initiative for 100%. As chief-editor of our magazine for customs officers it was not a difficult task to realize the first IACM Newsletter and it was nice to be in contact with the IACM members in between two conferences.

The next two years I worked

together with László Köpf and Paddy Ryan to produce the following Newsletters and I experienced that in such an intensive cooperation formality makes room for friendship and loyalty. Loes Peeperkorn, Klaus Bente and Arnes Petrick only corroborated this feeling while we prepared the 8th IACM conference in Hamburg.

I thought that being the IACM Secretary would be my contribution to our cooperation, but it seems that I get so much more than I can give

- "Holger, thank you for the lovely card and the nice words of appreciation."

- "Jean-Pierre and Henri, me and my husband had a very nice and enjoyable evening and all the members of the Harmony really appreciated the special effort you made to visit them."

- "Wim, Geert and Pieter it is nice to know that I can always rely on you for a piece of advise."

And last but not least, I really want to thank all the IACM members for the beautiful Christmas cards and the good wishes you have sent me and my colleagues.



With so much human support and the most modern equipments available, such as the telephone, a fax machine and even a website on the internet, my appointment as IACM Secretary is not a task to do but an honour to be.

I surely hope that you all will soon be concerned in a nice project yourselves and that you can share my experience. On that moment you will surely agree with me that we will achieve our goal to improve the cooperation.

Ann van Puymbroeck



# Message of Mr. Klaus Bente

Deutsches Zollmuseum

Dear Colleagues!

Now the eight'th IACM -Conference is over. We were very pleased with your interest, the generous gifts and all the kind words of appreciation concerning the organisation of the congress.

We hope there weren't been too many small or even big problems we didn't solve.

Checking the conference results we were glad to find out that the cooperation within the working groups and the collaboration on the newsletter made again great progress. Thank you very much ! All participants showed so much engagement and Ann van Puymbroeck was always ready to support us effectively.

We hope, the newsletter meets your expectations regarding contents and presentation. We would appreciate competent review. Here I also want to thank Anes Petrick for all the work he has done on the newsletter.



All the best to you  
I hope we meet again at Porto !

Klaus Bente

## This Newsletter

... is a the result of the creativity of our Association. It is impressive how many of our members managed to hand in their articles in time (at least until the agreed deadline). And when somebody was not able to give the promised reports in time, there were phone calls, faxes or even e-mails that just kept us informed about "the things coming". Unluckily not all of us found material for the agreed theme upon symbols. So the following list may be continued or renewed in the following issues.

Thank you very much, for participating in this project !

During the General Assembly we agreed that this issue will be put on display in our IACM -Homepage in the Internet in both working languages by our Luxembourg colleagues.

Since the end of January you can find actual informations about our association under:

<http://www.etat.lu/IACM>

I hope this two versions will fix the close relations between all of us.

Anes Petrick



# Statutes and Rules of IACM

Ratified at the IACM Conference, Rotterdam, September 1996; adapted in Budapest 1998;  
The words in *italic* are the proposed changes of the Hamburg-Conference 2000 (to be voted next year)



## Statutes

### Article 1. Name

1.1 There shall be an Association having as its title the International Association of Customs Museums (IACM).

### Article 2. Definitions

2.1 "Customs Museums" means museums, collections and permanent institutions of Customs, Excise and Taxation, associated with the relevant national authorities.

2.2 "Member Countries" means a country having a customs museum which is a member of IACM.

### Article 3. Aims and Objectives

3.1 The aims and objectives of IACM shall be:

- i. to recognise and promote the considerable benefits accruing from the collection, preservation, documentation and display of customs artefacts.

Benefits include:

gaining public support for the present day work of customs departments, in particular their role in protecting society,

raising public awareness of the rich and exciting history of customs departments; and,

fostering a greater understanding and sense of belonging amongst staff.

- ii. to establish, maintain and promote a network of customs museums. This shall include the identification, study, collection, preservation, and exhibition of relevant objects and material. Such acts may include joint exhibitions and the

exchange, distribution and loan of publications and artefacts and other forms of co-operation.

iii. to hold meetings, conferences and general assemblies for the consideration and discussion of the matters identified in i) and ii) above and of the Statutes and Rules.

iv. to establish links with appropriate organisations.

v. to improve professional standards and encourage research in relation to matters in i and above ii

### Article 4. Membership and voting rights

4.1 Membership of IACM shall be open to Customs Museums and Member Countries as defined in Article 2.

4.2 Only member countries may vote at meetings, conferences and general assemblies and each member country shall have one vote.

4.3 A member country or its customs museums who have attended one or more conferences of the Association of International Customs Museums prior to 1996, shall automatically become a member of IACM, unless they opt to the contrary.

### Article 5. Working language

5.1 The working languages of IACM shall be English and French. A member country who hosts an IACM meeting, conference or general assembly, may opt to use an additional language for that occasion.

### Article 6. Officers

6.1 The Officers of IACM shall consist of a President, a Treasurer, a Secretary and a **Conference Secretary**.

6.2 The President, **the Secretary**, and the Treasurer shall be designated at a General Assembly and shall serve for a term covering the next three general assemblies.

6.3 The Conference Secretary shall be a person from the member country hosting the next Conference.

### Article 7. Address

7.1 The IACM shall reside where its President has his / her office or **the secretary's address**.

### Article 8. Conference

8.1 The venue and timing of the next Conference shall be decided by the General Assembly.

8.2 The Conference shall be chaired by, the Conference Secretary, or a person appointed by him/her.

8.3 The Conference may appoint Working Groups to progress certain matters and report back at agreed times.

### Article 9. General Assembly

9.1 The General Assembly shall be held annually, and shall be chaired by the President.

9.2 Only the General Assembly shall be empowered to adopt any amendment to the Statutes and to the Rules.

9.3 A quorum for the General Assembly shall be 50% of member countries.

9.4 The President shall have the right to order business to obtain maximum consensus.

9.5 The President shall give each General Assembly an oral or written report of IACM proceedings since the last report.

9.6 The Treasurer shall present a report on IACM finances to the General Assembly.

### Article 10. Rules, responsibilities and records

10.1 The practical application of the Statutes shall be determined by Rules adopted by the General Assembly.

10.2 Any property, of the IACM shall be the responsibility of the President.

10.3 IACM has no legal status and it is not responsible for the actions of its members.

10.4 The President shall be responsible for all IACM matters including the keeping and availability of its non-financial record except for the organisation and running of the Conference and IACM finances.

10.5 The Treasurer shall be responsible for opening a bank account in the name of IACM. The Treasurer and President shall be signatories to the account

10.6 The Treasurer shall keep the accounts of IACM under the supervision of the



President and shall be responsible for ensuring that they are audited by an independent accountant.

10.7 The President may recommend that the General Assembly recognises the services of individuals in promoting the works and aims of IACM.

#### Article 11. Finance

11.1 The member country hosting the Conference may share the costs of so doing between all participating member countries.

