



ASSOCIACIÓ MUSEUS MARÍTIMS MEDITERRANI
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General Assembly Meeting

Minutes

Friday, 30th May 2014

Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral Rijeka

Members present at the meeting:

Executive Committee: Maria Paola Profumo (MPP), President; Davide Gnola (DG) and Anna Fuentes (AF), Vice Presidents; Tea Perinčić (TP), Ece Irmak (EI), Franco Juri (FI) and Antonio Mussari (AM), Committee members; Elvira Mata (EM), Honorary Member; Lluïsa Prieto (LP), Secretary/Treasurer.

Franca Acerenza (FA), Luigi Anelli, (LA), Egin Bilendler (EB), Lurdes Boix (LB), Andrea Bonifacio (AB), Antonio Errico (AE), Mariona Font (MF), Franco Košuta (FK), Giuseppe Merlini (GM), Maria Lucia de Nicolò (LN), Giovanni Panella (GP), Pierangelo Pettenò (PP), John Robinson (JR), Alberto Senatore (AS), Luigi Senatore (LS), Ricardo Staraj (RS), Manel Tiar (MT), Stefania Zanna (SZ).

The meeting starts at 16.30h

MPP, President of the Association, welcomes all members to the GA meeting. Before getting started she asks members if new applicants can participate in the meeting. It is agreed unanimously.

MPP thanks TP for the organisation of the Forum and Festival, as it is a very difficult and complex to celebrate two simultaneous events. She states that she is very satisfied with the results. Concerning the forum material distributed, she thinks the abstracts booklet is very good and can be uploaded in the website together with the powerpoints that we may compile. LP adds that we should ask for permission to upload powerpoints of invited people. MPP also thanks LP for the working progress within AMMM.

1. Tasks carried out during the year 2013/2014

Following this introduction, MPP informs on the actions / tasks developed since May 2013:

- ✓ The Forum Programme Committee formed by MPP (+Franca Acerenza), TP, DG and FJ organised two meetings in Venice at Forte Marghera, a fortification managed by Marco Polo System and whose project manager is Andrea Bonifacio. The objective of the meetings were to work on the content of the Forum and the organisation of the Sea Festival of Fiumara. Flavio Bonin, Elvira Mata, Roger Marcet and Pierangelo Pettenò, head responsible for Marco Polo System, also participated each of them in one of the two meetings.

MPP considers that this modality to work on the Forum is a good one. The meetings went well and they were productive.

- ✓ The website was partly updated. It will be discussed later during the meeting.
- ✓ MPP prepared two letters addressed to old members, so that they search for new members in their territory, and another letter for potential members who don't know AMMM. The aim of

these texts is to enlarge and increase the network. These were translated into English by LP, sent to members and uploaded in the website. MPP's motto is: "a network lives if it grows" and this must be the objective of the Association. MPP asks LP to change the letter in the website home with the letter for potential members.

- ✓ AMMM signed an agreement collaboration with the Association of Universities from countries in the Euro-Mediterranean basin (UNIMED) in November 2013 at the Maritime Museum of Barcelona. As explained in last year's GA meeting, UNIMED is an association aimed at developing scientific and educational cooperation in the Euro-Mediterranean region in order to contribute to the process of integration between the two Mediterranean shores. (<http://www.uni-med.net/>) The information was disseminated in the AMMM website by LP. Marcello Scalisi, responsible for UNIMED, could not attend the Forum, as initially programmed.
- ✓ MPP met with Alberto Garlandini, president of ICOM Italy and member of the Executive Board of ICOM International, to exchange views and analyse ways in which AMMM can participate in the 2016 Milano International Congress of ICOM. Next event will focus on "Cultural Landscape". MPP recalls that he participated in our Forum and proposes to create a section within the programme on maritime museums and cultural landscape.

2. **Proposals to enlarge the Association by increasing the number of members; by improving its relevance and visibility; and by making it a useful instrument to full and affiliate members**

MPP explains that her main objective during her Presidency is to enlarge membership. She says that the advantages of being members are: to form part of a network, which gives an added value to each member; to increase visibility by means of the website; and to have the opportunity to participate in common projects, -the new EU period of 2014-2020 just started so we must see what the options may be. Being AMMM a non profit Association with no funds, it can only participate as associate member of a European project. However, individual museums may work together to prepare future projects.

