

Flash

news from ica

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Editorial

Your Programme Commission (PCOM) has been busy over the last several months, and it has been an exciting time to serve as its Chair. Eight months into the job I can say that the Commission is providing effective stewardship of the programme funding that you as ICA members have allocated to us through your Executive Board. I believe the outlook for the Commission's future work is bright. My assessment is based on the following.

First and foremost are the people. The members of the Programme Commission (www.ica.org/en/node/39013) are smart, industrious, and creative individuals who are known throughout the archival world for their professionalism. In addition, we have had excellent support from David Leitch, ICA Secretary General and the ICA staff. In particular I wish to thank Christine Martinez, Executive Director, Programme for her invaluable work, and the French National Archival Directorate for transferring Christine to the Secretariat. Finally, I am grateful to Mary Ann Hadyka for her excellent assistance, and to the U.S. National Archives (NARA) for making her support possible.

There are other reasons for my optimism. The Executive Board has allocated approximately 90,000 Euros to PCOM to fund ICA projects. This funding is crucial to PCOM's ability to contribute to the ICA Programme. To ensure that this money is wisely spent, PCOM has developed and publicized funding criteria that align closely with ICA's Strategic Plan objectives. PCOM

has also produced written procedures for

proposal applications and reporting, as well as internal operating protocols that stress timely actions, accountability, and transparency.

The recent project grant cycle - our first since the 2008 KL Congress - also helps to explain my optimism. We had an excellent batch of project proposals. Solid staff work and communication (including the great new PCOM wiki) on the part of the Secretariat helped the Commission prepare for the Montevideo meeting in March. Our host, Alicia Casas de Barran, Director of the Archivo General de la Nación of Uruguay and her staff provided PCOM with excellent support. PCOM members worked long hours with a strong sense of commitment to our mission to get the job done with a high level of professionalism. We funded seventeen proposals and allocated approximately 56,000 Euros. Finally we evaluated the grant cycle, identifying what worked and how we can improve.

Despite our progress in the past eight months, much work lies ahead. We need to clarify some of the proposal evaluation criteria, develop for prospective applicants a succinct definition of a "project", and refine the proposal application form. We also must do follow up work with funded projects on a regular basis and prepare for a second call for proposals to be issued by late June.

In conclusion it has been an exciting challenge to Chair your Programme Commission and a pleasure to work with the PCOM members and Secretariat. I look forward to the challenges and opportunities in the months ahead.



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CITRA 2009 in Malta



PCOM in Montevideo



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Flash

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David A. Leitch

The International Council on Archives (ICA) is dedicated to the advancement of archives through international collaboration. Archives, by providing evidence of human activities and transactions, underlie the rights of individuals and states, and are fundamental to democracy and good governance. In pursuing the advancement of archives, ICA works for the protection and enhancement of the memory of the world.

Flash communicates news on ICA activities and highlights current issues in archives. It is the complement to the in-depth professional reflection, reports and debate in *Comma*.

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People

New national Archivists have been appointed:

Ghana
→ Mr F.N. AMPONG, Acting Director

Cameroon
→ Mr NGWANG Michael NGWANYI

Slovakia
→ Mr Jozef HANUS, CSc.

Ukraine
→ Ms Olga HINZBURH

Welcome

New category A and B members:

Italy
→ Fondazione Alexander Langer Stiftung

Spain
→ Coordinadora de Asociaciones de Archiveros de España (CAA)

Uruguay
→ Asociación Uruguaya de Archivólogos

Uzbekistan
→ Agency Uzarchiv under the Cabinet Ministers of the Republic of Uzbekistan

In memoriam

→ Alfred MABBS (1921-2009)
Former Keeper of Public Records, United Kingdom, 1978-1982
Former ICA Member of the Committee on Archival Development
Former Member of the ICA Executive Committee
Former ICA President, 1980-1982
Former ICA Honorary Member, elected in 1984

→ Paul SPANG (1922-2009)
Former Director of the National Archives, Luxembourg (1965-1987)

A new design for "Flash": Improving Communication in ICA



Flash is getting a new look. Raphaël Meyssan, the designer who came up with the lay-out for the newsletter, explains the principles behind the new design.

Flash is modernising in order to fulfil its role as a link and to improve communication between the members of the ICA. It has become larger, colour has made its appearance and the lay-out has been totally rethought. There will be room for large colour photographs allowing the reader to recognise the people making up the ICA. The authors of the articles and their contact details are also systematically highlighted so that Flash really can be a tool for letting individuals make connections among themselves. Graphically, bright colours punctuate the text giving the newsletter a dynamic character. While it would have been possible to transmit a particular view of archives graphically - old papers, some written in manuscript - this

would also have given a caricatured view of archives and focused attention on the archival document (which may be old), rather than on the archival profession (dedicated to the present day and always on the move). This is why a lively lay-out and colours have been chosen. The "flashing" colours appear to come from the title itself; there is a rapidity, directness, and efficacy about them which suggests not the past, but an immediate present. They are never plain, but always halfway between two colours, suggesting a delicious confection: strawberry pink, turquoise blue... The layout has moved away from that of an in-house newsletter to adopt a more

attractive magazine layout. The large headings allow for easy identification of articles at first glance while the text is punctuated by elements containing colour (the introduction, initial letters, sub-headings, author). The font is also modern and lively allowing for easy reading. So, much more than a simple update, the new Flash design brings the people who make up the ICA together more effectively and emphasises the ICA's dynamic character.