11.2 The costs of the Presidency shall be borne by the member country where the President resides.

11.3 All other costs shall be the responsibility of the member country which incurred them.

#### Article 12. Amendment of the Statutes and Rules and other matters

12.1 Resolutions concerning amendments of the Statutes shall require a 2/3rds majority of member countries. Such amendments must be submitted to all member countries at least two months prior to the General Assembly.

12.2 Resolutions concerning amendments to the Rules shall require a 2/3rds majority of votes cast by member countries present at the General Assembly.

12.3 Other proposals to be decided by vote shall be decided by simple majority of member countries present.

#### Article 13. Dissolution of IACM

13.1 The decision by the General Assembly to dissolve the IACM shall require a 3/4 majority of member countries- If IACM comes to be thus dissolved, any assets which it possesses at that time shall be disposed of as the General Assembly sees fit.

#### Article 14. Interpretation

14.1 Any dispute as to the Interpretation of these Statutes and Rules shall be made in writing to the President who shall place the matter before the next General Assembly.

## Rules

### 1. Membership

- Article 4

...

### 2. Officers

- Article 6

In the event of a country having the presidency ceasing to be a member of IACM, the member country next hosting the Conference shall appoint an acting President until the next General Assembly is held.

If a President stands for re-election, a person appointed by the General Assembly shall chair the election proceedings.

The outgoing President shall transfer all non-financial records relating to IACM to the incoming President.

### 3. Conference

- Article 8

The Conference Secretary shall circulate to all member countries a resume of Conference and General Assembly proceedings within 2 months of the end of Conference.

Participation in Working Groups shall be voluntary.

At least two member countries shall be represented in a Working Group. A Working Group may elect its own Chairman who shall be responsible for reporting back to Conference. **At the invitation of one of the members of IACM non-memberstates may attend the conference as observer or guest. Yet non-memberstates are not allowed to attend the General Assembly.**

### 4. General Assembly

- Article 9

The General Assembly shall normally be held immediately following a Conference.

### 5. Finance

- Article 11

Where Conference costs are shared between participating member countries, the amount borne by each country shall be in proportion to the number of its members attending. The annual contribution should be paid before the annual conference of the year.

### 6. Amendment of the Statutes and Rules and other matters

- Article 12

"Present" includes physical presence and proxy provided that the latter is given authorisation in writing.

Where there is parity, in voting the President shall have the casting vote.

# Workshops

①  
WORKING GROUP  
"HOMEPAGE "



Jean Pierre Reuter (L) presented the results of the homepage-working group. There will be the following additions to the draft form he presented at the beginning of the conference:

- a) Addresss, Phone+ Faxnumbers will be added to the "officers"-page.
- b) The name, phone/fax/e-mail of an "IACM-contact-person" will be added to the address of the member-museums, to secure the immediate contact to a person who takes care of the IACM matters in each museum.

For each museum -3- pictures of exhibition-objects shall be added.

- c) - Due to the "internal" contents of the conference minutes, this page should only be accessible via an authorisation (password).

An additional letter will be sent to all members by the Luxembourg colleagues. Latest until the 01<sup>st</sup> of November 2000 the needed

material shall be on Jean-Pierre Reuter's desk!

②  
WORKING GROUP  
"PUBLIC RELATIONS"

Paddy Ryan spoke for the newsletter-working group. The group decided that the title, logo and layout of the 1998 (budapest) version shall be used for the oncoming editions. The contents shall be completed by the following themes:

1. "new museums buildings" - in which newly opened exhibitions will get a chance to present their locations (with an special eye on the colleagues from Italy, Denmark and Sweden)
2. "Customs symbols" - and the



history of these symbols.

A letter with the technical requirements of the article was send to all the members.

The deadline for the needed articles ist the 01<sup>st</sup> of December 2000, to get the newsletter printed before April 2001. It will be very helpful to get a printed version and a digital (diskette) version of the article and the photos. This versions shall be sent directly (not via the secretary) to the Deutsches Zollmuseum.

Due to the short time, the whole range of possible targets for the "public-relations" working group has not been discussed.

All members agreed, that the situation and position of each member-museum is in way unique and differs from the others.

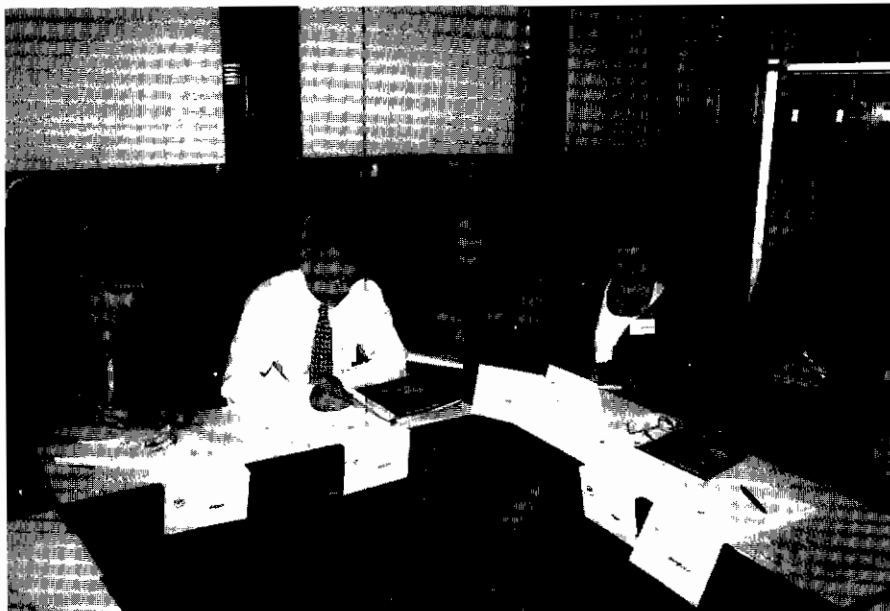
It was proposed to prolong this working group into the next 2 years conferences. The wide range of "public-relations" themes can't be done in only one workshop. But during the conferences a coordination of the various viewpoints shall be possible.

Between France (Michele Perissere, Roland Giroire) and Paddy Ryan (IRL) and Klaus Bente (D) a discussion came up, about the need of a bilingual (english/french) newsletter.

During that it came clear, that the additional costs for a translation and lay-out for the french version may be too high.

Due to the facts, that the homepage shall content an english and french version of the newsletter, all articles for the newsletter shall be produced





⑤  
**WORKING GROUP**  
**"PROFESSIONAL ETHICS"**

The working group on professional ethics was organised to discuss some of the ethical issues that affect the museum community in general, and the customs museums community in particular. The title or theme for discussion was "Customs Museums – Different Opinions in Professional Ethics." Questions relating to loan procedures, selection and de-accessioning of artefacts, as well as gifts and offers to the museums, very widely discussed by the participant members of the group. It was found that, although in different ways, all the museums, or collections represented at the workshop had had some problems relating to loans, gifts and de-accessioning issues.

Although the sub-title given to the workshop was "Different Opinions in Professional Ethics" the first conclusion to be drawn from the examples presented, was that no matter how small the collection or the museum we all, in a certain way, face the same problems because we all have the same mission as

(as far as possible) in both languages, be sent to Hamburg, for the use in the printed (only-english) version. After that, the (bilingual) articles will be sent to Luxembourg, where they will (both) be used in the homepage version of the newsletter.