EM proposes that members place the AMMM logotype as support to their local activities/actions. Another member asks if it can be used at the entrance of the museum. MPP says the logotype will be sent to all members.

▶ **Update on new accessions**

MPP invites EC members to inform on the new contacts they made who might be interested in becoming members.

During the year there were several requests to become member. Those present at the GA meeting are requested to present themselves:

- Stefania Zanna presents the **Ecomuseo urbano Mare Memoria Viva**, located in the Arsenale di Palermo, a community project working in/for the territory.
- Ricardo Staraj presents the **Eko-muzej Općine Mošćenička Draga**, focused on lateen sail regatas. The Maritime and History Museum of the Croatian Littoral Rijeka is assessing them in their future museography. This museum will be fully organised next year.
- Franco Košuta presents the **Museo delle Pesce del Litorale Triestino-Santa Croce**. It's an association created in year 2000 and the museum, not open yet, is dedicated to nature and fishing. They wish to be affiliate members.

- Giuseppe Merlini presents the **Polo Museale Museo del Mare** at San Benedetto del Tronto. This entity is formed by the Museum of the Amphora, the Antiquarium Truentinum, the Museum of the Maritime Civilisation of Marche, the Fish Museum "A. Capriotti" and the Art Gallery of the Sea.

Andrea Bonifacio, from Marco Polo System, a GEIE that manages heritage in the Venitian area, presents **Forte Maghera**, a fortified military building. Their project related to this heritage is to create a new museography in the fortification, being maritime culture as one of their themes. They apply for affiliate membership until its formal constitution.

- Another interested entity is the **Museo della imbarcazione tradizionali e dell'arte marinaresca** at Tricase Porto, which is managed by the non profit association Magna Grecia Mare. Antonio Errico made the presentation.

MPP informs that the Musée d'Histoire de Marseille, who's director is Laurent Vèdrine, is interested in becoming member, although they have not sent the application yet.

Moreover, MPP thinks that maybe the following entities could be interested in becoming members, so we could send them information. These are:

- Torre Guaceto, Pula – Consorzio di Gestione di Torre Guaceto, who manages a nature reserve and the tower (www.riservaditorreguaceto.it/index.aspx)
- Fondazione Tonnare di Favignana, in Sicily
- Comune St Stefano di Camastra, district of ceramics in Sicily, and Hotel Ceramica del mare (Elisa de Gennaro)

The President informs that, as stated in the Statutes, on request to become member of the Association, approval procedures are: the Executive Committee must accept or not this member and then the General Assembly members must ratify this new member. In view of this and in order to speed up procedures, MPP proposes that, as of this date:

- A membership application can be sent to the Secretary anytime during the the year. Then the application is sent to the EC.
- The EC analyses membership condition and decides on approval or not of this new member.
- If affirmative, the Secretary informs the new member on procedures to make the fee payment; and finally,
- The General Assembly members will ratify the new member once a year, when the GA meeting takes place.
- In case the General Assembly members vote against a new member, the fee payment will be refund.

This new procedure is voted: members are in favour unanimously, no votes against, no abstentions.

EM says that new members must share some characteristics so that the Executive Committee can decide whether a newcomer can be a full member or an affiliate member. She adds that this is an Association of Maritime Museums and we must remember this. To be a full or affiliate member is not a "good or bad thing", it is just a typology when becoming a member, that is all. ICOM asks museums to comply with a minimum of features that determine whether an entity is a museum or not. AMMM must also have the same level of standards. DG, AF and EM worked out a short list of characteristics:

An institution, called Museum, that manages heritage must follow the definition of ICOM. At least, the Museum should identify itself as follows:



- 1) the Museum must have a heritage collection inventoried, be it tangible or intangible (eg.: interviews made by professionals; a carpenter building a boat with the assessment of an ethnologist, a curator, etc).
- 2) There must be at least 1 active qualified curator in the Museum working on the this heritage.
(MPP and EM disagree on whether this professional can be engaged externally. EM believes that this sort of working contract can be dangerous because the mission, management and objectives of the Museum can change. A proficient and qualified person is needed as staff of the Museum).
- 3) the Museum must be open to the public a minimum of 100 days per year.
- 4) The Museum (be it private or public) must be approved by a public administration: port, town hall, department, region, country, etc. In other words, it must be acknowledged by a public administration.