Raphaël Meyssan
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Management Commission tackles Key Challenges Facing ICA



Members of the Management Commission (MCOM) had a packed agenda to get through when they met in Abu Dhabi on 2-3 February. Thanks to the generous hospitality of Abdulla El-Reyes, Vice-President for Marketing and Promotion, and plenty of support from his staff of the National Center for Documentation and Research, they were able to work productively in a comfortable environment. At the end of two exhausting days significant progress had been made on a variety of fronts, including the following topics.

Proposed Foundation for ICA

Abdulla El Reyes put forward the concept of an ICA Foundation, based in Abu Dhabi, which would act as the marketing and promotional wing of the organization, selling ICA products and services, including consultancy and training. Associated with the Foundation would be a Centre of Excellence and an ICA Training Centre. MCOM debated this proposal extensively over the two days. All were agreed that potentially this proposal could be a bold and imagi-

native solution to ICA's long-standing difficulties in generating significant revenue, but that more information should be provided on how it would work in practice. After extensive debate, MCOM established a way forward that enables the initiative to proceed on a trial basis during 2009, while the constitutional, legal and financial implications are thoroughly explored. A special Sub-Committee of the Executive Board has been set up to oversee progress with the proposal, and it will meet for the first time in Paris on 22 May. The proposal will have to be approved by the full Executive Board, and thereafter extensive consultation with the ICA membership will take place. It is intended to submit the final version of the proposal for the approval of the AGM, ICA's sovereign body, in Malta, this November.

Commercial Opportunities

There are significant possibilities for the development of commercial activity within the existing constitution of ICA. The example of the Training Centre, run by the Association of French Archivists (which, like ICA, is a not-for-profit association under the French law of 1901) shows that significant revenue can be generated on this basis. MCOM

authorized further work to determine how far ICA could use this model.

FIDA

The International Fund for the Development of Archives has not been in operation for many years. However, a sum of over 100,000 euros has been gradually built up and it will be used to reactivate the Fund later this year. The Fund will have a strong focus on improving capacity in the developing world. MCOM approved proposals to set up a search committee to look for members of a new FIDA Board in the coming months. It is hoped to attract supporters of archives who have good links with the business world, who know a lot about fund-raising or who are influential in international organizations.

Membership Dues

The present system of calculating membership dues is generally considered to be unsatisfactory. The Executive Board in Vienna had, therefore approved a working group charged with the task of proposing a reformed system by the time of the AGM in Malta. It agreed that in principle the level of dues paid by an institution will be

based on its revenue budget. National Archives will no longer have to pay on the basis of their country's Gross National Income, which sometimes has little or no relation with the size of budget or the number of staff employed. It was also agreed that the new system would be applied on a trial basis to associations in category B in 2009. The Working Group will now develop its proposals further, seek more input from outside Europe, and consider the relationship between dues paid to ICA and those that are paid in some regional branches.

Budget 2009

MCOM approved a draft budget prepared by the Secretary General as the basis for further work. In future it will be easier to see what expenditure is available in each budget line, and how much of the total has been spent at any given point in the financial year. In line with the previous decision of the Executive Board in Vienna, it approved the allocation of 50,000 euros both to the branches and to the sections, as well as 90,000 euros to the Programme Commission.

Languages in ICA

MCOM welcomed recent initiatives by the Secretariat intended to increase the production of professional content in Spanish. However, it recognized that the situation of other major world languages, including Arabic, Chinese and Russian, also had to be taken into account. The Secretariat was asked to do further work for the development of a language policy in ICA. Meanwhile, offers from Algeria and the NCDR to produce ICA publications in Arabic have been accepted with alacrity and gratitude.

Displaced Archives

MCOM reaffirmed ICA's determination to establish a Working Group which would bring previous ICA work on the subject up to date and produce general guidelines that were realistic. It wanted to see this Group set up by the time of the Executive Board meeting in Algeria in late May.



David Leitch
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Towards a new ICA Website

A Call for Bids for the development of a new ICA website was released in English and in French on Wednesday 28 January 2009.

The dissemination of the document was as wide, open and international as possible. Almost 60 bids were received in response to the call from across the globe. Following the consultation of the ICA Secretariat and Website Committee on these bids, four companies with excellent proposals were invited to interview at the Secretariat offices in Paris.

The interviews took place on 19 March 2009. Present on the panel were members of the Secretariat and the Website Committee along with an external representative from the Association of French Archivists. The short-listed companies had half an hour to present their achievements and the solutions proposed. This was followed by a series of questions from the panel.

The companies were evaluated on the quality of their project management, communications, and problem-solving skills as much as on the technical propositions. According to our evaluation criteria, the successful company had to have the ability to meet the project requirements to a high standard and within the specified timescale. It had to show evidence of creativity and interest in creating communications tools for the international community in their previous work. It had to have excellent references from previous companies they have worked with that highlight their ability to communicate with the client as a key aspect of that project's success. It had to make the most economically advantageous bid and be a financially sound company. Before the interviews, references for the short-listed companies were collected and financial information carefully checked.