③  
**WORKING GROUP**  
**"ARCHIVE"**

This working group joined action with group "PROFESSIONAL ETHICS"

All members of IACM shall search their archives for some informations and add them to this archive. For this purpose a copy of the draft of the MS-access database (3,5' discette, compressed) will be sent to all museums. For all members, who are not able to use MS-ACCES a printed (blank) file-form will be spread.

The collected informations shall be sent to the Deutsches Zollmuseum, where they will be collected. After six month Arnes Petrick will report about the results to the executive

④  
**WORKING GROUP**  
**"FILE OF MULTILATERAL CUSTOMS & TAX RELATED AGREEMENTS"**

Arnes Petrick (D) presented the conclusions of the "file of multilateral customs & tax related agreements"-working group: First two main questions were discussed:

- a) How (in which form) should the information be collected ?
  - b) Which datas shall be collected ?
- For better understanding, the draft version of the datafile (constructed in Hamburg) was presented to the audience.

Even the few members of the working-group argued about, which dates and informations are relevant for our file. So it was proposed, to start with a "test-file" to collect information about the quality and quantity of possible datas. In a first step, historical customs- (and tax-) related agreements of the time between 1850 and 1918 shall be collected.

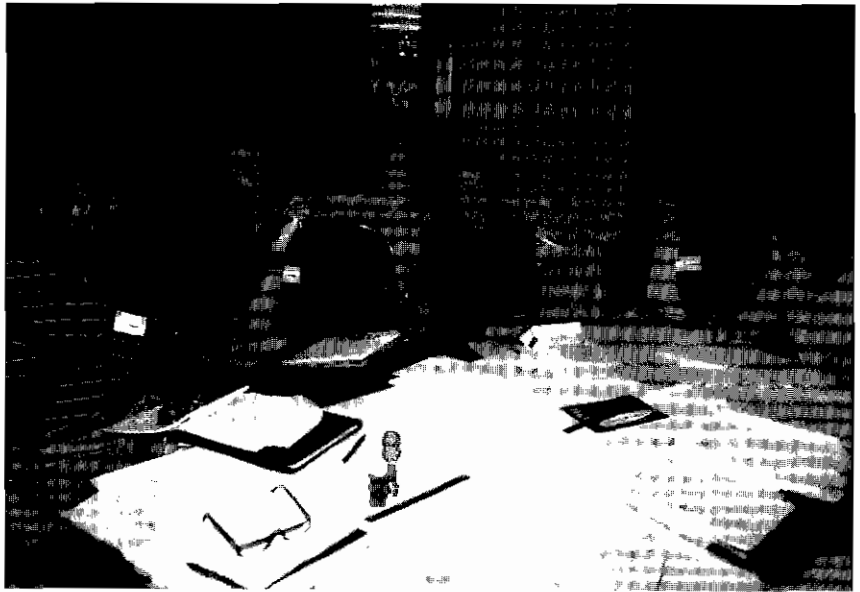


secretary. If there are enough dates and informations collected, a working group at the next conference shall decide about the next steps. This means the working group will continue its work.

museums. We all need to protect our collections from unwanted gifts or offers, we all want to protect the artefacts in our collections from deterioration and from bad practices in loan procedures and we all want to be able to care for each and

every artefact in our collections in the best possible way.

The solution to some of the problems that were discussed at the workshop lies on drawing a set of procedures and collection management standards. That is, on producing a set of good standards and rules that are able to reflect the Codes of Ethics developed by prominent institutions such as ICOM as well as to govern our day-to-day operations when it comes to loan issues and collection management procedures. These documents, although they should not be understood as ethical codes in themselves, can prove to be an extremely valuable tool to safeguard and care for our collections and should be developed by every museum.



# Symbols

## Douane en Accijnzen - Belgium

by Ann van Puymbroeck



The 1st of January 1993...how often did we hear this date? It almost had a magic ring to it. Nevertheless, we could do with a change.

Since the internal borders between the countries of the EEC were pulled down and the customs authorities are now only to be found at the external frontier, a lot has changed, especially for our administration. Customs authorities had to give up a few of their former aims, but soon enough these were replaced by new ones.

Here in Belgium the board believed that one of the ways to get the customs officers becoming more aware of the impending changes, could -amongst other things- be the creation of a brand new logo

logo was made to all colleagues in May 1992. This idea turned out to be a resounding succes: 25 competitors participated and handed in approximately 90

designs. In the end the board chose the design by Kristel Reenaers.

She studied at the art academy where she had recieved some training in the creation of logos. After school she applied for a job in that line, but soon found out that firms nowadays require designers with a lot of computer background, a standard she could not meet. Eventually, she signed up for a computer course but in the meantime she was offered the opportunity to start working as a customs officer.

Incidentally, she was the one responsible for dispatching the letters in which all customs officers were invited to design a new logo, but at first she was not interested. Her colleagues strongly insisted that she should give it a try anyway.

This design was picked out because of its sobriety, its strong symbolism and the colour combination of the triangle in European bleu together with the yellow stars. The three coloured lines symbolise not only the colours of the Belgian flag but also the three fields of activity of our administration: Customs, Excise and External Assignments.

The sober but clear design stands for our integrity  
The capital letters D&A are short for Douane en Accijnzen (Flemish version) or Douane et Accises (French version). In the small German-speaking part of our country we use the symbols Z.A. for Zoll und Akzisen.

There's no link to our history in this design. Even time-honoured symbols like the barriers or a signpost with "HALT CUSTOMS" on it have disappeared. So we deliberately chose for this design full

which are handed out on exhibitions and other ways of reaching the general public. Moreover you can also find this design on our uniform scarf or tie.

A modern look for a modern administration.

## Customs Administration - Czech Republic

by Jan Skalicky



The symbol of the Czech Customs Administration demonstrates a stick surrounded by two snakes. Two wings protrude from the stick in its upper part and there is a hat above the top of the stick. All this symbolises Mercury, the god of commerce and travel and the messenger of the highest god Zeus. In mythological books Mercury is usually demonstrated as a young man with a stick in his hand and wings on his hat and shoes. While the stick symbolises travelling the wings are to demonstrate his speed. Two snakes coiling round his stick symbolise two secrets Mercury had to keep. One was the god secret that he was not allowed to reveal to human beings, the other was the secret that he shared with Zeus as his messenger. This could not be revealed to other gods.

On the badge of the Czech Customs Administration the symbol is supplemented by the sign "Czech Republic" in the upper part and the word "customs" in the Czech and French languages in the bottom part

**Told • Skat**  
**- Denmark**

by Holger M. Peterson



A visitor to a Danish Customs- and Taxation Region will meet a logo consisting of a composition of a crown, a yellow triangle and the words **TOLD SKAT** (meaning Customs and Taxation). This is the way it has been decided to illustrate the administration of the taxation and customs in Denmark, as a



modern institution.

