



# ICOM's International Committee for University Museums and Collections Newsletter January 2005

## From the Chair



UMAC chair  
Cornelia Weber

**Happy New Year!** I welcome you to a new year in UMAC. I was elected chair at the meeting in Seoul and I greet all of the members of UMAC. I hope 2005 will be a prosperous and successful year for you and for your institution. And, welcome to the

first edition of our new newsletter. We hope it will be a way to keep in touch, and to learn more about all of the museums and collections of the members of UMAC. Please feel free to submit information for any of the sections of the newsletter to the editor, Lyndel King, at [kingx001@umn.edu](mailto:kingx001@umn.edu). In the three years since UMAC began, we have accomplished a great deal towards discussion of common problems and establishing a world-wide network of museum and collections that are part of institutions of higher learning. I invite you to e-mail me with any ideas you have about how to make UMAC more valuable to you personally and to your institution. ([weber@mathematik.hu-berlin.de](mailto:weber@mathematik.hu-berlin.de))



UMAC members at the University Museum of Yeungnam University, Gyeongsan, 350 km. Southeast of Seoul.

## UMAC People

Cornelia Weber, Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany, was elected chair of UMAC in October 2004.

Other officers elected to the Executive Board were:  
Vice-Chairs:

Secretary:	Steven de Clercq, Netherlands
Treasurer:	Peter Stanbury, Australia
Web Editor:	Peny Theologi-Gouti, Greece
Newsletter Editor:	Sue-Anne Wallace, Australia
At-Large Members:	Peter Tirrell, USA
	Lyndel King, USA
	Dominique Ferriot, France
	Kati Heinamies, Finland
	Inge-Marie Munktell, Sweden

Other officers of the Executive Board are Working Group Chairs

Aldona Jonaitis, USA  
Marta Loureno, Portugal  
Rafaela Simili, Italy

Please send announcements of awards, promotions, new jobs, or calendar items to [kingx001@umn.edu](mailto:kingx001@umn.edu) by March 30. Title your mail UMAC people or UMAC calendar.

## Calendar

**★2005 UMAC**- University of Uppsala, Uppsala, Sweden, 25 Sept.-Oct.

1. Inge-Marie Munktell, Director of the Museum Gustavianum, ([ing-marie.munktell@gustavianum.uu.se](mailto:ing-marie.munktell@gustavianum.uu.se)), conference organizer, reports that on September 30, we will board a ferry to Helsinki and finish the conference there.

**★2005 UNIVERSEUM**- *Innovative Museums of Science of the Future, a European Answer* July 1-3 University of Tartu, Tartu, Estonia. The meeting will discuss promoting academic heritage and raising public awareness of research. It will include reports on projects agreed at the 2004 meeting and plan new activities. The University of Tartu, will report about merging four museums to achieve visibility and synergy. Reet Mägi, Acting Director of the Museum of Tartu University History. Tel: +3727 375 675; [reet.magi@ut.ee](mailto:reet.magi@ut.ee).



# Spotlight

by Lyndel King, Director, Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota



<http://www.weisman.umn.edu>

The Frederick R. Weisman Art Museum at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, Minnesota, sits on the banks of the Mississippi River. Founded in 1934, it moved to a new facility, designed by architect Frank O. Gehry in 1993. The Weisman was the first art museum designed from by Gehry, who became famous world-wide after his second museum, the Guggenheim Museum in Bilbao, Spain. The museum's collection of about 20,000 objects includes paintings, photography, graphics, sculpture, furniture, and ceramics. The painting collection is strongest in American art. The



Oriental Poppies, Georgia O'Keeffe, 1928



Vase, Warren MacKenzie, 20th century

ceramics collection includes the largest collection anywhere of ancient Native-American Indian ceramics of the Mimbres people, plus ancient and contemporary Korean, Chinese, Japanese, European, and American ceramics. A notable collection of Korean furniture came as a bequest from Edward J.

Reynolds in the 1980s.