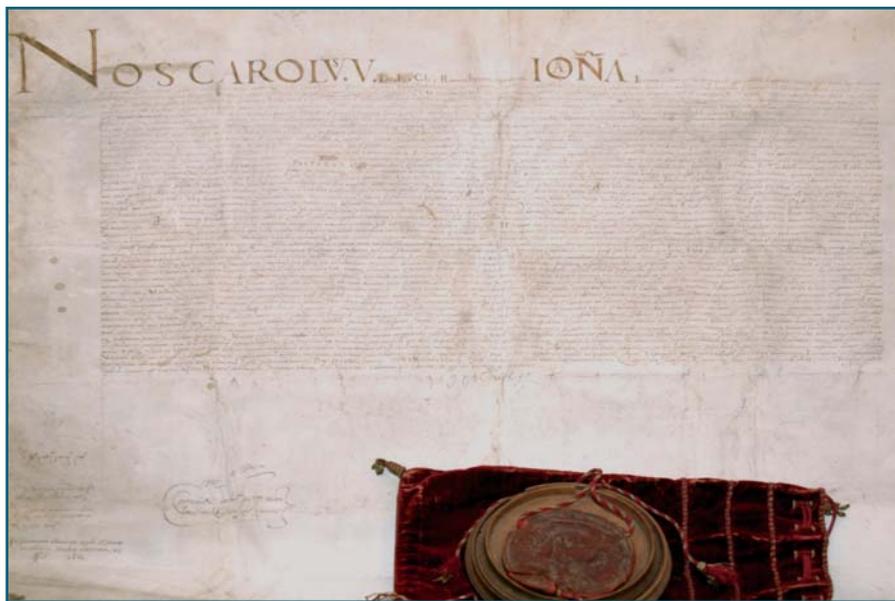
At the time of writing it is intended that a contract will be signed between ICA and the successful bidder by mid April 2009. Allowing for the completion of prior commitments by the company, work will commence in earnest on the development as soon as possible thereafter. Naomi Setchell will be responsible for managing the project and monitoring progress of the development. She will work in close collaboration with the development company, the staff of the Secretariat, members of the Website Committee and the Presidents and selected representatives from ICA sections, branches and working groups. If the selected company completes the deliverables in accordance with the approved timetable, the launch of the finished product - the new web site for which ICA members have been waiting patiently for so long - should be no later than the end of October 2009.



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Focus on the Maltese Archives

Archives provide the bedrock for our understanding of the past. They show us and future generations, how we came to be what we are as a nation, a community or an individual. They are a hidden national asset and constitute the very essence of our heritage. Malta is rich in archival holdings with Maltese notaries practising their profession and thus creating archival records way back into the 15th century. Archives in Malta are administered under different authorities and governing bodies, depending on whether they are public, ecclesiastical, or private.



The Donation of Malta to the Knights by Charles V (COURTESY OF THE NATIONAL LIBRARY, VALLETTA)

The main public archives i.e. those records created, maintained or received by institutions performing a public function, are: the National Archives, Notarial Archives, Public Registry, National Library (Archives Section), and the Department of Information (DOI) and Public Broadcasting Services (PBS) for audiovisual collections. Ecclesiastical archives are repositories administered either by the Diocese of

Malta, or by the Cathedral of Mdina, or by any other religious order. The main repositories are those of the Archiepiscopal Archives in Floriana, the Cathedral Archives in Mdina, Parish Archives, Religious orders, and the Wignacourt Museum in Rabat.

The sister island of Gozo also has very rich archival collections. The Gozo section of the National Archives was inaugurated on 24 November 1989. The

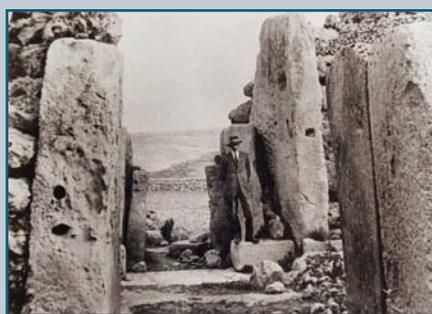
oldest Gozo entity whose records survive is the Universitas Gaudisii or medieval government of Gozo. The records of this entity date back to 1560.

Under the term private archives, we group together all those institutions whose functions are private, or whose shareholding in their administration is private. Amongst the main Maltese private institutions holding archives of national significance are the Strickland Foundation, Social

Malta at the crossroads of cultures

The strategic position of the Maltese islands in the centre of the Mediterranean gave them a typical character - that of a haven for the different civilizations. The islands have been conquered, colonised and governed by numerous rulers. The various dominations include the Phoenicians, the Carthaginians, the Romans, the Byzantines, the Normans, the Aragonese, the Knights of St John, the French and finally, the British.

What is amazing for the lover of culture and traditions is that Malta offers a cross section of 7,000 years of history. The concentration of pre-historic temples on such a small geographical location gives the place a magical touch. The oldest of the complexes is that of Ggantija on the sister island of Gozo. It dates back to circa 5,000 years B.C. Malta is also rich in archival holdings.



The Ggantija temples in Gozo (NATIONAL ARCHIVES)

When the Knights came to Malta in 1530 they brought with them 115 volumes of archives dating back to 1107. As a nation we were lucky enough that when the French took possession of Malta in 1798 the archives of the Knights remained in Malta. Nowadays, these holdings are treasured amongst the various cultural artefacts on the islands.