The only item remaining from the past in this logo, is the crown. The crown came into existence in the year 1632, when the king decided a new organisation of the customs.



posts with the kings name and over this a crown. The signposts were

placed outside every Customshouse, the signposts were made by local craftsmen. When the old king died, and his son took over the regency, the signposts were changed accordingly. An easy task, only a new layer of painting was needed, because the Danish kings changes between the names Christian and Frederik, each followed by a number.

The inauguration of King Christian X in 1912, called for new uniform signposts. The new signposts were fabricated on an oval, red iron plate

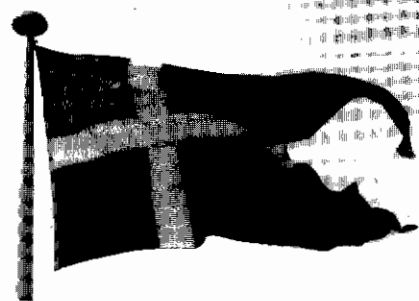


with the kings name and crown in yellow, and the plate was enamelled. After this major change, it was no longer possible to re-use the signposts. New ones were made in 1947 and in 1972. The royal monogram outside the buildings came to an end with the amalgamation of Taxation and Customs in 1990.

Copenhagen got a new distinct Customs house in 1735, as decoration for this building, there was made a big stone relief. On this relief there was a half-length portrait of the King - Christian VI. Two figures in full size, of the Roman Gods Mercury and Neptune, both with their insignias, a staff and a trident. The two gods were in many ways a fair symbol for the many tasks managed by the Customs. The stone relief was in the best traditions, re-used on the next two Customshouses built at the same place in Copenhagen.

About the year 1800 the two figures and their symbols became decorations on customs declarations and similar forms, and also on some remarkable Customs buildings. As late as 1949 the symbols became very official, because in that year the customs got new uniforms, and the emblems on the caps consisted of the three

Danish lions, and over cross behind the lions, the trident and the staff.



The emblem was also used on customs forms. New insignias on uniforms and new design on forms was necessary after the amalgamation in 1990, and the old symbols vanished, with one noticeable exception.

Queen Margrethe 2 made in 1987 a visit to the Directorate of Customs, a big event during the Royal visit, was the taking down of the old customs flag and the hoisting of a new one, decorated with the old symbols **Neptune trident and Mercurys staff**. This flag is still in use.

Illustrations

1. The modern symbol of the amalgamated Danish Customs and Taxation. This symbol is used on letterheads, on uniforms, on signposts and on many other places. It is also shown fairly often in the television, especially when the time is up to hand over your self declaration
2. Signpost from the Customs House at Ebeltoft. Ebeltoft is a small Danish market town. The signpost was made by a local craftsman, under the reign of Christian VII, 1766 - 1808, repainted in 1808 to Frederik VI, in 1840 to Christian VIII and again in 1848 to Frederik VII.
3. Detail from the big stone relief from Copenhagen, showing Mercury and his staff, which today is the symbol for the Norwegian customs.
4. The 1735 Customs House of Copenhagen from a painting from 1760. On the front facing the harbour the big stone relief, showing the king flanked by Mercury and Neptune.
5. In June 1987 the new Customs flag was hoisted for the first time, during the royal visit of Queen Margrethe.

**Bundeszollverwaltung**  
**- Germany**

by Arnes Petrick  
translation by Astrid Sparr

Ever since the German federal customs administration has existed (since September 1950) it uses as its official badge a green, silver framed escutcheon with a silver coloured right looking eagle, headed by the word "ZOLL" in capital silver coloured letters.



The eagle is shown in a heraldic form as it is used by all federal administrations of the Federal Republic of Germany and as it is shown on the coat of arms of the Federal Republic of Germany.

The eagle as a symbol of power is known since Roman times. Karl I. (the Great) used it at first as an official badge. The federal coat of arms with a single headed black coloured eagle on a golden field was introduced in 1871 during the German Empire and was adopted in 1919 by the Republic of Weimar however without monarchistic signs as sceptre, ball, crown and the Hohenzollern colours.

So the customs administration uses the actual coat of arms of the Federal Republic of Germany with its own historical colours, green and silver.

During the Republic of Weimar (1919 - 1933) after the customs administrations of the states were combined with the customs administration of the Reich, the black-red-golden coloured coat of

arms of the Reich, was used as an identification mark, f.e. on the hat cockade in a circle of Akanthus or on the shoulder pads.

After 1933 the coat of arms was replaced by the well-known "Reichsadler" with swastika.

After 1937 the customs administration of the Reich and the customs border guard used an own special form of the eagle. It differed a little bit from other organizational or administrative emblems by the slightly upturned wings and the right turned head.

After the Second World War the customs authorities used different emblems, depending on the the different occupation zones.

For nearly 40 years the customs administration of the German Democratic Republic ("Zollverwaltung der DDR") also used a green/silver "Caduceus" symbol as administrative emblem.

Since 1998 the customs administration uses, in addition to the official coat of arms, an impressive label for public relations work. This symbol represents the great variety of the work of the customs administration in the united Europe. Nowadays it is mainly used on booklets, posters and trade fairs.



**Vám-es Pénzügyőrség**  
**- Hungary**

In 1965 the organization chose the so called Mercurius-stick as its organization symbol after the merge of the customs guard and finance guard of 10 August 1964. Earlier both organizations had various badges, signs, guide-marks, but none of these may be identified unanimously as a symbol.

The Mercurius-stick is known from the Greek mythology as the particular tool of Hermes. Hermes was originally the god of shepherds from Thracia, but he was provided with more and more properties. According the Greek mythology he was born from the connection of Zeus and Maia, daughter of Atlas in a cave of the Arcadian Kullene mountains. He became protector of wanderers, travellers, and thieves beside the shepherding, but he joined the deads to Hades as delegate of the gods as well.



He received his stick with magic power still as a little child from Apollo due to his successful joke. The magic power of the stick was that who was touched with it fell asleep. The two little wings on its top symbolize the speed, which is on the hat and on the sandals of Hermes, too. According to the legend the two snakes coiled up on the stick when they were fighting with each other and Hermes send them to sleep with his stick. The



stick with wings and snakes is called in Greek "Kerukeion", the stick of messenger and it defends its owner under any circumstances.

The other European people got to know Hermes with assistance of the Romans, and his popular figure infiltrated into German and Celtic folklore as well. The first temple sacred to Hermes - as protector of the Greek-Roman export of cereals - was built in Rome under the influence of the book of prophecy (Sybilla profecies) of the South-Italian polises in the beginning of the V. century B.C.. In a short time every merchant considered him as his protector god, and Latin name Mercurius comes from the word "merx" (article).

The Mercurius stick appears in the iconography of the renaissance world with name the Caduceus as a symbol for piece, justice and trade.

