

***Museum Professionals in Dialogue VI :
Historical Museum of Luzern
Luzern, May 6, 2011***

The International Association of History Museums organised a visit and round table discussion for museum professionals at the *Historical Museum of Luzern in Switzerland*, which took place on Friday, May 6th.

Inaugurated in 1986, within an old arsenal built in 1567-1568, the Historical Museum of Luzern is designed as an open storage exhibit. Its collections are presented in the permanent exhibition accumulated on multiple layer shelves covering the space from floor to ceiling and protected by railings. The objects are all accompanied by barcodes, which the visitor is able to scan in order get access to the available information. Guided visits are on offer five times per day, in the form of "theatrical twists" by professional actors (in German). The museum also presents temporary exhibitions on historical and social themes of interest to the region.

The participants were able both to visit the museum and to follow a theatrical twist. The selection of objects to be viewed through the barcode system according to the interests of each individual visitor was explained and demonstrated. The advantages and difficulties of such a technological but non-design and non-visitor-guiding approach were discussed. Visitors need to be "trained" into the system, in order to be able to comprehend the museum, but are able to form their own "storyline" visit and to better understand the "behind the scene curator's work". Objects of bigger or lesser value stand side by side, and the visitor is also able to stray away from his barcode-guided visit in order to randomly explore what catches his eye.

***10th International symposium
Difficult Heritage
HELSINKI,
HELSINKI CITY MUSEUM
June 16-18, 2011
In cooperation with ICOM-ICMAH***

The Association has decided, in breach of its usual biannual rhythm of conferences, to be also partner of the conference organised by the Helsinki City Museum in cooperation with ICMAH-ICOM, on the subject of "Difficult Heritage". The theme proposed fell exactly in the continuation of the discussions held during our meetings in Belgrade and in Berlin and rounded up the position and role of museums within issues that are delicate to deal with. The conference met with important success, discussing issues of cultural misunderstandings, involuntary and deliberate misinterpretations of history, the burden of particularly important local histories etc. The acts of this conference will be forthcoming.

***Acts of the 9th International IAMH symposium
Flight, expulsion and 'ethnic cleansing', a Challenge for the Work of Museums Worldwide
BERLIN,
DEUTSCHES HISTORISCHES MUSEUM
SEPTEMBER 16-18, 2010***

The acts of this conference appeared in the first months of 2012, edited and presented by the DHM in cooperation with the Foundation *Flight, Expulsion, Reconciliation*.

The work of the organising and publishing committee, composed of Rosmarie Beier-de Haan, Hans-Martin Hinz, Manfred Kittel, Andreas Kossert and Hanna Nogossek needs to be specifically acknowledged, as well as the backing of the former director of the DHM, Dr Hans Ottomeyer. For ordering the book, please refer to the Deutches Historisches Museum.

Yours faithfully,

Philippos Mazarakis-Ainian
IAHM President