The colourful history of Malta is reflected in the architecture, monuments, and museums. The old fortified city of Mdina

called the Silent City provides visitors with breathtaking views. Valletta is the capital city built by the Knights and adorned by places worth visiting. Pride of place must go to the magnificent St John's Co-Cathedral. This is the place where Caravaggio's masterpiece, The Beheading of St John is admired by thousands of visitors. Other attractions are the Upper Barrakka Gardens, and the Manoel Theatre, commissioned by Grand Master Antonio Manuel de Vilhena more than 300 years ago.

Malta got its Independence from Great Britain on 21 September 1964. This political achievement gave an impetus to the economy and cultural life of the nation. Notwithstanding the small population of just 400,000 inhabitants the islands are a pot-pourri of cultures. Visited by more than one million tourists annually, and home for a number of English language teaching schools, the place is vibrant all year long. This interaction is facilitated by widespread

Action Movement, Commercial Banks, Political Parties, Chamber of Commerce and the *Times of Malta*.

A particularly important document is the "Cantilena" by Peter Caxaro. This is the first literary text in the Maltese language discovered till now. It was found on one of the end pages after the notarial deeds of Notary Don Brandano Caxaro. Its importance derives from the fact that it is a poem written in Maltese dating back to 1533-36.

The main holdings date back several centuries. The National Archives hold records going back to (1530*), the Notarial Archives (1465), the National Library (1107), the Public Registry (1863), the Law Courts (1900), Church Archives (c. 15th Century), and Private Archives (1296). In order to bring together archival cultural heritage into a sort of one-stop shop for the general public, the idea of creating a virtual archives started gaining ground. The ultimate aim is to provide the Maltese/European public with easier access to the richness of Maltese archives. To this end the National Archives of Malta is establishing an on-line national register of archives. It is also participating in the APENet project which aims at developing the European Archives Gateway.

* In brackets represent the approximate dates of the first documents held in a particular archive



The entrance to the old city of Mdina (JOSEPH AMODIO)

fluency in Maltese and English, both official languages of Malta.

On 1 May 2004 Malta made another step in its political history when it joined the European Union. It also prides itself on the role it plays within Commonwealth, and as a bridge of collaboration and dialogue between Europe and North Africa.



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CITRA 2009 in Malta: What's new?

The next International Conference of the Round Table on Archives (CITRA) will take place on November 17 to 21 in the Intercontinental Hotel, located in the heart of the lively area of Saint Julians.

After the usual meetings of ICA working groups, sections, branches and governance bodies, the participants will devote two days on 18-19 November to the theme:

"Imagining the twenty first century archivist: new strategies for education and training".

These two days will be divided into four plenary sessions during which various speakers will express their reflections and suggestions. The plenary sessions will be followed by parallel sessions composed of workshops, debates and discussion groups on the same topics. It will be an opportunity for all participants to share with the audience their point of view, experience and expectations.

The ICA General Meeting will take place on Friday November 20.

Our host is organizing two professional visits which will give the participants the opportunity to discover different facets of the Maltese archival heritage.

On Wednesday November 18 the participants will go to the National Archives of Malta. Located in Rabat, a city located a few minutes from Valetta, this institution preserves fifteen linear kilometres of documents about the history of Malta. This trip will be followed by a visit on foot in the very beautiful neighbouring town of Mdina, a magnificent urban jewel with a very unique atmosphere.

On Saturday 21 November, the participants will go to the National Library of Malta, in the heart of Valetta. This institution preserves the records of the Knights of Malta. The documents preserved show the importance of this Order of Knights which played a role in history of the island between 1530 and 1798. This visit will be followed by a tour through the colourful streets of Valetta. This fascinating city, founded 28 March 1566, is full of beautiful monuments.

The draft program of CITRA 2009 will be available soon online.



View of Carmelite Church from the Legal Documentation Section, Mdina (KEVIN CASHA)



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CITRA Secretary
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CITRA 2009: Malta 17-21 November
Hôtel Intercontinental, Saint Julians, Malta
www.malta.intercontinental.com (Booking will be available when CITRA registration opens.)

A PCOM Dream: from Projects to a Programme

The PCOM meeting in Montevideo was a “première” from several points of view. As we have already underlined, South America for first time hosted a major ICA meeting, and three languages were used by the participants (French, English, and Spanish).



First call for projects, first assessment: PCOM tested the process it had defined for endorsing and taking funding decisions. Thirty four projects were examined, from which thirty three were endorsed, and seventeen funded. From the 90,000 euros allocated to the Programme Commission to fund projects, about 56,000 were spent: the rest will be used for some projects whose funding is conditional (need for further information, reformulation of the project plan), or for new proposals that PCOM will receive after a second call, which will be launched by the end of June. PCOM members were deeply impressed by the quality of the applications, and whatever their decision was, thought that all the proposals were worthy of serious consideration. But the agenda of these two days of intensive debates was not limited to project assessment, though it could be considered as the core content of the

meeting. General issues were raised as well, from the brainstorming session on project assessment. Among these, and in the first place, the definition of a project, more precisely, of an ICA project. Though PCOM has defined criteria in the guidelines it published on the website, it appeared from some proposals that the concept of a “project” was not clear at all. One of the important criteria is whether the product of the project can benefit a region or the membership as a whole, or if the project is developed at a national or local level, and will not therefore be funded by PCOM. As a result, a clear definition of what is an ICA project has been developed.