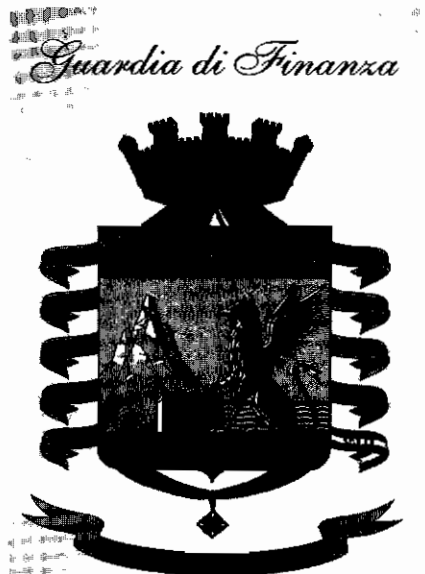
In 1965 the Hungarian Customs and Finance Guard chose it for its organization symbol also because of these three ideas which are fundamentally important in the activity of the organization. The measurements of the mark which is stickable on cap or overwear are the following: the length from the highest point of the upper arc of the shere placed on the bottom of the stick is 25 mm. Its biggest width calculated from the farthest points of the highest conventional feather placed on the facing wings is 20 mm. The diameter of the sphere placed on the end of the stick is 3 mm, the length of the stick-part between the connected parts of the wing and the stick is 1.5 mm, the width of the wing-part connected to the stick is 3 mm. The diameter of the highest circle formed by the bodies of the snakes is 7mm, the diameter of the central circle is 5mm, the one of the lowest is 3mm.

symbol standing for the Customs and Finance Guard. From the beginning of the 1990's the Mercurius stick is surrounded from above by the red-white-green tricolour of the flag of the country and from below the inscription Vám-és Pénzügyőrség (Customs and Finance Guard) can be read.

The Mercurius-stick is used by several Central-Eastern European customs administration beside our organization.

**Guardia di Finanza**  
**-Italy-**

by Sergio Leuci



The present Guardia di Finanza's Coat of Arms dates back to 1988, when the President of the Republic, by decree dated 6<sup>th</sup> August, authorised the new layout, in substitution of the former, upon request by the Commanding General.

The coat of arms, headed by a towered crown, typical of Military Bodies, features a winged gryphon seated on hind legs in profile, with a fore leg on a coffer symbolising the

The shield is enriched, on the sides and in the lower part, with emblems representing the Civil and Military Honour decorations and rewards.

Under the shield, on a golden strip and in capitals, is the Corps' motto: NEC RECISA RECEDIT. It is a sentence by the poet Gabriele D'Annunzio, meaning the will, peculiar characteristic of the Corps' personnel, to achieve their ends, even when heavily hit.

**Customs Administration**  
**- Ireland**

by Paddy Ryan



A stringed harp is the heraldic symbol of all Government Departments in Ireland. This includes the Office of the Revenue Commissioners, part of which is our Customs & Excise Service. The harp is used on all stationery and on the caps of Customs uniforms.

The harp was first introduced as the arms of Ireland in the early 1700s. It continued to be used until the Act of Union in 1801 when the Irish Parliament was abolished and the country was ruled directly by the

bends of the snakes became archader...  
the political...  
converted...

on the right side, and the blue sea, rippled by silver waves, on the left side. These elements - sky, mountain and sea represent the various environmental scenarios of the Corps' activity.

country. It is also registered with the International Bureau, Berne, which gives exclusive use of it outside its own jurisdiction. The harp used as our heraldic symbol is based on the Brian Boru



College, Dublin. Brian Boru was King of Munster, one of the four Irish provinces, in the 11th century when Norse and Viking invaders were beginning to feel at home here. Although married to a Dane, Brian Boru waged war against them. This culminated in the Battle of Clontarf where the Irish were victorious but Brian was killed.

# Revenue



Along with the harp, the Irish Revenue logo is the Gates of Justice, one of the entrances to Dublin Castle. For centuries, Dublin Castle was the centre of the British Administration in Ireland. While parts of it date from 12th century, the bulk of its buildings are 18th century Georgian style. After independence, Dublin Castle was put to various uses. These included the headquarters for both the newly formed Police Force (An Garda Síochána) and the Revenue Commissioners. The Gates of Justice on our logo symbolises that justice will be evenly balanced out to all, with no weighting in favour on anybody.

## Douane & Accisses - Luxembourg

by Jean Pierre Reuter

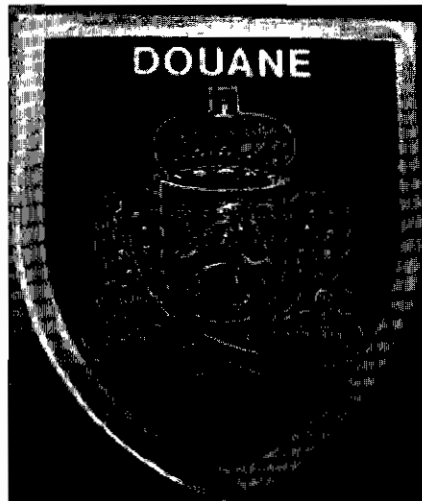


Up to 1977, there was no badge in use in the Luxembourg Customs Administration. It was only the colour of the uniform and the ranks that made the distinction between customs uniforms and other uniformed administrations like police, army and so on.

On the date of 1<sup>st</sup> January, a new uniform was introduced and the first insign of the customs administration was the badge number one on the photo.



At the end of the 80's, the insign number two was introduced to

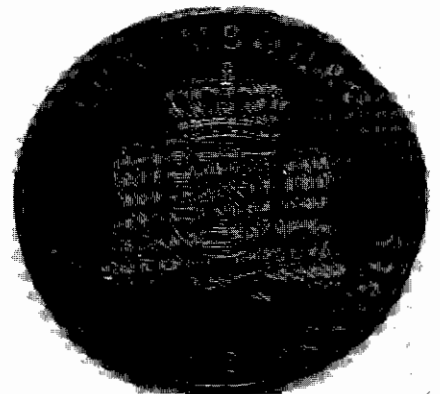


The escutcheon is topped with a silver stamped grand-ducal crown and sustained by two oak branches spread out crosswise.

Both the upper and lower part of the badge are capped with silver and capital letters almost contiguous to the escutcheon. Whereas the former part bears the inscription

« Luxembourg » the latter one reads « Douanes et Accisses »

replace the former badge. The first insign was fixed on the brest pocket itself as the new one was fixed with the button of the pocket. In 1993, with the great change for all european customs administrations, the insign number three came into use.



The differences between this and the former one was that for the first time the name of Luxembourg was marked at the the top and to the name of customs, the inscription Excise (accises) was added. This insign is still in use today even with the introduction of a new uniform on Janaury 1<sup>st</sup> 2000. Photo number four is representing the insign used for the official customs identification card.

The insignia is a badge bordered with a silver rim. Its core is engraved with an escutcheon embossed as a crowned lion bearing a contracted face whose tail is cleft and spread out crosswise.

**Toll / Customs and Excise  
- Norway**

by Jón Ágúst Eggertsson



The united kingdom of Norway and Denmark got its first Customs Act on 12<sup>th</sup> January 1632, issued by King Christian IV.

