AIMA Newsletter N°5 – December 2015

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- Be sure to visit the AIMA website at http://agriculturalmuseums.org/ for more information and frequent updates on subjects concerning museums of agriculture, as well as a calendar of events.
- … and send this Newsletter on to your friends to encourage them to join us in the AIMA, in its workshops, for advice, and at the CIMA 18 Congress in Estonia in 2017!

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The President’s Message – Merli Sild
These are interesting times for AIMA. Day in and day out, we welcome the challenges AIMA faces and try to do our best to meet them together with my tireless colleagues from the Executive Committee. It is not always an easy task as we are scattered around the globe, and most of our communication is virtual. Nevertheless, we represent not only our national and local museums in our daily activities, but AIMA as well, and keep in mind its potential of regional and global cooperation.

My personal agricultural heritage highlight of the recent months has been the Milan EXPO 2015 where I baked sourdough rye bread with my Estonian colleagues at the Estonian Pavilion. We went to Milan at the beginning of August, where we baked bread using 50 kg of rye flour, and thousands of visitors were able to sample products made from our national grain. There was also a rye exhibition in our pavilion. It was so popular that we were asked to come back in October! All in all, 3.4 million people visited our national pavilion (which was also awarded a silver prize for architecture).
CIMA XVIII in May 2017
“Traditions and Change – Sustainable Futures”


More information about the call for papers for CIMA XVIII will be announced in August 2016 – so stay tuned!

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Vice-President’s Message – Deb Reid

It’s an exciting time to be a member of AIMA. This newsletter indicates the work of a revitalized organization. Individual and institutional members have emerged from the economic changes of the 2000s, and have committed to an organization that exists to facilitate international communication about collecting, preserving and interpreting agricultural history. This takes on increased urgency as we have reached the mid-point of the 2010s decade. Seventy years ago, at the end of World War II, a period of stabilization began. International conversations about human rights started, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights resulted (adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 10 December 1948 in Paris). Fifty years ago AIMA began (1966) to facilitate conversations between eastern and western Europe. AIMA welcomed individuals and institutions from anywhere in the world to sustain those conversations.

AIMA remains committed to facilitating communication about the role of agricultural museums in sustaining conversations about the role of agriculture in today’s world. This includes strategies to collect tangible and intangible evidence of agriculture as practiced in the past and
in the present. It involves determining the methods most effective in collecting, preserving and interpreting scientific processes and technological changes over time. But it also involves incorporating debates about agricultural practices past and present, debates that polarize people around the world. These intense conversations revolve around topics such as land ownership and use, bioengineering and its hazards, environmental degradation exacerbated by overuse of synthetic chemicals, and costs of food and fiber, to name a few. Many of these topics relate to human rights itemized in the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, specifically related to ideas of freedom from want, freedom to provide for human comfort, and freedom to attain economic prosperity.

What can AIMA do fifty years after it began to continue the dialog about the value of agricultural museums? It seems that AIMA must continue to function, and to take advantage of new means to increase its membership and sustain its geographic representation. This will start with inclusion of PayPal on the AIMA website to facilitate dues payments, and it continues with regular Executive Committee meetings in conjunction with meetings that address issues within the purview of agricultural museums (the role of living animals and traditional plants in agricultural museums’ educational programs, scheduled for May 13-15, 2016 in Szreniawa, Poland, for instance) and triennial Congresses that include multi-national panels on museum issues. It continues between meetings with “networks of practice” that encourage communication about museum practice on topics such as working animals, fiber plants, bread, art in agriculture, and digital media.

Share the potential of AIMA by forwarding the website link to others you believe might be interested in being involved and informed: http://agriculturalmuseums.org; and forward this newsletter. Join a network of practice or a formal conference or mark your calendar for the 18th congress (June 2017 in Tartu, Estonia). See you soon,
Debra A. Reid, AIMA 1st Vice-President, dareid@eiu.edu;

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Thanks to all the AIMA members and friends who have enriched this issue with their contributions.
There has been so much enthusiasm that we are bringing out a second winter Newsletter in January 2016!

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Executive Committee Meeting
3-5 July, 2015, at MERL
The Museum of English Rural Life in Reading, England

Our hosts, Isabel Hughes, Ollie Douglas and Kate Arnold-Forster, Director of MERL

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

As is becoming an AIMA tradition, this meeting was action-packed, all the more so that some Executive Committee members had to overcome impressive obstacles just to get to the meeting, due to strikes by asylum-seekers in Calais, not to mention the equally astounding summer heat that brought health woes to many travelers. Once settled into the comfortable and highly efficient setting of the MERL, the members made some changes – firstly, to give up on the old term “praesidium” and adopt for good the name “executive committee”, to augur a more open future. See the summary at the end in Annex.

Deb Reid and Kerry-Leigh Burchill

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING 2016

The 2016 Executive Committee Meeting will be held on the 11th and 12th of May, immediately before the International Colloquium “Animal Keeping and Traditional Plant Cultivation in Museum Education” in Szreniawa, Poland, at the National Museum of Agriculture and Food Industry (13-15 May). See the colloquium description below in the Members’ Events section. The preliminary program can be downloaded at http://agriculturalmuseums.org/coloquia-aima-partners/ and more details with the registration form will soon be available.
“Our Country Lives”
MERL Redevelopment Program

Isabel Hughes, Curator of Collections & Engagement at the Museum of English Rural Life (MERL) gave a presentation on the aims of the Museum’s redevelopment project, *Our Country Lives*, focusing particularly on developments since the beginning of 2015. The capital works to enlarge the footprint of the MERL were well underway with new spaces in the introductory area, in the main body of the galleries in order to create better visitor flow and at the rear where a new gallery space was under construction which would enable the Museum to display large textiles for the first time in a space with controlled lighting. The 9 gallery themes had been firmed up and each now has a key message with sub-themes below it. For example, for Gallery 2, *A Year on the Farm*, the key message is ‘The food we buy and when we buy it is related to the work and decisions of producers, which are affected by the seasons.’ Gallery 3, *Town and Country* has the key message ‘Rural and urban areas of England are, and always have been, inextricably connected and dependent on each other.’ They have been designed to introduce the non-specialist, including young adults and urban dwellers, to the key issues traditionally faced by rural people including farmers. In many cases they represent contemporary concerns about farming and the countryside. The redevelopment project continues through 2016 with the museum relaunched during the summer.

Isabel Hughes i.m.hughes@reading.ac.uk

Piret Hion, Merli Sild and Ollie Douglas in the MERL reserves
Visit to the CEDAR
University of Reading’s Centre for Dairy Research

Professor Chris Reynolds with a report cutting-edge dairy science research. Check out this research at [https://www.reading.ac.uk/apd/staff/c-k-reynolds.aspx](https://www.reading.ac.uk/apd/staff/c-k-reynolds.aspx)

Dave Humphries showing us how that research is applied to the dairy herd at the CEDAR. Visit the Centre at [http://www.reading.ac.uk/apd/staff/d-j-humphries.aspx](http://www.reading.ac.uk/apd/staff/d-j-humphries.aspx)

The executive committee made a visit to the University of Reading’s Centre for Dairy Research (CEDAR) in Shinfield which is home to a herd of over 500 milk-producing cows. Professor Chris Reynolds gave a presentation on the work of CEDAR and food-related research currently being undertaken at the University. This includes work on food chain nutrition from animal derived foods and how saturated fatty acids in the food chain can be reduced by altering milk fat consumption. The Centre is also involved in research looking at ruminant animal production and the environment, with a focus on measuring methane production and identifying methods of reducing it through changes in diet and digestion. The hands-on application of this research was thoroughly demonstrated to us by Dave Humphries during our sunshine-drenched visit to the dairy farm!

Isabel Hughes [i.m.hughes@reading.ac.uk](mailto:i.m.hughes@reading.ac.uk)

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Our Country Lives: Nutrition, Health and Rural England

This is a programme at the heart of the MERL’s efforts for communication to the public of the issues involved in present-day agriculture, underwritten by funding from the Wellcome Trust, renowned for improving health through science, research and engagement with society.

The goals comprise building greater links with biomedical science, connecting to current research challenges, creating innovative routes into collections and fresh platforms for public engagement, as well as opening new dialogues with science experts. Among the positive outcomes expected from this dialogue will be the enhancement of exhibits at the MERL, added momentum in creating new programmes, and most especially an effective link-up with the University of Reading’s research strategies over the next ten years on the food-environment-health triad, with special attention to values perceived by the public as paramount: heritage, creativity, prosperity and resilience in the face of coming challenges.