PCOM was also convinced that detailed and accurate information should be delivered to members about the different ICA funding sources (branches and section money, FIDA, PCOM) and that the Commission should help members in choosing the right “track”.

Other issues of importance were discussed: what about the databases created by some projects? Should they be maintained and hosted by ICA? In any case, the Secretariat should be informed at a very early stage of the project... From a general point of view, the question of the sustainability of projects was not clear in a number of applications. Even in the case of excellent projects, future developments should be contemplated.

A last example: a number of countries or institutions are dealing with digitization programmes they are not able to fund. ICA should state that, in this area, it will generally fund only those proposals which are related to shared memory or displaced archives programmes, as well as seeking partners who could help. Besides the assessment of projects, it is PCOM's responsibility to develop the relevant tools which will enable project proposers to find the help they are expecting from ICA and to strengthen

PCOM Awards

This is an overview of the wide range of the proposals which were submitted to PCOM, comprising those projects which were endorsed and will be funded by the Programme Commission. The complete list of endorsed projects is available on the website (www.ica.org/en/programme). PCOM thanks all the applicants for their efforts to make the new professional programme a reality, based on a high level of expertise.

Strategic objective 1

- ▶ Marketing campaign for the promotion of the Universal declaration (SPA)
- ▶ Euronomos, a database of archival legislation in Europe (EURBICA)

▶ Description and integration of Human rights archives in the ICA Archives and Human rights database (Corporación de promoción y defensa de los derechos del Pueblo, Chile)

- ▶ Records and archives of Ivory Coast Public Treasury: memory of an administration and good governance tool (Trésor Public de la Côte d'Ivoire)
- ▶ The good governance toolkit in the francophone world (Association des archivistes français)

Strategic objective 2

- ▶ French translation of ICA standard “principles and functional requirements for records in electronic office environ-

ments” (National Archives of Australia)

Strategic objective 3

- ▶ Developing a competency model: guidelines and best practices (SPA)
- ▶ Online directory of archives and education and training resources (SAE)
- ▶ Train the trainers in records management (EURBICA)
- ▶ Postgraduate certificate in archival studies (EASTICA)
- ▶ Appraisal in Latin America (Norma Fenoglio, Universidad nacional de Córdoba, Argentina)
- ▶ Saving and promoting the archives of Radio Burkina Faso (Archives du Monde)
- ▶ PIAF resources: raising awareness

ICA expertise from the point of view of the content and of project management. For instance PCOM plans to develop an ICA experts register, and a compilation of funding sources, in relationship with the SPA's "archival solidarity programme". It also aims to develop or reinforce partnership with the relevant development and co-operation organizations, both at the regional or international level.

Clear process, good projects, appropriate tools... these could be the right ingredients to cook a good professional programme. But we also need something to thicken the sauce... and to spice up the dish to give it the ICA flavour. Creativity may be one of the spices, and inspiring projects demonstrate the relevance of key concepts which can be turned into an actual ICA programme. As an example, the twinning project proposed by SPP could become a twinning ICA programme opened to other archives institutions or associations, with its own process of application and funding support.

Obviously, our next step would be to go deeper into this reflection, and better use the incredible professional resources that you are offering to us with your projects. Can we dream of an ICA proposing to its membership, in a consistent professional framework, a range of permanent programmes supporting its core mission or co-operation? I will tell you, the members, supply the answer...



Christine Martinez

ICA Executive director
Programme, PCOM Secretary
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and training seminar for North and West French speaking Africa (Association internationale des Archives francophones)

- ▶ Emergency situations programme: a pilot project (Association of National Committees of the BlueShield)
- ▶ Best practice guide for the creation of a permanent monitoring centre for the archives of local television stations (Arxiu Nacional d'Andorra, Catalunya)

Strategic objective 4

- ▶ Twinning archives project (SPP)
- ▶ MIGAN- Memory of the Islands: gateway for archival networking (CARBICA)

Sea, Sun... And Projects: PCOM in Montevideo

For its third meeting, the Programme Commission (PCOM) met in Montevideo (Uruguay), invited by the Uruguayan authorities and the Archivo general de la Nación.



Lunch PCOM members: Dr Felipe Michelini, State Secretary for Education and Culture, Uruguay, and Lew Bellardo.

It was certainly a great opportunity for the National Archives, but even much more significant for ICA: it was indeed the first important ICA meeting in South America... and the first time in the region for the Secretary General, who took the opportunity to stop over in Argentina to visit the National Archives, where he was kindly received by José Luis Moreno's team.

The wonderful hospitality provided by Alicia Casas de Barran and her team created a comfortable and friendly working atmosphere around a busy agenda. More than 30 interesting projects presented not only by branches and sections, but also by institutions, associations, even individuals, were assessed by the Commission, shaping the core of the new ICA programme.