The first known Mercury Staff, along with the Neptune Trident, used by the Customs, in this Norwegian-Danish kingdom, is on the "København's Toldkammer" (The Copenhagen Customs House) in



1735. The first known usage of this symbol by Norwegian Customs, is on a Customs badge from 1815 (see Fig.1) which at that time was the only means for a Customs Officer to identify himself with. Customs Officers didn't have uniforms before 1847. In the first Norwegian Customs Officers uniform regulation of 15<sup>th</sup> May 1847, it is stated that the

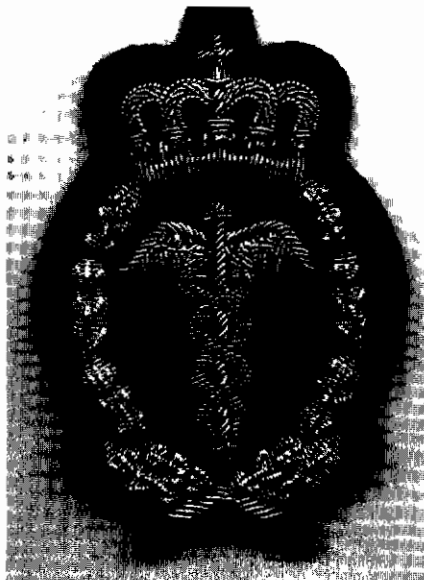
highest-ranking officers should have the Mercury Staff embroidered on the jacket collar (see Fig.2). This time without the Neptune Trident. It has been indicated that the Norwegian

government was by this trying to emphasise its independence, by not using the same symbols as Denmark. But we still see those same symbols on Customs badges from 1848 and 1905, so that can hardly be the case.

In the uniform regulation of 1906 (a year after Norway's independence) the Mercury Staff is no longer a part of the uniform, and seems to disappear as a symbol for the Customs. It is replaced by the king's monogram (H.M. Code of Arms).

It wasn't until 1999, that the Directorate of Customs and Excise decided to take the Mercury Staff as its emblem, and thus "reinstating" an old and dignified symbol for the Customs (see Fig.3)

The "new" logo (symbol) is a modernised version of Mercury Staff, with the Norwegian kings Crown on top, taken from the king's monogram, and the word "TOLL" (Customs) beneath. This has also



been taken up as an emblem on the uniform caps (see Fig.4). The new logo is to symbolise that the Customs is an old establishment in the society, with a history dating back hundreds of years.

**Invoerrechten en Accijnzen  
- Netherlands**



The present emblem of the Dutch Customs is based on the Dutch national coat of arms. Two varieties of the emblem are used in the organisation: one is the emblem on the uniforms of customs' officers, the other the sign used on the front of customs' offices. Both varieties date back almost 200 years and have their origin in the same national coat of arms.

From the day the first significant tax bill was passed, the 'General Bill of 1822, on the duties on import, export and transport, as well as on excises', all Dutch customs' offices were obliged to display the national coat of arms 'in a conspicuous site over the door of the house where office was being held'. The coat of arms thus served as a sign that taxes were collected there in name of the King. These cast-iron signs were made in accordance with the directives in the 1815 Royal Resolution of King William I.



The provision to display the big, cast-iron national coat of arms applied until approx. 1965. Since then it has been allowed to use

smaller enamelled plates, on which the national coat of arms is placed against a black background. Such plates can still be found on the facades of Dutch customs' offices.

In The Netherlands the national coat of arms is also the royal coat of arms, based on the coat of arms of the House of Nassau, which has a golden, crowned lion rising up on a blue surface with golden rectangles. In addition to this the national coat of arms has a bundle of arrows as a symbol of unity and a sword as an emblem of justice. Later on two lions were added as holders of the shield. The device 'Je maintiendrai' ('I will maintain') was the war-cry of the Princes of Orange.

It is the crowned rising lion with the sword and the bundle of arrows which is still in use as the emblem on the uniforms of Dutch customs' officials, for instance on their caps.

### Alfandega - Portugal

by Dr. Christina Pimentel.



The actual symbol of the Portuguese Customs was issued by decree of the Ministry of Finances in 14 June 1965 and has the following heraldic description:

Shield – featuring the colours and the heraldic symbols of the coat of arms of the Portuguese State; set down over the armillary sphere;  
 Armillary Sphere from D. Manuel's period – gold and black  
 Star – with five extremities and coloured in white;  
 Cogwheel – coloured in blue;  
 Stock of anchor – in gold;

Caduceus – a stick of laurel tree or olive tree, around which there are two interweave serpents, and on top two golden wings;

Thicket – of oak leaves (left side) and laurel tree leaves (right side) in gold;

Badge – on a white strip, placed over the shield and other heraldic symbols, there is the word "ALFÂNDEGA" in blue.

Symbology:

Armillary Sphere – symbolises the Universe, whose centre is supposed to be planet Earth. This was the badge of King D. Manuel I (1469-1521) and aims at recollecting the Portuguese Discoveries;

The five extremities star represents the "long way to go" and is for a long time the official badge of the Customs House's inspectors;

The cogwheel, the caduceus and the stock of anchor symbolise in general terms the functions of the Customs House;

The thicket symbolise:

Of oak leaves – the "strength" of the Institution

Of laurel tree laves – the "triumph and glory" of the Institution

The colours symbolise:

Gold – nobility and strength in the fulfilment of one's duties;

Blue – symbolises zeal, loyalty and justice in the fulfilment of one's duties

Red – effort and strength in the fulfilment of one's duties;

White – symbolises peace and tenacity.

### Tullverket - Sweden

by Rickard Bengtsson

The lion is the most frequent animal in the world of coat of arms. Generally speaking, it is said to symbolise the good qualities of courage, strength, generosity etc. The heraldic lion is usually depicted upright, always side-face, looking forward.

The Customs is one of the oldest civil service departments in Sweden. Hence it also has traditions within the field of symbols. The crowned heraldic lion appears

for the first time on some department seals in the middle of the 17th century.

However, there is no royal Resolution or the like, of more ancient date that entitles the Customs to use a crowned lion as its symbol. In Sweden the crowned lion is associated with the royal power and the national coat of arms. It was King Magnus Ladulås (1276-1290) who put the crown on the head of the upright lion. Why did just the Customs achieve this symbol? Maybe because the collection of customs duties went back to early mediaeval times and because this important way of taxation was early a regale, i.e. was practised by the King as a privilege.

However, the Customs symbol of today - the crowned, upright lion with a portcullis - is of a more recent date. It was introduced in the beginning of the 1970's. Today it is so established that the identity of the customs authority is associated with it. The symbol also creates a sense of affinity among the customs employees. This is important within an organisation partly associated with uniformed exercise of authority, partly spread all over the country.





## The Customs Museum of the Czech Customs Administration

The Czech customs museum is situated in the Central Customs Training Centre in Jíloviště, 15 km from the centre of Prague. During the last 10 years all collections in hands of the Czech Customs Administration were moved to this customs school and the museum was established subsequently. There are currently over 2000 paper articles and about 400 other objects in the collections of the museum documenting the activities of customs authorities from the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century until the recent history. So far the museum has not been opened for public. Only the employees of the customs service have a direct access to it. However, on request, the Czech Customs Administration is happy to ensure that also other people can access the collections. Those who often visit the customs museum are mainly students and other academic representatives of universities.