In the case of the Ecomuseo urbano Mare Memoria Viva, EM enquires a bit more on their collection and she then asks Stefania Zanna to send their Statutes so that the EC can decide, although it seems quite clear that the entity will have the condition of full member.

So the GA members vote in favour of the following members:

Full members

- Ecomuseo urbano Mare Memoria Viva, Palermo (to be determined: full or affiliate)
- Polo Museale Museo del Mare, San Benedetto del Tronto
- Eko-muzej Općine Mošćenička Draga (to be determined: full or affiliate)
- Musée d'Histoire de Marseille

Affiliate members

- Forte Maghera
- Museo delle Pesce del Litorale Triestino-Santa Croce
- Museo della imbarcazione tradizionali e dell'arte marinaresca at Tricase Porto

LP gives out a list of updated AMMM members to all participants.

▶ **AMMM website: update and progress**

LP informs on the updates made in the website:

- The descriptions of museums in 4 languages, their emails and links to their webs were uploaded: following the initial tasks made, quite a few texts were still to be translated, others had to be requested again, etc.
- Uploading of information on forum, news, amended statutes, etc.
- Prepared and sent a guide on how to upload News in the website
- Created usernames and passwords for all members to access the New section. The list was sent by email. New members will receive the information too.

MPP suggests that the website includes a map with a link to all museums. Regarding the News section of the web, she thinks that members must include general news related to museums or the maritime subject. We should all follow a minimum of requirements in order to have a unified News section:

- 1) General news must have an international interest (ex. an agreement, a maritime festival..)



- 2) News on museums must go beyond local (ex. An exhibit of interest to all of us)
- 3) When an international event is diffused, the museum that informs must be involved somehow, otherwise it cannot be an AMMM News.

In general we must think in having a global visibility. GP asks if the Brest Festival would be an example of News. The answer is negative as no AMMM museums are involved.

Regarding the language of the news, it is recalled that it is in whatever of the 4 languages of the website. Decision on which language to use is a matter of reaching more people.

By following these minimum ideas, validation will not be needed. We must be our own editors! LP will amend accordingly the guide to upload news.

MPP says that the Statutes are uploaded in Spanish language only and that translation costs would be expensive. MPP asks who offers to translate it to English and not having volunteers she informs that someone of her staff will translate it. JR is asked to proofread the English translation. He agrees.

MPP says there should be a second administrator to upload information, graphic material, make amendments and make the website dynamic. She suggests we could engage a student and offer him/her the possibility of acquiring experience in the professional life. All the present members agree to this.

Another proposal of information which can be uploaded, there is the idea to inform on the projects in which members are engaged, for example Med Fortis, where AMMM participates as an affiliate partner (coordinated by Galata Museo del Mare and Maritime Museum of Barcelona). EM offers herself to coordinate and insert news of interest to AMMM members. The GA members thank her and approves to this.

▶ **EU projects in which museums can participate and role of the Association within a future potential project**

MPP informs that this point will be discussed on Saturday morning with Marco Polo System.

▶ **Other projects that can be common to Museums (exhibitions, agreements, thematic sessions, etc)**

MPP comments that we should think different ways of including in the website common projects, rental offers, etc. in order to invite other members to participate, join or simply get information. It is suggested that there exist a closed section in the website for internal use only so that members can communicate and work. This would cost extra money and would require more time spending of administrators. This would be a working area, not material to be diffused. Stefania Zanna informs that there already exist free tools that offer this possibility for free (Google drive, for example).

▶ **Diffusion of good practice (role of the Carta del Mare/Sea Card)**

MPP informs that there is still time to participate in the Carta del Mare initiative. She then explains the initiative to members, gives out leaflets and invites members to send their questionnaires. MPP and FA give out four Carta del Mare nameplates to the museums of Turkey, Pesaro, Cesenatico and Barcelona for their good practice carried out during the former year.