Particular themes will be highlighted to connect the museum with its research partners, including “A Year on the Farm: extending the apple season”, in collaboration with the National Fruit Collection. “Town & country: dairy to doorstep to human health” will highlight research on reducing saturated fats in milk products. “Forces for Change: harvest for 21st-century food” will be based on the
University’s involvement in the Rothamstead wheat trials. The Hugh Sinclair archives in the collections will be utilized to contribute to the theme of “Producing omega-3 fats in plants”. More on all this in upcoming issues of the AIMA Newsletter.
Oliver Douglas o.a.douglas@reading.ac.uk

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AIMA – Past and Future
Ted Collins tells us about the beginnings and the stakes involved today

Ted Collins regaled us with his wit and his acute sense for the threads leading from the AIMA’s early days – when he was organizing meetings as a monoglot English-speaker for an audience that spoke a host of any other languages – to the stakes he sees involved today.

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Excursion to Chiltern Open Air Museum

Our last afternoon was spent in a series of delights. First, the countryside, rather Shire-like, for those who are familiar with *The Hobbit*, but also the surprising architecture to be found in town and village, for example, the combination of stone and flint, often in checkerboard patterns, that call out to the eye for attention. Once arrived at the Chiltern Open Air Museum, we were swept up by Sue Shave’s boundless enthusiasm to make the handsome gardens and reconstructed buildings better known to the public. The many volunteers who gathered to help were as informative as the events were action-packed – there was a re-enactment of a mediaval sword and club combat, as well as a demonstration on medieval poop (excrement) disposal, both of which especially charmed all the children (and we were lucky enough to
have three of them with us as expert visitors). The reconstructed buildings run from an Iron Age hut, quite cosy-looking, to handsome metal “conveniences” (public toilets) with gas lighting that the museum is duly proud to have, it being among the finest surviving examples of its kind, set in the manicured gardens. This is where visitors can see how to “spend a penny” (go to the toilet) or understand the expression “the penny dropped” (you suddenly realized something). Of course, the museum folk are proud of their varied collection of farm machinery, implements and tools, as well as their buildings and the details that make them stand out, such as the anti-rat saddle stones or pillars under the barns and hay ricks, the cruck barn and the testimony to once-important farm activities typical of the area, such as the impressive cherry ladders and photographs of the frenetic activity at cherry-picking times in the past. Discover it for yourself at http://www.coam.org.uk/

Cozette Griffin-Kremer

Visiting the Chiltern Open Air Museum with the next generation

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News about Agriculture

UN Climate Change Meeting
Paris, 30 November-11 December 2015
The 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference, Conference of the Parties (COP 21) was in Paris from November 30 to December 11, 2015, and is the 11th session of the Meeting of the Parties to the 1997 Kyoto Protocol. The conference objective is to achieve a legally binding and universal agreement on climate, from all the nations of the world. (For further information -> https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2015_United_Nations_Clim ate_Change_Conference)

The French Ministry of Agriculture has proposed a new approach to climate change challenges that is called the “4 per 1000 Initiative”. For more information on this, see http://frenchfoodintheus.org/2285. The obvious worry of critics of the Initiative is that it might get governments and businesses off the hook as regards being pro-active about other measures to counter climate change. The following is an extract from an article accessible at http://frenchfoodintheus.org/2285.

4 per 1000: a New Program for Carbon Sequestration in Agriculture

Agriculture can and must be part of the solution to climate change. The French Minister of Agriculture and the Ambassador for Paris Climate 2015 emphasized this imperative at a conference that took place in Paris in April, 2015, during which they introduced the carbon sequestration program for agriculture called “4 per 1000.”

This program aims to adapt agricultural practices with the goal of storing carbon more efficiently in the soil. According to work done by the the French National Institute for Agronomic Research (INRA), an annual increase of “4 per thousand” (0.4%) each year of organic matter in soil would be enough to compensate for the global emissions of greenhouse gases entirely. Indeed, soil is a veritable reservoir for carbon; it contains 2.6 times more carbon than the atmosphere thanks to plants that siphon carbon from the air and deposit it into the soil once dead. But through most agricultural practices, the soil lets its stock of carbon escape into the air. On average, cultivated soils around the world have lost 50 to 70% of their initial carbon stock, but certain agricultural practices can reverse this trend, fostering carbon-rich soils that will in turn be better suited for production. This program could reconcile food security and climate change.

The major recommendations include: reducing chemical fertilizer use by more accurately predicting crop yields; using legumes during crop rotations to capture nitrogen as a natural fertilizer; developing no-till practices to retain carbon in the soil; planting more cover crops instead of leaving fields fallow; promoting increasing tree-planting; improving grassland management by prolonging pasture seasons; reducing methane and nitrogen emissions from cattle through diet improvement; retaining methane through methane digesters; reducing fossil fuel on farms through better insulation and climate control of livestock buildings and greenhouses.

Note: The issues surrounding SOILS have been taken up elsewhere over recent years. See our Resources section below for more information available to download online.

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The National Museum of Agriculture and Food Industry in Szreniawa invites you to the conference on “Animal Keeping and Traditional Plant Cultivation in Museum Education”, which will be held on 13, 14, 15 May 2016 in the conference hall of Szreniawa’s manor house. The main conference proceedings will be on 13 and 14 May and on 15 May, there is the Pentecost educational open-air shows with presentations of working farm animals in everyday life and historic rituals of a Polish village.

The conference is organized in cooperation with the International Association of Agricultural Museums (AIMA), the National Heritage Board of Poland and the Association of Open Air Museums in Poland. The main goal of the conference is to create an international experience exchange forum and a basis for good museum practices.

Our main attention will focus on 7 thematic fields in which papers and presentations will be delivered:

1. Farm Animal Keeping and Traditional Plant Cultivation in a Context of Agricultural and Related Museum Education Missions
2. Shows of Animal Use and Plant Cultivation in Association with Phenology of Field Work Cadence as a Complement to Permanent Exhibitions
3. Forms, Methods and Contents of Museum Education with the Use of Farm Animals and Cultivation in a Context of Specific Audience Groups
4. Animals and Agriculture in an Ethnographic Context (Customs and Rituals in Traditional Field Works)
5. Popularization and Spreading of Domestic Breeds and Plant Varieties
6. Museum Farm as a Pattern of Traditional Breeding Systems and Cultivation which can be Useful for Modern Eco-Farms
7. Farm Animal Behaviourism in a Context of Using Animals in Education

Dr. Jan Maćkowiak, Director of the National Museum of Agriculture and Food Industry in Szreniawa. Contact person: Marianna Czerwińska, Adjunct Curator, Rural and Agricultural Heritage Research Department, E-mail: litoral.marianna@gmail.com Tel. +48 6181097 80
Bring us your uniquely decorated gingerbread house for your chance to win a special prize! All gingerbread houses will be displayed and judged during our Holiday Programming from December 26th to January 3rd. Visitors will be voting for their favourite house and the top three winners will each receive a special prize. Your houses will be judged on creativity and overall look and only one house per family can be accepted – no larger than 18 in x 18 in x 18 in (45 cm x 45 cm x 45 cm), please. You can take part in this contest for free, but all participants are required to fill out an entry form. Check out our website and contact us at: http://cafmuseum.technoscience.ca/en/whats-on/gingerbread-house-contest.php or for further information, telephone Jamie Reardon at 613-230-2770 ext. 2006.
From photography to azulejo (decorative tiles)
People, monuments and landscape of Portugal in the first half of the 20th century

Jose Luis Mingote Calderón, Keeper at the Museo Nacional de Antropología in Madrid sent us this announcement for an exhibit opening in Oporto, Portugal.

The Museu Nacional de Soares dos Reis, in Oporto, will have an exhibit that elucidates the relationship between Portuguese azulejos (decorative tilework) in the first half of the 20th century with the photographs they were based upon. In this iconography, and its clearly nationalistic intentions, we find many pictures of country people presented as “the very epitome of the people”. Curated by Jose Luis Mingote Calderón. 10 December 2015-28 February 2016, followed by exhibits in Lisbon, Valencia and Madrid in 2016.

Jose Luis Mingote Calderon jluis.mingote@mecd.es

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Documenting transhumance at the Jærmuseet in Nærø, Norway

An old shepherd and his dogs, a helper and more than 4,000 sheep following

Every year, 40,000 sheep are transported from the lowland near the coastline of southwestern Norway, to the highlands in the mountain area. This tradition started 200 years ago. The tradition has changed, but still, shepherds take care of the sheep during the summer. Jaermuseet has started documenting their work, and this project will be finished by December 2016.