Taking the opportunity of the presence of Marion Beyea, chair of CBPS and member of PCOM, Alicia organized a crowded seminar on standards, at the international and national level, in the University of Montevideo. Marion was assisted in her presentation by Victor Fonseca, from the National Archives of Brazil, who also gave a presentation. José Luis Moreno, National Archivist of Argentina, and Norma Ibañez de Yegros, director of the National Archives of Paraguay, attended the seminar as well.

The last day was dedicated to a meeting of archivists from the Mercosur. Uruguay will again offer its hospitality and demonstrate its skills in organizing important meetings when its hosts the conference of the archivists of Mercosur this November. The possibility of combining activities of the Mercosur conference and of the CITRA, which will take place at the same time, perhaps through video conferencing, was enthusiastically welcomed. Exciting proposals were made to enable professionals on either side of the Atlantic to exchange ideas and information. Alicia had in store other surprises for us: a nice lunch with Dr Felipe Michelini, State Secretary for Education and Culture, who initiated the members to local politics and wines, windy evenings by the sea to refresh our brains, and an evening at the mythical Fun Fun Bar, driven by our colleague Mauricio Vázquez Bevilacqua, who encouraged us to taste the famous "uvita": a nice end to a memorable meeting...



Christine Martinez

The 8th European Conference Will Take Place in Geneva in 2010



The 8th European Archives Conference will take place in Geneva from 28 to 30 April, 2010. Designed to define the current and future challenges of the profession, the conference is being organised by the European Regional Branch (EURBICA) and the Section on Professional Associations (SPA) of the International Council on Archives (ICA) as well as by the Swiss Federal Archives.



8th European Conference on Digital Archiving
8^{ème} Conférence européenne sur l'archivage digital
8. Europäische Konferenz über digitale Archivierung

28–30 | 04 | 2010
International Conference Centre Geneva, Switzerland

The International Scientific Committee, responsible for the programme, decided to choose digital archiving as the general theme for this 8th conference. They wished to innovate by focusing on the function of archives - the archiving - and no longer on the institution. The conference programme will therefore be structured around the challenges and opportunities represented by digital archiving today.

Calling on the new generation

As part of an effort to increase the active involvement of young professionals in the

ICA's activities, the Scientific Committee decided to involve them in the development of the conference programme. To this end, the Swiss Federal Archives organised a pre-conference aimed at giving a voice to fifteen handpicked young professionals. These young people from nine European countries met for a brainstorming session in Bern on 4 and 5 September 2008.

The conference organisers feel it is important to address the new generation of archivists and to benefit from their creative potential and their ability to look at the subject from a new angle. These

young people have grown up in a "digital environment" and have a clear awareness of its impact on their profession. During two days of intensive reflection, their assignment was to lay the foundations of an attractive and innovative conference programme.

Challenges and opportunities of digital archiving

The participants of the pre-conference were first invited to identify the challenges and opportunities represented by digital archiving. Their contributions to the subject were certainly very varied

but they generally came to a consensus so that the main topics of interest for the conference could be defined.

The young professionals then put forward concrete suggestions concerning the structure of the conference, the organisation of its sessions and its potential players. They voted for a conference that would emphasize the communication of concrete experiences rather than speeches from the chair. A range of workshops, presentations, experience sharing and interactive discussions should allow the participants to explore the resources and solutions which have already been tested in Europe.

Let's roll up our sleeves!

The young professionals' main message is this: we are all aware of the challenges to be met in the field of digital archiving. However we should not content ourselves with just evoking the problems or the theories on the subject. Instead, let us discuss solutions. Those which already exist, those which are currently being implemented, and those which still have to be developed. Let us stop wallowing in complaints and let us roll up our sleeves and get down to work!

The Scientific Committee has taken note of these lively discussions and will now work on developing a conference programme to reflect their rich content. Both the subjects addressed and the variety of speeches promise a conference with high added value in terms of training, interaction and exploration.

If the above text has caught your interest, and if you wish to contribute to the next major meeting of the archival community in Europe, don't miss the call for contributions which we are launching on 1 May, 2009. You will find all further information on the conference website: www.bar.admin.ch/eca2010.

We already look forward to your contributions and to your participation at the conference!



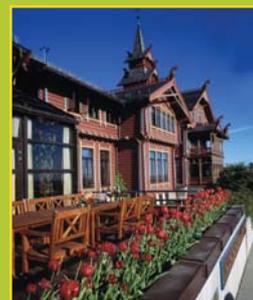
Céline Terry

Swiss Federal Archives

celine.terry@bar.admin.ch

CITRA 2010: Book the dates!

The CITRA 2010 will take place at the Holmenkollen Park Hotel Rica, Oslo (Norway), on September 13 to 18. More information will be available soon.



ICA Congress 2012 in Australia



The ICA Congress will be held in the southern hemisphere for the first time during August 2012.

The National Archives of Australia, as host institution, will welcome delegates to the city of Brisbane on the east coast of Australia.

Planning is underway to ensure that Australia 2012 will be a stimulating, informative and constructive event. The focus will be on sharing knowledge and experience and forging strong global partnerships that continue to thrive and produce tangible results over the years following the Congress.

The aim is to provide an environment that stimulates debate, encourages the exchange of ideas and experience and acknowledges the challenges that face all archives in the 21st century. Brisbane will be an ideal setting for the Congress, and it is located close to major tourist attractions for those who want to experience more of Australia during their visit. Temperatures in August range between 22-26 degrees celsius (72-79 degrees Fahrenheit).

