

MINUTES

AIMA Presidium, May 18-21, 2012

Location: National Museum of Rural Life, East Kilbride, South Larnarkshire, Scotland

Executive Summary

President F Sigaut called the 2012 AIMA Presidium meeting to order May 19. Ten of eleven AIMA officers and board members attended the three-day meeting at the National Museum of Rural Life.

First item: Status of Proceedings from CIMA XVI, Slobozia, Romania. Gh. Petre presented F. Sigaut with the complete bound color copy of the proceedings. The National Museum of Agriculture in Romania will publish 250–300 copies by late June for distribution to CIMA XVI attendees and AIMA members. Extra copies can be mailed to new AIMA members between now and the next Congress and will be available for sale.

Second item: Expanding AIMA. F. Sigaut and U. Nowokowska visited museums operated by the Agrarian University in Moscow, and F. Sigaut contacted staff with the National Agricultural Science Museum, in New Delhi, India, about the possibility of CIMA XVII on that continent at the facilities of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Discussion confirms the interest in expanding AIMA to new constituents, but wants to remain relevant to all. Representatives from the India institution will be invited to the Presidium in Estonia, June 26–30, 2013, to discuss possibilities for a Presidium meeting or CIMA XVII in India.

Third item: Presidium 2013: The Estonian Agriculture Museum will host the 2013 Presidium, June 26–30.

Fourth item: Philosophy of agricultural museums (role of collections compared to educational mandates). The National Museum of Agriculture of Poland will organize a conference in Poland on this topic during 2014 (the museum's 50th anniversary year). J. Maćkowiak invited AIMA to participate and to consider this an invitation to AIMA for the location and theme of CIMA XVII. The details of AIMA involvement must be worked out, but the 50th anniversary conference will not conflict with CIMA XVII if the CIMA XVII does not occur in Poland.

Fifth item: Host country for CIMA XVII, 2014: the President F. Sigaut suggested the National Agricultural Science Museum, in New Delhi, India, on the campus of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Maćkowiak believes that the AIMA statutes allow for meetings outside Europe but indicated that presidium members should visit the site to determine if the site can support a Congress. Sigaut believes that AIMA cannot grow beyond Europe if no congresses occur outside Europe. Sigaut along with two other Presidium members will visit the museum on the ICAR campus later during 2012 to determine the potential for a Congress. If successful, Sigaut will invite delegates from ICAR to Estonia and will ask them to come prepared to propose CIMA XVII for India. Thus, the final decision on CIMA XVII will be made by the Presidium in Estonia. The Polish proposal for either Presidium or Congress in Poland during 2014 will be determined at the 2013 Presidium meeting.

Sixth item: AIMA legal status. No official documents confirm AIMA's legal status so AIMA, by defacto (common law), is an "Association" but a General Assembly must make it official.

This extraordinary General Assembly can convene during the next Presidium meeting in Estonia. AIMA has a bank account, opened January 2012 (with AFMA as the professional organization vouching for AIMA's existence). R. Bourrigaud is collecting membership dues. Bourrigaud will contact ICOM to inquire if AIMA's official address can be the ICOM address. A special committee will collect written recommendations and consolidate them into amended statutes for presentation at the special General Assembly during Estonia in 2013. Deadline: December, submit to M. Dondo-Tardiff. She will consolidate and submit a draft to President Sigaut who will disseminate to Presidium.

Seventh item: AIMA website and AIMA publication index. The website (prepared by Elizabeth Sylak) is a work in progress. Please provide feedback to D. Reid. The address is: <http://www.AgricultureMuseums.org>

The AIMA publication index includes all articles published in Acta Museorum Agriculturae by the museum in Prague between 1966 through 1995 (but no publication from Italy ever appeared). The CIMA host first published a proceedings starting in 1998. The list of publications resulting from each CIMA will be on the website to clarify who published what and when. The index will be on the website, sorted by author and subject (eleven categories including museology, agricultural technology, domestic work, education, research, specialized agriculture, i.e. beekeeping, etc.). Discussion about a permanent location for the AIMA needs to be revisited at a later date, but the papers should be in a research institution/library to facilitate researcher access.

Eighth item. AIMA newsletter. AIMA should establish a newsletter for distribution regularly (two times per year) and easily distributed electronically in HTML format to a wide audience. The format will follow that of the ICOM e-newsletter. The newsletter contents will be in the language of the author's choice.

Deadline for Issue #1: June 30, 2012

Word limit: 100–300 words

Submit to: R. Bourrigaud

Contents:

AIMA Business

Short AIMA history and mission (Sigaut)

Vision of AIMA going forward (Sigaut)

Presidium Summary and NRLM-S spotlight (R. Bourrigaud and D. Dornan)

AIMA website (introducing Beth Sylak, Reid)

Romania summary of XVI CIMA Congress (including proceedings) (G. Petre)

News Articles

Zootechnic tour in Germany and France from Poland (U. Nowakowska)

Moscow tour of Sigaut and Nowakowska (F. Sigaut, U. Nowakowska)

Introducing working groups [each newsletter can feature different interests, i.e., animals in museums; collection and conservation of, i.e. bread history (Mouette Barboff), posters, corkscrews (Del Porto, D Dornan, H Baatz, AK Baatz, U Nowakowska, H Ignatowicz)]

Website and publication database (Reid).

Calendar of Events, in chronological order (100 words or less with links)

2012 preservation conference, 5–6 October, NMA- Szreniawa (J. Maćkowiak)

2013 Presidium, Estonia (M Sild; R Bourrigaud)

2014 anniversary of NMA-Szreniawa and conference (J. Maćkowiak and U.

Nowakowska)

ALHFAM Conference (Sheridan)

Rural Life Museum events/Rural & Agri History networks that exist (D Dornan, C Griffin-Kremer).

Ninth item. AIMA Working Groups. After rich discussion, Sigaut concluded that AIMA needs to:

- be aware of working groups outside AIMA
- support formation of working groups, especially those that have international context
- focus more on museology
- have time during each CIMA dedicated to working group discussion and sharing with CIMA attendees.

Tenth item. AIMA future direction. This discussion resulted in a proposed clarification of AIMA's mission. AIMA supports the collection, preservation and interpretation of agriculture and rural life, broadly defined. To that end, it facilitates communication between collectors (museum, special interest groups, and individuals), preservationists and interpreters of agriculture and rural life history worldwide. AIMA supports the exchange of ideas and solutions to issues that address the long term preservation and access to the data (living and inanimate livestock, plants; tangible and intangible heritage, archival , etc.). AIMA also supports exchange of results by researchers who use these objects (in combination, sometimes, with other historic and ethnographic sources) to gain understanding and convey the information in various ways (publications, exhibitions, programs, living history sites, museums, etc.).