Målfrid Snørteland Maalfrid.Snoerteland@jaermuseet.no
National Museum of Rural Life, Kittochside, Scotland

AIMA members will recall that this venue was paramount in the AIMA relaunch, when then director Duncan Dornan kindly invited us for the May 2012 Executive Committee meeting.

At the National Museum of Rural Life, in Kittochside, visitor figures continue to grow as the appeal of the museum and its working farm bring in repeat visitors as well as new audiences. The livestock which from the start in 2002 included Ayrshire cattle, blackface sheep, pigs and hens, now also boasts an Aberdeen Angus beef herd. For the non-veggie visitor this beef is served in the museum café! The hens’ eggs are now sold in the museum shop and the milk goes into the food chain. We are not yet serving up suckling pigs though! The farm is operated in a 1950s style so our livestock have the best of both worlds, the more natural experience of life on a farm and yet, if and when necessary, access to 21st-century medical care.

This year we fitted a new milking line. Still just about within the 1950s period, its introduction means the stockperson no longer has to physically man-handle the very heavy milk churns. The visitors still get an authentic experience and the stockperson’s back is protected against injury! Visit at http://www.nms.ac.uk/national-museum-of-rural-life/ Elaine Edwards, E.Edwards@nms.ac.uk

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Fall Field Report from Howell Living History Farm, Titusville, New Jersey, USA

Howell Farm is a 130-acre county-operated park that presents the agriculture and lifestyle that was common in much of New Jersey at the turn of the 20th century. Dozens of field and transportation operations are used to farm the 50 tillable acres where corn, oats, wheat and hay are raised using horse-drawn equipment representative of the 1890-1910 period. Historical breeds of pigs, sheep and chickens are also raised, giving the park's 65,000 annual visitors opportunities to see an older kind of production system where an integrated mix of crop and livestock operations served the family's needs while supplying food and fiber to an increasingly non-agrarian population.

2015 was a good year for our historical farming operations. An exceptionally cold winter enabled us to put 10 tons of good ice in the icehouse before snow arrived and altered the pond surface. Maple sugaring season was excellent, yielding 85 gallons of grade A, fancy syrup. Good spring weather enabled us to plant clover, potatoes and corn on time. During the late spring and summer, we filled the haymow with first and second cuttings of good timothy hay and orchard grass. Nearly all of the related work was done 'in period' using tools and techniques reflective of the times we interpret. Most importantly, all was done in a way that enabled the public and school children to watch and participate.

During the farm's September plowing match, teamsters from nearby New York and Pennsylvania competed for trophies and ribbons while helping Howell farmers prepare fields for a fall planting. Hundreds of visitors watched and participated in the annual event, which began in 1984 when the farm first opened to the public.

A crop of winter rye is now flourishing in the field where the match took place, thanks to the expert work of Howell's historic farming staff, who were aided by 6 good draft horses. The farmers also plowed and planted winter wheat and spelt, harrowed off the harvested potato field, and took a crop of late hay before beginning the task of harvesting 5 acres of corn by hand. As of this writing, the latter work is still underway, and the weather remains favorable.

In the cornfield where school children learn about farming by helping with harvest operations, the ears are so high on the stalks that 4th and 5th graders [note: children aged 9-10 years old] can barely reach them ... making them (and us) wonder if what the old farmer said was right. "Do you think it's nature's way of protecting seeds from deep snow?" we ask the students.

As farmers who cultivate fields with tools and techniques that keep us very close to the earth, and who are in theory tuned to its cycles, we can only say that if the old-timer was right, 2016 will be a good year for sleigh rides. But like all farmers, we're prepared for whatever comes.

Pete Watson pwatson@howellfarm.org
Spotlight: “Stars” from Members’ Collections

Kranjič – Painted beehive panels from the Slovene Ethnographic Museum

Records from as early as the 13th century mention domestic beekeeping in Slovene areas, and by the 18th century it became exceptionally widespread, as honey was the only sweetener used. The first teacher of beekeeping in Vienna, a Slovene named Anton Janša (1734 – 1773), created a special type of beehive kranjič – elongated, rectangular hives of various sizes, made from linden or poplar wood. Prosperous farmers, the rural gentry and presbyteries asked simple, mostly self-taught artists to make oil paintings on the front panels of beehives which were then put in apiaries. The main purpose of these paintings was to help beekeepers to distinguish the beehives and also symbolically placed the beehives under protection of the saints depicted.
Painted beehive panels are a folk art genre and the only artistic genre which features numerous secular figurative motifs as well as moralistic and satirical themes. During the period they were popular, that is from the mid-18th century to the First World War, over 50,000 panels were painted.

The images are mainly figurative and include over 600 different themes, a good half of which are religious, showing scenes from the Old and New Testament and images of saints. Among the secular motifs, the following stand out: animals in human roles, scenes ridiculing women’s weaknesses and relations between the sexes, or that of tailors and shoemakers, scenes in inns, military and exotic images, etc.

The genre developed its own painting style and it is also the richest European collection of paintings with figurative motifs produced by lower social classes. The paintings are precious testimony to the cultural needs, world views, and creative power of the rural population.

Today, painted beehive panels are among the most popular Slovene souvenirs and also frequently serve as decoration in Slovene homes.

Barbara Sosić, barbara.sosic@etno-muzej.si Slovene Ethnographic Museum at http://www.etno-muzej.si/en/node/35574

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Words and things: écouenne (in French)

The écouenne – a.k.a. the crocodile

Great contacts can be made online and in e-mails, but little can replace shoulder-rubbing and the discoveries made during meetings to visit museums and collections. The FDMA44 (French Loire-Atlantique département Federation of Agricultural Museums) gave the AFMA members a grand tour of just some of their associated museums, one of which had the tool described here on display in its outdoors “workshops”. AIMA member Daniel Verdier spotted it immediately and wrote up this note to see if other countries have a similar tool to compare with examples typical of this work in France.
An écouenne, is also called a crocodile in the cutlery trade. This picture is of Etienne Issard, a fourth-generation knife-maker in the town of Thiers, France, using an écouenne on the stand called a sauterelle (“grasshopper”), held in a vice at the foot. This tool is typical of the Thiernoise region and was used to work horn or ivory for knife handles. The excess material fell off in strips or chips, but I do not know it to have been used for anything after that.

Daniel Verdier, d.verdier@outils-passion.com, http://www.outils-passion.com/

Note: The Trésor de la langue française proposes a second spelling with écouane (feminine) for a file also used by cabinet-makers, fancy turnery (including chessboard-making), and coin-adjusting, and the term was also applied to the plane used by armorer. The word may well have a long history, as the TLF notes it is first attested in 1344 and would come from the Latin (unattested) *scofina, a dialect form in Osco-Umbrian scobina (attested) for file or rasp, and derived from the verb scabere for “to plane”. CGK. See the TLF at http://atilf.atilf.fr/dendien/scripts/tlfiv5/search.exe?23;s=3810324750;cat=2;m=%82couenne; If AIMA Newsletter readers have any ideas about the corresponding term/s in other languages, please let us know! Cozette Griffin-Kremer griffin.kremer@wanadoo.fr

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Networking with AIMA’s friends: a world of diversity and common interests

ALHFAM (Association of Living History, Farming and Agricultural Museums)

AIMA President Merli Sild explaining rye bread-baking to ALHFAM members, including Judy Sheridan at right

Join ALHFAM in Baton Rouge in June 2016
The Association for Living History, Farm & Agricultural Museums will meet in Baton Rouge, Louisiana from June 12 through 16, 2016. The conference will be hosted by Louisiana State University Rural Life Museum and the theme is Commemoration, Preservation, and Education. The conference will bring together directors, curators, interpreters, researchers and educators from around the world. Registration materials will be available in spring 2016 and the registration will be $400.00 US. ALHFAM will be introducing a new, updated website by the end of 2015 that will make information and registration easier. A highlight of the conference will be a day in New Orleans. All AIMA members are invited to attend.

Judith Sheridan sheridan@orwell.net and check out the ALHFAM website at http://www.alhfam.org/

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EXARC: Goals and perspectives for Experimental archaeology and archaeological open-air museums

One of the most fruitful aspects of AIMA’s work is meeting friends, and EXARC, in the person of its Director, Roeland Paardekooper and other members, has been among the most helpful contributors to exchange, for advice and general encouragement. His question of “how are we different or do we share common interests?” is one that extends to all our invited guests in the networking web.

Roundtable / Friday 11 – Sunday, 13 March 2016, Leiden (The Netherlands).
More than ever, EXARC is being reformed into a networking organisation. It was only five years ago that we started with individual membership, and now we have over 100 persons who are members. Also, over these five years we have gotten about four times as large. What are the present goals and perspectives for experimental archaeology and archaeological open-air museums? What is happening in the States, in Asia or elsewhere? What new cooperation projects can we start up? What other organisations should be EXARCs good friends, where are we different or do we share interests?