We encourage you to visit the information site at www.naa.gov.au/whats-on/ica-2012 and start planning for ICA Australia 2012. *See you there!*

News from SPP

The Section of Archives and Archivists of Parliaments and Political Parties (SPP) was constituted on 11 September 1992 during the 12th International Congress on Archives in Montreal. Final recognition of the Section took place in 1996 at the 13th International Congress on Archives in Beijing. Worldwide, the SPP now has approximately 90 members, both institutions and individuals.

Internal Affairs

At the Plenary Session, held in Kuala Lumpur on 25 July 2008, a new Steering Committee has been elected for the term 2008/2012: This Committee comprises the following: Marietta Minotos (President), Günther Schefbeck (Vice-President), Reinhard Schreiner (Vice-President), Reinder van der Heide (Secretary), Harry Scholz (Treasurer), France Bélisle, Claus

Brügmann, Emilia Campochiaro, Kharyou Cissé, Vida Kisuniene, Włodziemrz Kucner, and Sara Tedebrand Frant. To contact these members, please go the section "Bureau" at the SPP website. Please note that the Minutes of the SPP Steering Committee Meeting in Kuala Lumpur are available online on the website as well.

SPP-President Marietta Minotos attended the last ICA/Executive Board held in Vienna on 7-10 October 2008.

Review

At the 16th International Congress on Archives held in Kuala Lumpur last year the SPP made an important contribution through participation in a workshop entitled "Archiving websites - a new challenge to archives". Contributions were made by Günther Schefbeck and Rudolf Schmitz.

New SPP activities

In the past the Steering Committee has received many complaints about a lack of communication between the bureau and the members. This issue has been followed up by the Steering Committee at its last meeting in Kuala Lumpur. It decided that two tools should be used for communication: an SPP-website containing detailed information, and an electronic Newsletter, providing members with an overview of the activities concerning the Section and the archival environment. We will have the pleasure of publishing the first edition of the SPP Newsletter in April.

Preview

In October or early November 2009 a conference will be held in Vienna, hosted by the Austrian Parliament. The topic will be "Archives and Democracy". The

A new President for SAE

The President of the Section of Archival Education and Training (SAE), Mr Larry Eiring, advised the ICA Executive Board, Vice-President, ICA Sections and SAE of his intention to resign as of Friday 13 February 2009. Larry worked very hard for SAE as President 2006-2009. Larry's efforts have been very much appreciated and the SAE is very grateful he will continue to be a member of SAE Steering Committee. Mr Geir Magnus Walderhaug, Norway, was elected as the new President of the Section of Archival Education and Training. In accepting this position, Geir Magnus said:

"Firstly I must express my gratitude for being elected as President of the SAE. I look forward to working with the section and representing the section in the ICA

community.

I am currently working as an Advisor in the Records Management and Archives administration at the University of Oslo. I was previously the head of this section but have now withdrawn to the role of "expert". For many years I was active in Nordic university cooperation as one of two Norwegian representatives of the Standing Committee of the Document and Archives Section of the Nordic Co-operation of University Administrations. We arranged bi-annual seminars for university Records Managers and Archivists.

I have been active in "Norsk Arkivråd" (Norwegian Society for Records Managers and Archivists) for ten years. Since 2002, I have been the elected officer on the Educational Board. Over the last four years we have been renewing the courses that the Society offers to members and the public; specifically focusing on educational methods and the construction of courses. I have also been instru-



mental in developing an annual "Trainer-seminar" for developing teaching methods and course content with all our trainers.

For the last ten years I have attended international seminars within this field both within the ICA community (General assembly/SUV/SAE) and other seminars within Europe.

One of my interests for the coming

chosen topic applies not only to our section, but also to participants outside SPP. The intention of this conference is to give a general introduction to the subject, against the professional background of Parliamentary and Political Party Archives. This will be followed by practical experience, i.e. launching projects to raise awareness of democratic institutions, to provide accessibility to holdings and to foster co-operation with institutions outside the archival environment.

Latest SPP-Publications

The www as a challenge and as chance for Parliamentary and Political Parties' Archives, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Rudolf Schmitz/Gunther Schefbeck (Hrsg), Beitrage aus dem Archiv der sozialen Demokratie, Heft 5. For more details see: www.spp-ica.org/publications.



Marietta Minotos
ICA/SPP Chair
minotos@karamanlis-foundation.gr

period is to delve into the relationship between education and training. We need to have a deeper understanding of how they work together and how they exist as their own disciplines.

A more immediate task is to represent SAE in the planning for the CITRA 2009 to be held in Malta, 16-21 November 2009, as the theme this year is "Imagining the twenty first century archivist: new strategies for education and training". SAE is honoured to be involved. I am also looking forward to chairing the Annual SAE Meeting which will be held in Malta on Sunday 15 November, before the main CITRA events commence.

Please contact me for any question that you have to me or the SAE. You can find me on Facebook or email me: gmgagnus@gmail.no.