## New location for the Danish Customs- and Taxation Museum.

by Holger M. Petersen

In 1995 the Danish Customs- and Taxation administration moved to a new location, situated outside the centre of Copenhagen. The relocation meant that the administration, after the amalgamation in 1990, were housed at the same address. But it was also decided, that the new address was unsuitable for a Customs- and Taxation museum open to the public.

After several places had been under consideration, the ideal situation for a Customs- and Taxation Museum was found in 1999. The environment is the old Freeport of Copenhagen, close to the very popular Langelinie Mole (Long Line Pier) where the many cruise vessels are docking, during their visits in Copenhagen.

The building is an old warehouse

(called Dahlerups Pakhus after the Architect), built in 1895. The building is preserved as a beautiful example from that time. But before the building could be taken into use a throughout restoration was necessary, because the building had been neglected for about 25 years. On the bottom floor of this building, we have got about 400 square metres space for exhibition purposes. The greatest part of the space is approximately 4 and a half metres from floor to ceiling. And furthermore in connection to the exhibition, we have got the office of the museum. Unfortunately there is no room in this building for our workshop and depot, so we have had to move this to another address in the suburb of Copenhagen. The location for this purpose has been found in connection with the local Customs and Taxation Region.

Unfortunately there has been some problems with the otherwise very beautiful floor, because of the negligence of the building for so many years, there has been a lot of moisture in the walls and floors of the rooms, and the new floor is



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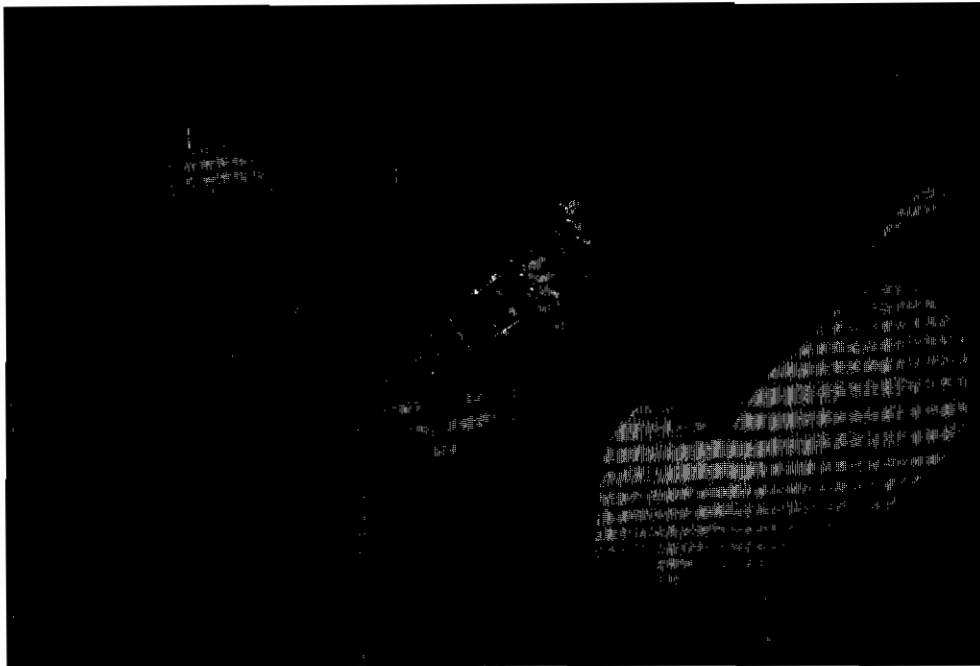
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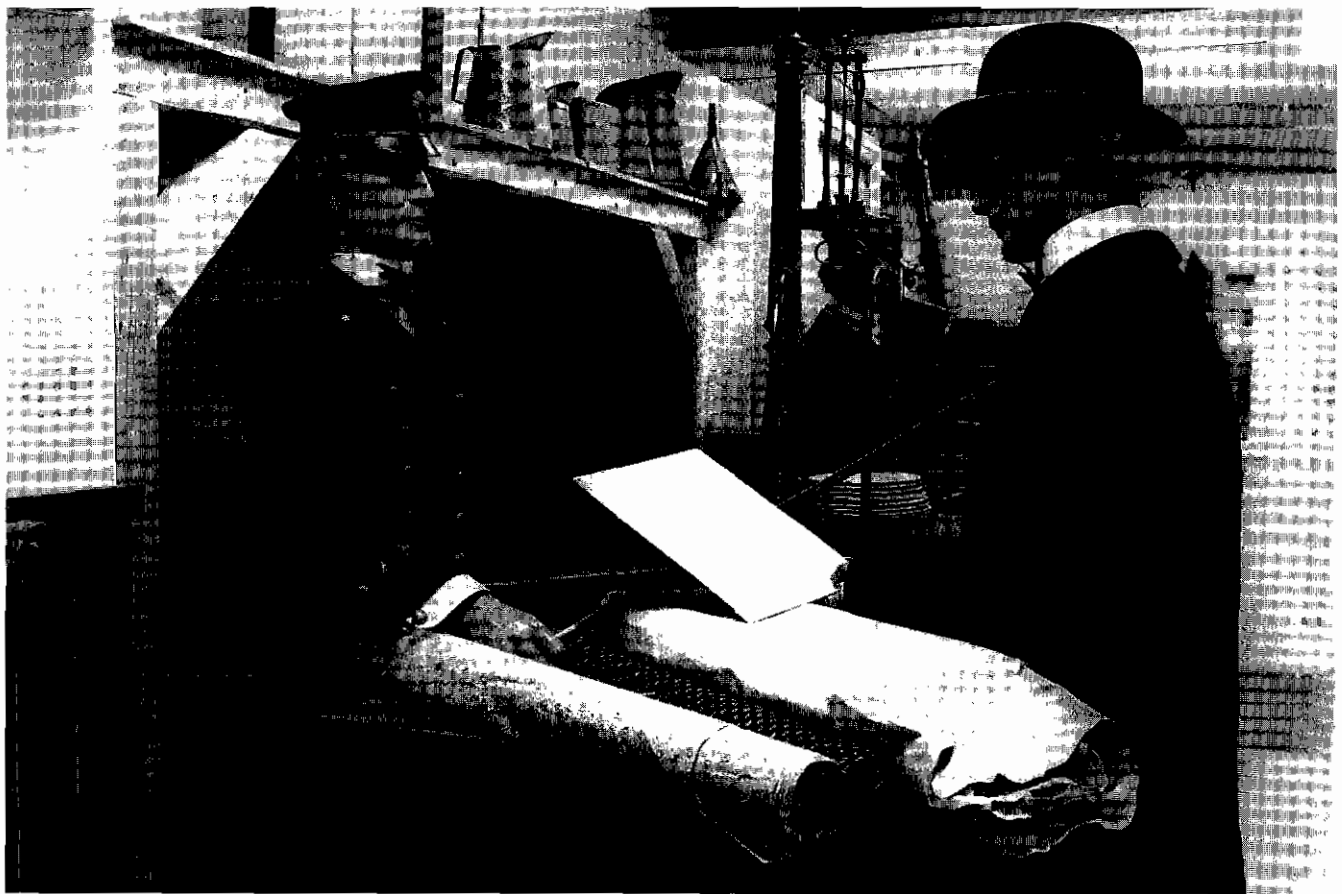
The first Customs Museum was located in the Old City in Stockholm. Between 1958 and 1999 it was located at Dalarö in the archipelago of Stockholm. The "new" museum at Alströmergatan 39 is accessible to the public Tuesday to Sunday, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., guided tours Tuesday to Friday at 1 p.m.