Roeland Paardekooper, r.p.paardekooper@exarc.net, website: www.exarc.net
ICOM Paris Annual International Meeting June 2015
AIMA President Merli Sild and Secretary General Cozette Griffin-Kremer attended this large international meeting in Paris. We both felt the networking was very good. We were seated with other affiliate groups who are not ICOM members, since the ICOM requires more than 50% of all an organization’s members to join officially. Our President, Merli Sild, presented AIMA very effectively in under 3 minutes! and we also networked with people in the parallel session meetings, ably assisted by the very helpful ICOM administrative staff.

The plenary session papers were headed up by special guest, Dr. Jean-Pierre Changeux, a world-renowned neurobiologist, who spoke about neuroscience research on artistic creation as it relates to museums’ diverse missions. ICOM President Dr. Hans-Martin Hinz traced the birth of the ICOM in the aftermath of WWII, when heritage sites and collections in Europe and Asia were devastated. The ICOM was part of the strategy to re-establish the museum as intercultural dialogue and reconciliation ground, an orientation that has now been extended to the Southern Hemisphere and all developing countries, and given particular urgency in light of recent heritage destruction. There was a friendly competition between Kyoto and Cincinnati for election as venue for ICOM 2019 International, which Kyoto won. (NB there will be 200 travel grants available for congress participants who qualify.) Needless to say, there was a call for ICOM and UNESCO to work together more closely.

Many technical points were brought up in the parallel sessions for the International Committees: possible ICOM financing to help ICs, providing a “toolkit” for best methodologies, such as banking procedures for international associations and affiliated groups, support for websites. Participants noted they often do not understand what ICOM membership entails and that none of the points discussed apply to affiliates, although 39% of ICOM membership is in the ICs (a historically stable figure). Another point particularly stressed is the widespread worry that paper archives on museum and association history are disappearing at an alarming rate, whereas ICOM has been very slow to take up this question.

Now, just a few highlights from plenary papers. Mark O’Neill of Glasgow Life Museum recalled that the older ICOM definitions of museum were outdated and that they should now include the mission of helping the public understand the flood of novelties circulating worldwide. He recalled that museums also provide a healing space, that ideals of “meaning-making” often overlook the “dark mirrors” of environmental damage, inequality and increasing social violence. This was followed by his call to continue to represent non-market values that enhance local belonging alongside better
understanding of globalization, a viewpoint widely evoked in other presentations and in informal discussions.

Dora Peters spoke on ICOM membership, with about 35,000 members representing €3,000,000 in dues and a geographical breakdown of annual membership increase in relation to ICOM membership percentage with Asia/Pacific at +14% (4% of ICOM membership), Africa -7% (1%), Europe +6% (81%), North America +6% (6%), Latin America +1% (5%). She noted that a few countries have resigned, due to financial stress and that there is a fund to help those in dire straits, for example for Haiti, also that many museums join for only one year and then pull out (some 3500 on average). Per Rekdal, President of the WOG (Working Group on Governance) noted that the definition of a museum was still a thorny problem, that members’ rights and proper procedures were often a major issue and that the ICOM needed a thorough statutory review. Attendees also stressed that all official languages should be translated in meetings and Mr. Rekdal promised they would do better in future. Michael Ryan noted the problems with helping members with strategic plans: the need for standard formatting and a minimum of peer review to aim for greater recognition of ICOM, which in turn should be bolder in its advocacy of heritage, in its professionalism and requirements for both ethical conduct and encouragement of more collegial criticism. Peter Keller of SAREC spoke on the ICOM budget, which received a 5% increase for 2015, especially promoting grants to young professionals to attend meetings (average €1800), and the need to help applicants of unsuccessful project candidacies to achieve greater efficiency.

Attendees also noted that the higher ICOM hierarchy members were only resident in ICOM for a short time in a career path and that this was not an effective contribution to continuity in policy and action. Some called for a redefinition of the ICs (International Committees) and for new guidelines on action, as well as applying standard benchmarking techniques against an agreed “best performer” series so that applicants can access “model” methods. These more bureaucratic concerns were somewhat cast in the shadow by Corinne Wegener’s (DRTF Disaster Relief Task Force) description of intentional direct and collateral damage to heritage, as well as the problem of getting accurate information on any situation in a war zone, then the moral challenge of whether publicity does or does not help protect monuments and collections. She spoke of the “new normal”, when cultural targets are quite useful for terrorists and recommended expanding the 1954 Hague Convention for heritage protection to pro-active lists of vulnerable sites, along with intensive training for museum personnel in emergency packing, transport and subsequent damage repair.

This was followed by individual presentations of affiliates. Dr. Jan Carstensen, Director of the Detmold Open Air Museum DE, is the President of the AEOM (Association of European Open Air Museums) and outlined its objectives, membership at around 100 museums with some 50,000,000 visitors per year annually. They meet every two years and concentrate on house and building research in the Skansen tradition, but a novelty is their garden heritage and landrace emphasis, as well as the objective of increasing relevance leading up to their 50th anniversary in 2016. There were calls to include among best practices how to make museums fun for the public and find new ways to tell their stories and a reminder that museums of every kind should be looking for ways to converge with the UN’s sustainable development goals in their architecture, energy use and programming with extra help for very small countries, and better support for colleagues under pressure in such places as the UAE or Ukraine. There was also a call for debate over whether architecture museums, for example, should
try to remain as they often are: small and independent, or belong to larger groupings for better advocacy. There is a Federation of International Human Rights Museums (FIHRM) based in Liverpool that wants to network more extensively with other groups.

There was a time out for the two friendly contenders for the ICOM 2019 International meeting to present their candidacies – Cincinnati and Kyoto – with some interesting “keywords”: producing meaning to create change, explaining the real by using the real, museums as cultural hubs and the future of tradition. The 2018 world congress theme chosen was “museums and the digital world”, while the 2017 theme will be “museums and hard history” (including genocide, dictatorships, etc.). The ICOM 3-9 July 2016 International Congress will be in Milan, Italy, with some 4000 participants expected.

The ICOM publishes extensive literature including their special reports (for example, Heritage in Danger, Best Practices) and the ICOM journal Museum International, as well as the International Journal of Heritage to which they warmly invite submission of papers.

We have pursued follow-up contacts with Rebecca Bailey, RCAHMS (Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland), who is interested in networking on vernacular buildings of AIMA members or friends; Jan Carstensen, AEOM (Association of European Open Air Museums) President, especially interested in live animals in museums (landraces) and gardening in museums; Tito Chan, Senior Membership Officer ICOM who is especially interested in the AIMA’s history; Catherine Cole, Secretary General, CAM (Commonwealth Association of Museums), on networking on art works in CAM and AIMA member museums; Teresa Medici, VICARTE (Vidro e ceramic para as artes), GLASS Glass Arts Association, who is interested in networking over glassware collections in AIMA member museums or among collectors.

The Monday evening reception in the Louvre was preceded by a highly mediatized series of pleas for heritage protection by international experts and a televised interview with the French Minister of Culture, Fleur Pellerin.

Cozette Griffin-Kremer
griffin.kremer@wanadoo.fr;

Please check out the ICOM notice on AIMA: http://icom.museum/the-committees/affiliated-organisations/affiliated-organisation/international-association-of-agricultural-museums/

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Challenges for Tomorrow

Among the perspectives former President François Sigaut saw for the AIMA, the most pertinent challenge was to welcome new members from beyond Europe, North America and Japan, some of whom may have well established museums and depth of experience. Others launch museums in the face of daunting obstacles. Can the AIMA help?

The experience of a regional museum in the Anti-Atlas in Morocco

The Amtoudi Museum of Popular Traditions opened its doors in February of 2014. Its creator, Lahoucine Bouffi, a 34-year-old oasis Berber is deeply attached to his roots and lives in the foothills of the southern, pre-Saharan Anti-Atlas in western Morocco, in the village of ld Aïssa. Lahoucine is a member of the Amtoudi in the Aït Harbil tribe, some 100 km east of Guelmim and has been an enthusiast of ancestral culture for years, at first interested in the region’s prehistory, when he began collecting lithic tools and collaborating with archaeologists, with whom he has co-signed articles. Later on, he began collecting contemporary everyday objects linked to the lifeways he saw disappearing before his eyes, be they of stone, earthenware, wood, metal, leather or wool. Today, some of them are no longer used in his own world. Alongside his collecting activities, Lahoucine fine-honed his educational skills by helping foreign visitors discover his region, often creating lasting ties of friendship with them during the well thought-out trekking expeditions he led. He used his relationship with transhumant pastoralists in the area and his knowledge of the desert, its fauna and rock art sites – he has discovered several himself – to introduce visitors to the old ways of the Berbers.