▶ **Other networks to which AMMM can relate to**

a) Next ICOM International Congress will be held in 2016 in Milano and will focus on “Museums and cultural landscape”. Alberto Garlandini, president of ICOM Italy proposes that AMMM participates in preliminary meetings that will be organised and can make proposals for participating in a session on Cultural Landscape of the Sea. MPP proposes to make a collaboration agreement with ICOM. MPP will represent AMMM in the Siena meeting that will take place the 7th of July and probably the following meeting too.

b) FA proposes that AMMM becomes a consultative organisation of the UNESCO and/or Anna Lindt Foundation.

c) The International Centre for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies - CIHEAM Bari, represented by Damiano Petruzzella made a presentation during the Forum. This organisation focuses on education and training. MPP proposes to make a collaboration agreement between CIHEAM and AMMM and to place their logotype in the website as well as those of other networks with which we collaborate.

d) JR comments that the European Commission is very much concerned in making improvements in the field of culture. The organisation Europa Nostra supported by the EU can be a good means for AMMM to offer our assessment. Marco Polo System says that they are members of Europa Nostra. PP says he will see means of relating or collaborating with them.

▶ **Presentation of the inventory database on vessels (Lluïsa) and incentives to enrich the inventory of maritime heritage of individual museums (Davide)**

LP informs that she worked for three months on the online database with a computer technician. The idea was to take the model worked out by the Workshops, convert it to a digital database, include a minimum search and place it in the website. A proposal of the inventory was prepared, and initial discussions were held between DG and LP. During the meeting the product was to be presented by DG, who had to leave, so this point was postponed for some other time in the future.

▶ **Identification of next organizer of the 21st Forum, calendar and the ad hoc working group**

MPP suggests that the next theme of the Forum could be “Museums and Cultural Landscape”. This way AMMM members could start to prepare the ICOM Conference of 2016.

Following the former demands to organise the Forum, the EC thinks it best to give the opportunity to newcomers, giving them the chance to show their reality. Following the two Forum meetings held in Forte Marghera, it is proposed that Marco Polo System, managers of this fortification, organise next Forum in Venice in the year 2015.

So there is the proposal to vote on Venice organising next Forum. All members present vote unanimously in favor. No votes against. No abstentions.

Marco Polo System thanks for the opportunity given and suggests as celebration date the second week of April 2015. This date will be confirmed later on by PP. As a reminder, Forums are to be held during the week and we must try to avoid weekend days.

MPP proposes that the former Programme Committee formed by Davide Gnola, Franco Juri with Flavio Bonin, Tea Perinčić, Maria Paola Profumo with Franca Acerenza,, and Andrea Bonifacio, as organiser, work on the Venice Forum once again.

MT is asked about deadlines for the Museum of Alger. She comments that hopefully the inauguration should be sometime in year 2016.

3. Approval of Funds and Settlement of Accounts 2013-2014 and Budget Lines for years 2014-2015

LP recalls that this year the settlement of accounts is presented differently so as to follow Statutes and present settlements in a calendar year and not by semesters. In order to readjust to this new period covered, this year the settlement presented is:

- last year settlements until May 2013 (already presented in Lloret's GA)
- the second semester until December 2013.

LP gives out the Financial Year documentation. The Association's settlement is of 5.122,60€ (31/12/2013). The settlement is voted and approved unanimously by all members present. No votes against. No abstentions.

As of year 2014, the settlement period will be regularised and presented from January to December.

What regards provision of expenditure for 2014, besides the usual costs (website hosting, etc.), there should be a provision for the website. This cannot be voted as we don't have estimation costs yet. The costs however will be of:

- design
- new administrator (updating the website)
- a minor increase in the cost for the inventory task
- promoting the website

► Other matters

MPP asks if there are any other proposals or comments to make. The EC members don't have any.

Further to the GA meeting LP comments that 10 people used radioguides and earphones. The use of this rental material was not totally succesful due to:

- the material was heavy to carry
- few people needed it
- LP interpreted from Spanish to English (and reverse), from French to English and from Italian to English (and reverse). This was too much work for a single person, particularly not being a professional. As a result, the quality of the interpretation was not satisfactory.

Before the meeting finishes, Tea Perincic gives the traditional eggplant present to Marco Polo System, who will be next Forum organiser. In this case the present is a picnic basket with traditional Mediterranean food, all placed on an eggplant plate.

Following respective expressions of gratitude and thankfulness the meeting ends at 21h.

Barcelona, 27 June 2014

Lluisa Prieto
Secretary

Maria Paola Profumo
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lluisa Prieto'.A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Profumo'.