Illustrations:

page18: Mr. Jan Berggren welcoming the guest to the museum.  
Photo: M Linderoth, Swedish Customs.

above: A brilliant opening with a lot of music and surprises. Photo: M Linderoth, Swedish Customs.

bottom: The interiors set up at the Customs museum at Dalarö were moved completely to the "new" Customs Museum. Here is the scene showing customs examination in the warehouse, 1925. Photo: M Linderoth, Swedish Customs.



# The Host of the 9<sup>th</sup> I A C M - Conference and General Assembly 2001

## PORTO -Portugal

It was a pleasure that IACM accepted Portugal's invitation to organize the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference in the city of Oporto. We would like to, once again, thank you for trusting our organizational abilities.

The year 2001 will be a memorable year for Oporto and for Portugal, as this will be the year Oporto, already a world heritage city, becomes the European Capital of Culture.

It was not by chance that Oporto was chosen by the Portuguese Customs to be the location of a central museum with national importance. The 19<sup>th</sup> century facilities on the right bank of the river Douro, purposely built to be the headquarters of the Portuguese Northern Customs, are witness to the important role played by the maritime trade in that century's economic activities.

Important trade relations were established between Oporto and the rest of Europe, especially with the Northern European countries. The Portuguese government has been very attentive to those aspects and therefore very committed to create a customs museum in Oporto.

Meanwhile, it is vital to gather all the documents that tell the story of the trade relations from the 19<sup>th</sup> century till today, as well as all the high-quality instruments in order to show the organization and working methods used by Customs officers.

Last, but not least, all the documents and instruments will be completely "at home" in the place where the customs activities were carried out for almost 150 years.

We are anxious to welcome you at Oporto - European Capital of Culture 2001.

At the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference and General Assembly of IACM in 2001 you will certainly feel the "Customs ambience" still very perceptible at the Customs building in Oporto, where we will meet.

We are looking forward to receiving you. I'm sure you won't feel it was a waste of time.

words of the Portuguese delegates in  
Hamburg

*Transcribing the original  
text, unfortunately there  
were made some mistakes.  
Sorry !*

Appendix 1

# 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and General Assembly 2000

International Association of Customs Museums (IACM)

Place:

Hamburg - (Germany)

Date: 20<sup>th</sup> - 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2000

Accommodation:

Hotel Maritim Reichshof  
Kirchenallee 34-36  
20099 Hamburg  
Tel.: +49 (0) 40 24 83 30  
Fax.: +49 (0) 40 24 83 38 88

Place of General Assembly:

- Hotel (Salon Bellevue)

Secretariat for Conference:

Deutsches Zollmuseum  
Alter Wandrahm 16  
20457 Hamburg  
Tel.: +49 (0) 40 33 97 6 310  
Fax.: +49 (0) 40 33 97 6 389

Conference Secretary:

Arnes Petrick

Agenda:

Time	Wednesday, 20 <sup>th</sup> of September 2000
> 16.00	Check in at Hotel "MARITIM Reichshof" - Registration & - First meeting
1700 - 1730	walk from Hotel to German Customs Museum
1730 - 1800	Welcome and opening;
1800 - 1830	- welcome words by - Mr. Bente (chief - german customs museum) - Mrs. Ds. Peeperkorn van Donselaar (president of IACM)
1830 - 1900	Lecture: "History of the German Customs Union" by Mr. Petrick
1900 - 1945	- small buffet
1945 - 2100	- guided tours in the exhibition & archive
Open end	- free time -

Time	Thursday, 21 <sup>st</sup> of September 2000
0800 - 0900	Breakfast
0900 - 1100	Conference (in Hotel)
0900 - 0910	- opening by the president
0910 - 0920	- report of treasurer

0920 - 0930	- report of the executive secretary
0930 - 1030	- "ICOM"
	Lecture: "ICOM" (M.Périssère)
	- plenary discussion
1030 - 1100	Break (coffee / tea)
1100 - 1230	- working groups 2000 - introduction by L. Peeperkorn v. D.
	- report of the working group "homepage" J.P. Reuter - introduction of the IACM - webpage
	- new working groups: 1. "homepage" 2. "public relations / newsletter 2001" & "a customs museum; more than a showpiece?" 3. "archives III" 4. "file of multilateral customs & tax related agreements" 5. "professional ethics"
1230 - 1330	Lunch
1330 - 1500	Conference - continued - working groups
1330 - 1430	working groups -continued
1430 - 1500	working groups report plenary
1500 - 1530	Break (coffee / tea)
1530 - 1600	Walk from Hotel to town hall
1600 - 1730	Guided tour (at town hall)
1730 - 1930	Harbour cruise
1945 - 2230	Dinner
2230 - 2330	Back to the Hotel (by car)

Friday, 22 <sup>nd</sup> of September 2000	
0800 - 0900	Breakfast
0900 - 1100	Conference - continued - (in the Hotel) - General Assembly decision / conclusions / voting on -- ICOM -- Statues & Rules -- results of working groups - next conferences - miscellaneous
1100 - 1130	Break (coffee / tea)
1130 - 1215	presentations by - the portuguese delegation
- 1215	End of (official) meeting
1230 - 1400	Lunch (in Hotel)

Appendix 2

# List of Delegates

Nation	represented by	
Belgium	Ann Van Puymbroeck Marlies Van Tichelen	
Czech Republic	Angel Jan Darmonov Skallcký	
Denmark	Niels Anker Holger M. Jorgensen Bente Borg Petersen Sorensen	
France	Michèle Roland Périssère Roland Giroire	
Finland	Marie Mäkinen	
Germany	Klaus Susanne Bente Arnes Mehrkühler Petrick	
Hungary	László Köpf Gabor Bocso	
Italy	St Luciano Carta Sergio Leuci Fabio Mendella Massimo	
Ireland	Paddy Ryan	
Luxembourg	Henri Nimax Jean Pierre Reuter	
Norway	Jón Ágúst Eggertsson	
Netherlands	Loes A. Peeperkorn Geert Van Donselaar Pieter Nieman Wim Van Houten Van Es	
Portugal	Cristina Pimentel Maria de Lurdes Domingos	
Sweden	Rickard Bengtsson	
United Kingdom	Karen Bradbury Julia Bryan	
not present this year:		
Austria	Ferdinand G. Hampl	
United Kingdom	Mags Griffin	
Sweden	Sten Sandström Jan Berggren	
Portugal	Joao Abrunhosa	
Russia	Vladimir Shamakhov	
Netherlands	John Vrouwenfelder	

# 8<sup>th</sup> Annual General Assembly 2000

International Association  
of  
Customs Museums  
(IACM)



Hamburg

20<sup>th</sup> September -  
22<sup>nd</sup> September 2000