Thanks to the fact he had a traditional family house overlooking the wadi and no longer lived in, the idea came to him over the years of using it to keep and present his collections, which include cooking utensils, basketwork, various woven materials, silver and amber jewelry, pre- and proto-historic knapped stones (with a handsome arrowhead collection) and, according to some of his archaeologist friends, one of the oldest ceramic pieces from North Africa, which they estimate to be 4500 years old, discovered during his prospecting sorties.

Amtoudi has some tourist business during the year, “Monsieur Georges” inn being able to host them, if they come that far. However, if tourists are happy to visit the village and its surroundings on foot, they do not always go on to the museum, especially if their time there is short. Some of them do, and even come back again, so Lahoucine works hard to see how he can renew his collections and the activities on offer, to encourage them to come again. This means visitor numbers fluctuate highly and visits are usually on request. Of course, the funding problem is acute, since it costs him more than it brings in. How can he envision some kind of permanent set-up, if that would require a salaried employee? In the beginning, he wanted to
encourage the villagers to participate in the project by demonstrating techniques, preparing local dishes for tasting sessions and so on, especially for the high points of local festivities associated with the agricultural cycle – that is, to create a real “living museum” in the old house through a community effort. This proved to be easier to say than to do: how would he compensate his actors, arrange events at times they could come, and especially, keep them interested in the project? On top of this, damage caused by the torrential rains last February have made restoration work imperative. In spite of these challenges, Lahoucine’s enthusiasm is intact and he is already planning ways to make his collection and its home still more rich and welcoming.

Christophe Belzgaou, UMR 7041 — ArScAn, Université Paris 10-Paris Ouest christophe_belzgaou@icloud.com

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Working groups
Bread and Animals in Museums

The website of Les Civilisations du Pain [http://civipain.hypotheses.org/] (Civilizations of Bread: bread from Antiquity to today, diversity of skills and utensils) is being managed by Pedro Augusto, computer expert at the Museu Nacional de Etnologia in Lisbon (to replace Elisabeth de Pablo). The Musée de la boulangerie of Bonnieux, France, has sent in its collections relating to bread-making, as has the Museu Etnográfico of Madeira. Other museums, such as the Museu Etnográfico of Torrão, Museu Nacional de Etnologia in Lisbon, the Museu do pão e do vinho of Alijó, and the museums of Mafra and Campo Maior, also intend to centralize their bread-making collections with the Association and there are more weblinks on the site to articles, museums and videos supplied by Christian Zewen. A new scientific committee including academics, researchers, museums and bread-making (cereal grains, flour, bread, etc.) specialists will soon be set up. Madame Isabelle Dufour-Ferry (Chargée de mission, Cultures-Territoires ruraux/Rural Cultures-Territories), whom we met in the Marseille CIMA in November 2014 has provided very useful contacts and the updated

BREAD Working Group
The website of Les Civilisations du Pain [http://civipain.hypotheses.org/] (Civilizations of Bread: bread from Antiquity to today, diversity of skills and utensils) is being managed by Pedro Augusto, computer expert at the Museu Nacional de Etnologia in Lisbon (to replace Elisabeth de Pablo). The Musée de la boulangerie of Bonnieux, France, has sent in its collections relating to bread-making, as has the Museu Etnográfico of Madeira. Other museums, such as the Museu Etnográfico of Torrão, Museu Nacional de Etnologia in Lisbon, the Museu do pão e do vinho of Alijó, and the museums of Mafra and Campo Maior, also intend to centralize their bread-making collections with the Association and there are more weblinks on the site to articles, museums and videos supplied by Christian Zewen. A new scientific committee including academics, researchers, museums and bread-making (cereal grains, flour, bread, etc.) specialists will soon be set up. Madame Isabelle Dufour-Ferry (Chargée de mission, Cultures-Territoires ruraux/Rural Cultures-Territories), whom we met in the Marseille CIMA in November 2014 has provided very useful contacts and the updated
website will enable better networking with the sixty some Bread Museums in Europe, many of whose collections are flagged up on the site (for example the Brasov Museum). Please send your photos, videos, texts on bread, mills, ovens, bread festivals, and other events, to us or tell us about any weblinks that should be included on the website.

Mouette Barboff, mouette.barboff@wanadoo.fr / Les Civilisations du Pain http://civipain.hypotheses.org/

Note that Mouette's award-winning book on bread, PAINS d’hier et d’aujourd’hui (BREAD of yesterday and today) is a classic resource work on the splendid variety of bread.

Mouette Barboff, Photography Marc Dantan. PAINS d’hier et d’aujourd’hui (BREAD of yesterday and today). 144 pp., text, recipes, color photographs. Paris, Editions Hoëbeke, 2006. ISBN 2-84230-261-3. Winner of the 2006 Gourmand Award for Best Book on Bread. If the baguette is emblematic of French bread, still, each region, town or village has its own local bread. Criss-crossing France, the traveler will discover breads closely linked to local gastronomy and products. The way they are made is intimately associated with legends, myths and traditions… This savoir-faire is interwoven with a real passion on the part of today’s master bakers. The wealth of shapes and contents, the way the dough is worked, the enthusiastic testimony from bakers describing their recipes, all this gives the book an unparalleled joyous, as well as a documentary, dimension. Today, we see a return to larger bread loaves as well as those flavoured with condiments: spices, grains, vegetables, fruit or cheese are used in loaves typical of cities or their surrounding countryside. They reflect new trends that match the needs of customers who are always in a hurry, but ever more demanding in their search for an art de vivre that blends tradition and modernity. (Translated from back cover CGK)

Rye Bread, Yesterday and Today DVD

The Estonian Agricultural Museum, Pargi 4, Ülenurme vald, 61714 Tartumaa epm@epm.ee www.epm.ee
This 20-minute subtitled DVD traces the entire sequence of rye bread-making, from sowing to baking, from traditional methods to modern factory bread, including photo and film archives of processes such as broadcast sowing, beating off, threshing, kneading, baking and enjoying! There is also information on development of the Sangaste variety that became emblematic of popular taste allied to genetic research. Join the demonstrators and public at the Estonian National Agricultural Museum to share in the pleasures of rye bread. Contact staff through Merli Sild merli.sild@epm.ee

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**Animals in Museums Working Group**

Contacts:
**Survey** “Animals in Museums” write to Pierre Del Porto at pierre.delporto@gmail.com
**Colloquium** “Animal Keeping and Traditional Plant Cultivation in Museum Education” write to Marianna Czerwinska (for Jan Maćkowiak) at litoral.marianna@gmail.com
**Other inquiries**, write to Cozette Griffin-Kremer at griffin.kremer@wanadoo.fr

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**Photo-essay**

From Ed Schultz, Colonial Williamsburg, Williamsburg, Virginia, USA
[http://www.history.org/index.cfm](http://www.history.org/index.cfm)

Oxen - tandem hitch Duke and Dan + Pat and Mike
“Animals in Museums” Survey and Other News

The inquiry’s main objective is to find out which museums keep animals, as well as what advantages and problems are involved. Presenting live animals to museum visitors, whatever their age and expectations, attracts and stimulates exchange and fruitful involvement. Furthermore, this workshop facilitates transversal exchanges between museum leaders and outside professionals in agriculture, especially stockbreeding, as well as with local communities, opinion shapers and media. It is true that the world of animals and their environment have in recent years become a highly mediatized subject, at times subject to criticisms that can become dangerous.

Thus, we launched a fairly comprehensive inquiry in autumn 2012 (40 questions in 10 pages) to attempt to establish an observatory on the exact inventory of various types of animals kept or used in museums, mainly agricultural museums, but also institutions open to the public and keeping live animals. The inquiry also comprises questions about the practical and scientific organization of these practices, and the different methods utilized by each site to exhibit and organize animations for the public. The educational aspect of this subject is important and merits much attention and training, most notably in relation to the consequences of new rules on animal keeping and handling.

Ideas and experiences fruitful for all will come out of this inquiry and will be useful to help each museum improve its presentations and keeping techniques, as well as to valorize animal products. The questionnaire is available in French and English (1) and was initially sent out to AIMA members, as well as to other contacts. 33 reply files have been received from Algeria, Canada, Estonia, France, Germany, Hungary, Norway, Poland, the United Kingdom, and the USA.

There is no deadline and we encourage other participants to contribute to this inquiry.