Geir Magnus Walderhaug
ICA/SAE Chair
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Partial rehabilitation of the National Archives of the Congo



In the light of recent difficulties, the activities of the Central Africa Regional Branch are in the spotlight. A seminar of archivists of Kinshasa and Brazzaville is in progress but requires finance. The National Archives of the Congo were partially repaired by VODACOM-RDC, a mobile telephone company. The repairs started on 26 July 2008 and the official inauguration ceremony took place on 16 October 2008 in the presence of our Minister, Mr Esdras Kambale, and of Mr Gilbert Nkuli Yen Yengani, Deputy Director General of VODACOM-RDC (see the photo). In addition to this, the company gave us three computers. The Belgian Technical Cooperation contributed to the same batch of equipment. However, we lack the appropriate software to digitize and automate our archives.

Moreover, from 12 November 2008 to 12 February 2009, we organized a practical course in archives aimed at those in charge of public and private archive services of the capital.



A. LUMENGANESO Kiobe
Head Conservator and Director General of the National Archives of the Congo, President of CENARBICA
alumenganeso@yahoo.fr

Revival of SKR

Efforts have been underway for the past few months to revive the dormant Section of Archives of Churches and Religious Denominations (SKR). Several email exchanges have resulted in the re-establishment of communications, and a draft business plan for 2009-2010 has been developed.

I would appreciate hearing from anyone who has an interest in, or works with religious collections. We need your help to re-invigorate this Section, which represents so much of our collective history, especially if your collections hold material from outside the Christian church(es).



Kim Eberhard
Franciscan Order of Friars Minor, Holy Spirit Province
archives@franciscans.org.au

“Comma” returns to print

The *Comma* Editorial Board met in Dresden, Germany between 4-6 February, at the kind invitation of the Saxony State Archives.

There was one major decision to be made in particular: whether the journal would return to print production after four years appearing on CD-Rom, a possibility presented by the improved financial position of the ICA overall. The results of the member survey carried out in December/January demonstrated great support for print publication but of course maintaining online availability. The views of the membership were fully endorsed by the Board and CD-Rom publication will be discontinued with the first print issue due for distribution later this year. All material published in *Comma* will be available on line, and it is hoped that improvements to the ICA website will also allow easier access to individual issues of the journal as we are aware

that individual articles can sometimes be difficult to locate. (A more detailed report on the results of the survey will be posted on the website shortly.) Another related change is likely to be the formal reduction from four to two issues per year (though this will not alter the overall quantity of articles appearing); in addition the design and appearance will be updated in common with other ICA publications and the website.

Another major agenda item in Dresden was publication of the Congress proceedings. There had been a very good response to the call for papers from Kuala Lumpur and the Board had to make some difficult decisions about the content of the Congress volumes; however anything not published in print will be available on the website, providing as full a record as possible of proceedings. The Board also received reports on the progress of future individual issues of *Comma* from the Sections, Regional Branches and

CITRA. In the next two years members will be receiving special issues on Architecture and Sports Archives, along with the proceedings of Quebec CITRA (2007) and the Congress. Other special issues are in the early stages of preparation.

Finally the Board considered ways of making professional information as accessible as possible to as much of the membership as possible. We would be delighted to receive offers from individual members or professional associations willing to translate key articles from *Comma* into their own languages (as, for example, has been done for ISAD(G) and other ICA Standards) for adding to the website. Any such offers should be made to the Paris office or to the Editor-in-Chief.



Margaret Procter
Comma Editor-in-Chief
mprocter@liv.ac.uk

PARBICA Panorama



PARBICA Panorama Newsletter
Journal of the Pacific Regional Branch of the ICA
Issue 2008/3&4

Contact: John Cotton Wright,
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International Council of Archives (ICA/CBPS) is pleased to announce the release of the first edition of the (ICA-ISDF).

ICA-ISDF is available in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Romanian. It includes twenty six descriptive elements, organised into information areas. It also includes a chapter giving recommendations for establishing links between descriptions of functions and archival descriptions compliant with ICA-ISAD(G) or with authority records compliant with ICA-ISAAR(CPF). The appendix contains examples of applications in different languages.

English: www.ica.org/en/node/38665
French: www.ica.org/en/node/38666
Portuguese version (Brazil): www.ica.org/en/node/38667
Romanian version provided by the Federation of Romanian Archivists, Bogdan-Forin Popovici, Alina Theodora Negoita: www.ica.org/en/node/38919
Spanish version provided by Beatriz Franco and Abelardo Santamaria, Ministerio de Cultura de España: www.ica.org/en/node/38668

ISDF: International Standard for Describing Functions



1st Edition, developed by the Committee on Descriptive Standards, Dresden, Germany, 2007

The Committee of Best Practices and Standards of the

Training the Trainer Resource Pack



ICA Section on Archival Education and Training (ICA/SAE).
New translations for Training the Trainer Resource Pack.

SAE is proud to announce that the Training the Trainer Resource Pack, first published in English in 2006 by the Archives-Skills Consultancy, has now been translated into five languages. These are: Bahasa Indonesian, French, German, Portuguese, Spanish. Translations can be found on the ICA website at www.ica-sae.org. SAE would like to thank again all those who have been involved in the translations. It is hard work, but a significant professional development exercise for the willing volunteer ICA members who undertake the translations. The SAE welcomes other translation partners, so please contact the President, Mr Geir Magnus Walderhaug on gmagnus@getmail.no if you think your community would benefit from a translation of the Pack.