Other activities initiated by this working group include the October 2013 International Colloquium at the National Museum of Agriculture and Food Industries in Szreniawa, Poland, and publication of those proceedings (2). This will be followed by the May 2016 Colloquium “Animal Keeping and Traditional Plant Cultivation in Museum Education” in Szreniawa. The working group also met during the CIMA 17 congress in Marseille, France, in November 2014 (3). Please also note the recent publication *Ethique des relations homme/animal. Pour une juste mesure* (Ethics in human/animal relations. For a measured approach (4)), put out by a working group consisting of the two Academies of Agriculture and Veterinary Sciences in France, coordinated by Prof. B. Denis, likewise President of the Société d’Ethnozootechnie, who spoke in Szreniawa and Marseille.

Pierre Del Porto, AFMA France, pierre.delporto@gmail.com

1/ On request to pierre.delporto@gmail.com and soon to be available online at www.agriculturalmuseums.org
Spotlight on Local Breeds
Jackstock Mules – a Presidential “Stomp” of Approval

This is the first in a series of articles contributed by Jeannette Beranger, of the Livestock Conservancy, http://www.livestockconservancy.org/

During the history of the development of livestock breeds in America, not many can claim its origin began with the vision of an American President. The American Mammoth Jackstock is one such breed. It was through visionaries such as George Washington who understood the growth of the new country would be dependent on using superior draft animals such as the fine working mules of Europe. At the time America did not yet possess large donkeys needed to create such desirable animals. During Washington’s presidency, the King of Spain gifted him with an Andalusian jack (a male donkey) named “Royal Gift” along with two jennets (female donkeys) of the same breed. Not long afterward, Washington’s long-time friend, the Marquis de Lafayette, sent him a jack and two jennets from the Isle of Malta. Washington bred the Maltese jack with one of the Andalusian jennets and produced a fine breeding jack he named “Compound.” When he bred this animal to horses, the outcome was exceptional work animals that were superior in their working abilities and endurance compared to oxen or horses. By the time of Washington’s death, mules produced by “Compound” sold for about $200 a piece, which in today’s dollars would be nearly $3000 each. Washington’s work with breeding mules earned him the nickname “The Father of the American Mule” and set off great interest in mules, especially in southern states such as Virginia, Kentucky, Tennessee, and others. There were many importations of large donkeys from Europe during the 1800’s. The Catalonian donkey from Spain was of primary interest to American breeders, but Poitou (from France), Majorcan (from Majorca), and Italian strains of donkeys were also used. Breeders crossbred these strains, selecting for size, soundness, and strength. The end-result was the creation of the American Mammoth Jackstock breed. A registry was created in 1888 and a second one in 1908. The two combined to create the Standard Jack and Jennet Registry (SJJR.) Today it is known as the American Mammoth Jackstock Registry. George Washington’s Mount Vernon estate still keeps and works Mammoth Jackstock mules as a testament to the work he did to create the magnificent breed on the property.
Mammoth Jacks are tall and sturdy, with substantial, thick legs and large and well-made massive heads. Their ears are one of their outstanding trademarks often measuring 33” from tip to tip. Breeders must pay close attention to size and bone in their animals. According to the American Mammoth Jackstock Registry, jacks are expected to stand no less than 14.2 hands (58”) high at the withers and at least 61 inches around the heart girth. Jennets and geldings can be no less than 14 hands (56”) and have the same heart girth as jacks. Many animals can be taller than this with weight ranging between 900 and 1,200 pounds. Young donkeys may be registered if both parents are registered stock, however, the youngsters must be re-evaluated by 5 years of age to ensure they meet the size requirements for the breed.

Numbers of American Mammoth Jackstock came to a peak in the early 20th century with an estimated five million animals in the national herd. As agriculture became more dependent on mechanized farm tools, the mule slowly lost favor on the American farm. Today The Livestock Conservancy has this breed listed as “threatened” with less than 1000 annual registrations for the breed.

I had the opportunity to encounter two exceptionally sweet Mammoth Jackstock donkeys, “Jaxon” and “Chloe,” in the fall of 2013 at the Mother Earth News Fair in Lawrence, Kansas. The animals belonged to Dwite and Mary Sharp of Paradise Ranch Adventures LLC who utilized the donkeys for trail riding and packing tours. I asked Dwite about his start with donkeys which took him back a good number of years to when he first graduated high school and began a career playing donkey basketball for the Reynolds Company in San Bernadino, California. He was hooked immediately by the personality and intelligence of these animals and has never looked back.

On his farm in Council Grove, Kansas, Mr. Sharp got his first Mammoth Jackstock donkey 12 years ago. She was originally brought in as a guardian donkey for their pack goat herd and arrived at their place pregnant. Her foal, Chloe was the first Mammoth donkey that Dwite had trained by the noted horseman, Frank Buchman, for riding. I asked what was the difference between training a horse verses a donkey and Dwite said “Donkeys are very intelligent and operate on trust and caution. Without trust you get nowhere. Buchman noted that compared to horses, donkeys have a short attention span, so training in short time spans such at 30 minutes per day will get you the best results.” By the end of 28 days of training, Buchman returned Chloe to Dwite saying “A cowboy dreams of having one truly great horse in a lifetime. Although she’s not a horse, she’s your one amazing mount of a lifetime.”

Today there are 6 Mammoth Jackstock donkeys at Paradise Ranch.
Dwite says that donkeys are very easy to keep, but the biggest mistake people make with them is feeding them too rich a diet in grains or high quality hay. “Alfalfa is a big no-no for donkeys” he remarked. The only time he feeds oats is if the animals have had a challenging workday and only then. Another mistake is in breaking donkeys for riding at too early an age. He does not start his donkeys until they are at least 4 years old. Earlier than that can cause harm to both the donkey and its rider since the animals still have not learned how to “wear their feet” to the best of their abilities. He went on to say that Mammoths that are too tall and leggy tend to be a bit clumsy as mounts and finds the ideal size for a trail donkey is around 14.5 hands.

Mr. Sharp shared his final thoughts on Mammoth Jackstock donkeys – “The greatest gift the donkey provides its rider is common sense. If the animal trusts you and decides to refuse to do something for you – take a good look around because it’s probably seeing a danger you don’t. A good donkey will take care of its rider.”

Today Dwite’s grandchildren still ride Chloe, and she’s takes very good care of them on the trail.

For more information on Mammoth Jackstock donkeys visit The Livestock Conservancy at www.livestockconservancy.org or the American Mammoth Jackstock Registry at www.amjr.us

Jeannette Beranger, Research & Technical Programs Manager, The Livestock Conservancy jberanger@albc-usa.org

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Hot off the press: Astrid Masson’s Handbook on Harnessing Cattle


Astrid uses cows and their calves in her work at the Dahlem Open Air Museum in Berlin, perhaps one of the world’s only urban museums of its kind and it is indeed “open” – the public can walk through the entire farmland section without paying any entry fee, so they often just come in to watch and learn. The book is in German, with so many illustrations it is a challenge to count them. Look for a review in the next issue of the AIMA Newsletter.

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Resources

Useful Online Information for AIMA Members

National Geographic (see online reference Our Good Earth)

Soil!


The December 2015 issue of National Geographic has a diagram on “Saving Soil” as part of its regular, ongoing feature on food and agriculture, which explains assessing soil erosion by using radionuclides (for example, Cesium-137 traces). This technology has enabled scientists and farms in five Asian countries to reduce soil erosion by 50%.

World Soil Day was December 4th in 2015 and is actively being promoted by the FAO (United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization), check out http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/world-soil-day/en/ The International Union of Soil Scientists provide many teaching tools online that could inspire museum activities, see the Global Dimension site at https://globaldimension.org.uk/calendar/event/7313. Global Dimension also has much additional teaching material on offer.

The FAO also partners in the Global Soil Project: http://www.fao.org/globalsoilpartnership/en/, where there is much specialist material available.

New Scientist has also featured detailed coverage of soil issues, such as the October 2015 article entitled Endangered earth: The secret battle to save our soils at https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg22830423-300-endangered-earth-the-secret-battle-to-save-our-soils/

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EU Prize for Cultural Heritage

The Europa Nostra EU Prize for Cultural Heritage includes such choices as rural buildings in Estonia, the Rundling Association in Germany, as well as other groups working on vernacular village structures. Be sure to check out the categories Research and Digitalization as well as Conservation at http://www.europanostra.org/news/598/?utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Winners+of+the+E+U+Prize+for+Cultural+...&utm_source=YMLP&utm_term=FULL+PRESS+RELEASE/

Contact: Elizabeth Darley e.darley@encatc.org

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Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe

In the context of sustainable development, see the Europa Nostra website Cultural Heritage Counts for Europe, as there are many topics analyzed in detail and reference to the reports brought out. http://www.encatc.org/culturalheritagecountsforeurope/project-results-demonstrate-cultural-heritage-does-count-for-europes-sustainable-development/ Both the executive (short) and full reports are available at the same weblink.

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François Sigaut website

The François Sigaut website constructed by René Bourrigaud, former AIMA Secretary General, has many references to articles in French and English relating to agriculture, but also directly to museum collections, such as “Agricultural Museums in France: Settings, series and processes” (use the search function): http://www.francois-sigaut.com/
Agronomy Vocabulary in French

Les mots de l’agriculture website for members who read French. Topics such as “fallow” (jachère) are taken up in the entries written by François Sigaut, Pierre Morlon and others on the website, see http://mots-agronomie.inra.fr/mots-agronomie.fr/index.php/Accueil or specifically for fallow: http://mots-agronomie.inra.fr/mots-agronomie.fr/index.php/Jach%C3%A8re, an especially long and developed article on a subject that remains too often poorly understood.

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Thomas Rowlinson. Ladies at Tea. (1790-95). Yale Center for British Art (collection), Wikipedia Commons

Tea, Coffee and Chocolate

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Prince Charles and small-farming

Considering his long experience as a gentleman farmer, it is no surprise to see that Prince Charles speaks out for small-farming, particularly in a visit to Transylvania in Romania, where he was invited to help judge the scything. For more, check out the BBC On Your Farm programs of August 2015: http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-33831639 (Thanks to Piret Hion for pointing out this link.)
Books and Reports


This book begins at the beginning, tracing out the events and especially the founder’s intimate conviction that a splendid museum was just waiting to be born in a sublime setting, the Weald and Downlands area in southeast England, where the public would one day enjoy and understand their built heritage. This seemed especially appropriate, as much of that heritage was being used to light a bonfire, whole historic buildings cast aside in the face of truly needed development of new build. As in many comparable movements, dismantling and reassembling were the only solutions to save both handsome and modest survivors of older lifeways, so the Skansen-like approach was duly applied, with the appurtenant attention to traditional crafts in and beside vernacular architecture, such as timber-construction carpentry, thatching, charcoal-burning or walking-stick making. All activities rapidly fed into a project privileging in-depth research on both building techniques and materials, as well as the landscapes, crafts, plants, animals and foods that make buildings a living place.

One of the museum’s most intense efforts has been promoting understanding of its environment, and the products – especially the great tradition of wood building – that come from it. This goal is especially underwritten by the presence of a designated national park. Just as research held pride of place in the museum’s policies, so did engagement from day one with the public, both expert and waiting to learn, hence the vital importance of the friends’ association and the virtual army of volunteers involved yesterday and today.

Among the W&D’s firmest commitments has been to local breeds, as well as working breeds of horses and cattle, which attracts crowds and professionals in breeding and training from all over the UK. Equally exceptional are the museum’s engagement with lifelong learning, be it in craftwork or in university-certified courses concentrating on vernacular architecture, often with the most modern of applications, which leads us to their award-winning Downland Gridshell, the first timber building of its kind constructed in the United Kingdom, which serves for events but also for the large-scale skills courses. This volume is chock full of pictures, both black and white and in color – far too many to count – and tells a story, stories, pulling no punches about the hard times as well as the triumphs of making an independent museum live and thrive, embedded in an ever-changing community of visitors and professionals determined to promote its meaning for our century, as well as to bring historical depth to enrich the lives of its visitors. CGK

This classic, known for its brevity and breadth, is often used as an introduction to the author’s specialty: historical archaeology, hence a strong focus on material culture, both of the eastern United States and, in later revision, on comparison with West Africa for his intense interest in African-American history. Deetz stressed the necessity of archaeological investigation to unearth unwritten histories of the illiterate, under-represented in both usual documentation and in museum collections – literally, things considered too small or unimportant as to merit recording. He also utilized analysis of objects such as ceramics or gravestones as a window on subtle shifts in style, a major step in seriation and acculturation studies, as well as contributing to higher standards in living history reconstructions by involving his students in re-enactments at Plimouth (Plymouth) Plantation in Massachusetts. CGK. Check out Plimouth Plantation: [https://www.plimoth.org/](https://www.plimoth.org/)

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**Annex**

Minutes of the Reading Executive Committee meeting are published in English and French, since the AIMA is registered in France.

Le compte rendu de la réunion du Comité Exécutif de l’AIMA à Reading est publié en anglais et en français, puisque les statuts de l’AIMA et son siège social sont en France.

**Summary AIMA Executive Committee Minutes**

3-5 July 2015, MERL Reading

The Museum of English Rural Life (MERL), University of Reading, England, hosted the AIMA Executive Committee 3-5 July 2015. Eleven of fourteen executive committee members participated (one virtually). Staff welcomed AIMA warmly, coordinated a symposium on capital development and institutional transformation in conjunction with the Rural Museums Network, and organized a tour of the dairy research facility at the University farm and of the Chiltern Open Air Museum. Executive Committee meetings occurred in MERL, at the farm, and at Chiltern.

Executive Committee meeting (Sild/Hion) convened at 16:31 on 3 July 2015 – Minutes: The “Summary of CIMA 17 Marseille MuCEM Executive Committee and General Assembly Meetings” appeared in *AIMA Newsletter* no. 4 (Summer 2015), pgs. 49-51. Griffin-Kremer distributed electronic files of the minutes of the
Executive Committee and of the minutes of the business meeting of the General Assembly in December 2014 as separate documents and with French translations of each. Minutes approved with the following corrections: separation of Executive Committee minutes (with French translation) from the General Assembly business meeting minutes (with translation), and that these be filed as the official records of the meetings; removal of the term “Praesidium,” replaced by “Executive Committee;” membership fees income corrected: 516.20€; and signatures on the bank account “may” be updated if a new secretary and treasurer and president are elected. The approved AIMA statutes were published on 16 November 2013 in the Journal Officiel (26 rue Desaix, 75727 Paris Cedex 15, 145e Année – N° 46, samedi 16 novembre 2013).

**Secretary’s report** (Griffin-Kremer) summarized activity since November 2014 (approved unanimously). AIMA’s legal headquarters and official postal address needs to change before 28 December 2015. COMPA (Conservatoire de l’Agriculture), Chartres-Mainvilliers, France, has been approached (Del Porto and Griffin-Kremer to coordinate). AIMA bank account signatures confirmed: Pierre Del Porto, AIMA Treasurer; Merli Sild, AIMA President; and Cozette Griffin-Kremer, AIMA Secretary as of November 2014. The Secretary encouraged collaborative work with other organizations; help with the newsletter; formation of an agricultural working group in India; and praised the active “bread” (Barboff) and “live animals in museums” working groups (Griffin-Kremer, Maćkowiak and Del Porto). **Webmaster report** (Reid): New address: http://agriculturalmuseums.org. Needs: electronic publications policy; formation of social media/digital working group. **Treasurer’s report** (Del Porto): Financial report submitted; new AIMA account created 4 June 2015 (moved out of the old AIMA-AFMA account). **Membership report** (Del Porto): List of members (names and country) 5 Nov 2014 to 3 July 2015. Discussion about procedures: Dues renewal distributed annually by Secretary; receipts sent to members by Treasurer. Discussion about policy/statutes: Reid called for separation of responsibility for dues collecting, financial reporting, and membership list maintenance. Executive Committee unanimously authorized Del Porto to secure not-for-profit status via PayPal (and to incorporate into the website to facilitate international dues payment).

**CIMA 17 report** (Del Porto): 120 people participated from 22 countries. MuCEM sponsored 6,100 Euros for hosting the conference (security and staff). Del Porto has a record of all income and costs. AIMA owes nothing. The Proceedings (150-180 pages) will include: ICOM logo; 37 presentations; introductions from AIMA President (Sild), AIMA CIMA organizer (Del Porto) and MuCEM president; the participants list; the AIMA membership list (name and country only); minutes of CIMA General Assembly (executive summary only); papers from François Sigaut Day and reports on the post-congress tour and technical visits in Provence. Distribution: to those paying full rate; no more than 50 extra copies; table of contents on AIMA website and in three years the volume will be digitally available. **CIMA future organization and improvement** (Maćkowiak/Czerwińska): The AIMA theme should be relevant to ICOM and FAO themes. Sild/Hion presented “Good Practices for organizing next CIMAs.” **CIMA 18 in Tartu, Estonia (between 6 and 16 May 2017)** (Sild/Hion): Theme: Traditions and Change--Sustainable Futures. ICOM 2017 annual theme: Museums and contested histories: saying the unspeakable in museums. Working Groups/Networks of Practice: Douglas suggested “Networks of Practice.” Sarkar suggested creating an art and agricultural network to engage museums, agencies and activists and to encourage projects that allow people in different places to cooperate in research. Statutes need to define policies/procedures as regards starting and maintaining “networks of practice.” Networks Existing: Bread; Live Animals; New: Art in Agriculture, Digital.

**Executive Committee Meetings: Szreniawa, Poland, 2016** (Maćkowiak/Czerwińska): Arrive May 11, supper and meeting start continuing all day May 12, Conference: May 13-14, 2016 (May 15 festival at Szreniawa): “Animal Keeping and Traditional Plant Cultivation in Museum Education”. AIMA networks of practice should coordinate workshops or panel presentations. **2017**: Estonia with CIMA 18; **2018**: Barcelona/Girona, Spain (tractor collectors) or Lisbon, Portugal; **2019**: tentative Executive Committee meeting Slovenia (Sosič) working with conference center; **2020**: CIMA 19: keep seeking connections in New Delhi, India; Beijing, China; Poland remains an option, too!

**Statutes**: Regular review ongoing. Statutes do not limit terms of Executive Committee members, but allow for electing replacements, if necessary. AIMA members with interests and talent stand for election. Motion to adopt three-year terms of office for officers with opportunity to stand for re-election approved (seven for; one against). Rotation possible with four of the fourteen Executive Committee members holding office standing for re-election (or election of a replacement) at CIMA General Assembly as specified: (14 members as of 2015) CIMA 18--2017 – Griffin-Kremer, Horio, Kişgeci, Sheridan; CIMA 19-2020 – Baatz, Petre, Del
Porto, Reid; CIMA 20-2023 – Burchill, Sild; Maćkowiak; CIMA 21-2027 – Sosić, Hughes/Douglas, Sarkar.

Proposed revision must be submitted to the CIMA 18 General Assembly (in keeping with Statutes protocol). Other revisions identified: updating legal headquarters and official address (COMPA, France), removing “Præsidium” and replacing with “Executive Committee,” adding “archives and collections” in the last line of Article IV-1; adding “inclusion of public engagement” to Article IV-2; adding non-compliance with the ICOM Code of Ethics to Article VI-2; discussion of proxies in relation to Article VIII-4; adding membership coordination to the Secretary duties: “He/she writes up and sends out the minutes of meetings, and is responsible for communication with members and prospective members, and for maintaining the member list,” add benefits statement for institutional member voting; clarify location of AIMA archives (perhaps MERL, University of Reading as an “indeterminate deposit” or COMPA, France).

**Policies & Procedures:** AIMA will benefit from creation of policies: AIMA archives; social media; digital publications; Payment (PayPal and dues); Protected information & consent of publication; and procedures: Approval of Minutes; Recruitment for individuals and institutions; Formal Communication with AIMA electronic stationary; Newsletter: issued at least once a year; must include minutes; full version in English; short version in French. AIMA can pay for translator to help with Newsletter ; Social Media (quick links to timely content, research reports, headline news, events, announcements, etc.).

Meeting adjourned 5 July 2015 / Submitted by Debra A. Reid and Cozette Griffin-Kremer

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**Résumé – Compte-rendu Réunion Comité Exécutif AIMA, 3-5 July 2015**


demandé la séparation de la responsabilité pour la collecte des adhésions, le rapport financier et la mise à jour de la liste des adhérents. Le Comité Exécutif a missionné Del Porto pour obtenir le statut d’ASBL via PayPal (informations à mettre sur le site Internet afin de faciliter le règlement international des adhésions).

**Rapport CIMA 17** (Del Porto): 120 participants venus de 22 pays. Le MuCEM a subventionné (6 100€ coûts sécurité et personnel) l’accueil du congrès. Del Porto détient le registre de toutes les sommes reçues et des coûts. L’AIMA ne doit rien. Les Actes (150-180 pages) comprendront : logo ICOM ; 37 articles ; introductions par la Présidente de l’AIMA (Sild), par l’organisateur AIMA CIMA (Del Porto) et le Président du MuCEM ; la liste des participants ; la liste des membres de l’AIMA (nom et pays) ; compte-rendu de l’Assemblée Générale du CIMA (sommaire exécutif seulement) ; les contributions de la Journée François Sigaut, rapports sur le voyage post-congrès et visites techniques en Provence. Diffusion : à ceux ayant réglé le tarif plein ; pas plus que 50 exemplaires supplémentaires ; table des matières à mettre sur le site Internet de l’AIMA et dans trois ans, les actes seront numérisés.


**Ateliers/Réseaux de Pratiques** : Douglas a suggéré le terme « réseaux de pratiques ». Sarkar a suggéré la création d’un réseau sur l’art et l’agriculture pour attirer musées, institutions et activistes et encourager des projets impliquant des participants de lieux divers pour la coopération à la recherche. Les statuts doivent définir les politiques/méthodes pour établir et pérenniser des « réseaux de pratiques ». Réseaux déjà existants : pain ; animaux vivants dans les musées ; nouveaux : l’art dans l’agriculture, numérisation.

**Réunions du Comité Exécutif** : Pologne, 2016 (Maćkowiak/Czerwińska): arrivée le 11 mai, dîner et début réunion, poursuite toute la journée du 12 mai; Colloque: 13-14 mai (15 mai : fête à Szreniawa): „Hébergement des animaux et la culture des plantes traditionnelles dans le programme d’éducation des musées“. Les réseaux de pratiques de l’AIMA devraient coordonner des ateliers ou des panels. **2017**: Estonie, associée au CIMA 18 ; **2018**: Barcelone/Girona, Spain (collectionneurs de tracteurs) ou Lisbonne, Portugal ; **2019**: réunion Comité Exécutif en Slovénie (sous réserve) (Sosić) en collaboration avec le centre des congrès ; **2020** : **CIMA 19** : continuer à chercher des possibilités à New Delhi, Inde ; Beijing, China ; la Pologne reste aussi une option.

**Statuts**: les révisions régulières continuent. Les statuts ne mettent pas de limites aux mandats des membres du Comité Exécutif, mais permettent l’élection de remplacements, si besoin. Tous les membres de l’AIMA ayant les intérêts et les talents requis peuvent se présenter aux élections. Approbation de la motion d’adopter des mandats de trois ans pour les membres du Comité Exécutif, tous ayant le droit de se présenter pour réélection (sept pour ; un vote contre). Roulement possible pour quatre sur les quatorze membres du Comité Exécutif, mais permettent l’élection de remplacements, si besoin. Tous les membres de l’AIMA et dans trois ans, les actes seront numérisés. **D’autres révisions** : mise à jour du siège légal et l’adresse officielle (COMPA, France), élimination du terme « Présidium » et remplacement par « Comité Exécutif », ajout de « archives et collections » à la dernière ligne d’Article VI-1 ; ajout de « inclusion d’engagement du public » à l’Article IV-2 ; ajout de non-respect du Code de Déontologie de l’ICOM à article VI-2 ; discussion de la question des pouvoirs en relation avec Article VIII-4 ; ajouter la coordination des adhésions aux devoirs du Secrétaire : « il/elle rédige les comptes rendus des réunions, est responsable de la communication avec les adhérents et les adhérentes potentiels, et de la mise à jour de la liste des adhérents » ; ajout de l’affirmation des avantages associés au vote des membres institutionnels ; décider où déposer les archives de l’AIMA (peut-être le MERL, Université de Reading, en tant que « dépôt à durée indéfinie » ou le COMPA, France).

**Politiques et Procédures**: la création de politiques spécifiques bénéficiera au bon fonctionnement de l’AIMA ; archives ; réseaux sociaux ; publications numériques ; règlement (PayPal et adhésions) ; informations protégées et autorisation de publication ; et procédures : approbation des comptes rendus ; recrutement de membres individuels et institutionnels ; communication officielle électronique avec en-tête ; bulletin/newsletter : à sortir au moins une fois par an ; doit inclure les comptes rendus ; version complète en anglais ; version courte en français ; l’AIMA pourrait payer traducteur pour aider avec le bulletin ; réseaux
**Coming Next!**

The wealth of information in this issue is ample testimony to the enthusiasm of all the contributors. There will be a sequel to several of the articles here and more on members’ events, best practices, collection items, resources and much more – in the next issue.

*Know what this is?*

Disclaimer: editors and contributors have made every effort to identify copyright-holders of online material. We apologize for any errors or omissions and would be grateful to be notified of any corrections, which will be incorporated in future issues of this Newsletter.