The Weisman's visitors of about 150,000 annually come half from the University and half from the community. An interdis-



Bowl, Mimbres, c. 1000



Stacked wardrobe chest (uigori-jiang), early twentieth century

ciplinary approach is a feature of the Weisman's programs. We have collaborated with more than 400 different departments at the University and groups in the

community. Exhibitions include the collection plus temporary exhibitions, ranging from *Gene(sis): Con-*

*temporary Artists Explore the Human Genome*, to *Chicano Visions* to *Mir Iskusstav: Russia's Age of Elegance*.



# Working Groups

## WORKING GROUPS

UMAC has five working groups. If you would like to be involved with the work of any group, please contact the Chair of the group.

### Directories

To collect information about other existing directories, catalogues, and inventories; to enter data in the UMAC Worldwide Database of University Museums and Collections. Chair: Cornelia Weber [weber@mathematik.hu-berlin.de](mailto:weber@mathematik.hu-berlin.de)

### Ethics

To have input into the ongoing revision of Statutes and Code of Ethics of ICOM, particularly in those areas especially relevant to university museums and collections; to produce guidelines on matters concerning university museums and collections after reviewing policies of different institutions. Chair: Aldona Jonaitis [ffaj@uaf.ed](mailto:ffaj@uaf.ed)

### Staffing

This group will seek possible hosts and interested parties for staff exchanges between museums both university and other types of museums. Chair: Inge-Marie Munktell [Inge-Marie.Munktell@Gustavianum.uu.se](mailto:Inge-Marie.Munktell@Gustavianum.uu.se)

### Recognition

This group works towards increasing the profile of university museums and collections in academic and political spheres. Chair: Rafaella Simili [simili@philo.unibo.it](mailto:simili@philo.unibo.it)

### Publications

This newly established group will work in close cooperation with the Directories group to improve the structure and to further develop UMAC's web site.

Chairs: Peter Stanbury & Marta Lourenço [Peter.stanbury@mq.edu.au](mailto:Peter.stanbury@mq.edu.au) [MCLourenco@fc.ul.pt](mailto:MCLourenco@fc.ul.pt)

Your museum could be in the  
**Spotlight**

Send 250 words plus several small jpgs to

[kingx001@umn.edu](mailto:kingx001@umn.edu)

by March 30

Title your message  
**UMAC Spotlight**

# News

by Lyndel King, Director and Chief Curator, Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, Minnesota

## A New Look for the UMAC Newsletter

This issue of the UMAC newsletter is the first with a new look. I have made the design but I am not a graphic designer, so I apologize to all of you artists and designers that this is not done with the highest level of professionalism. But, I hope you will agree that it has some improvements over the old format.

It is my plan to issue a newsletter four times a year. I invite you to submit information. The contributors to this newsletter are only a few people, but I am hoping that you all will contribute to the next newsletters so we will hear some news from diverse parts of the world and many different kinds of museums and collections. The pages of the newsletter are open to everyone.

The purposes of the newsletter are to educate members about each other and to encourage discussion of common problems and solutions. I would like to hear from many people about issues of concern. I also encourage you to send information so your museum can be featured in the “spotlight.” I featured my museum this time, so I could get the newsletter done in January, but please, send information about your institution so that we can learn about all the different museums and collections that are part of UMAC.

Some of the articles in this newsletter are longer than I think is optimum. It will be easier to read articles if they are from 250 - 500 words. Please send pictures to illustrate your article. The magic of digital means you can send jpgs easily with e-mail. Send jpgs with a small file size—240X320, 63 KB—or max 640X480, 122 KB. Most photo management programs today will let you reduce the size of photos for e-mail, so please do this so the newsletter won't crash your computers.

I am sending this newsletter as a pdf file attached to an e-mail. You can either read it on your computer or print it out. If you have comments or suggestions about the design, I'd be happy to receive them. Please send information for the newsletter to kingx001@umn.edu by March 30 and I will try to get the next edition out in April.

# News

by Marta C. Lourenço, Museum of Science, University of Lisbon

## New Code of Ethics for ICOM Includes UMAC Recommendations

The revised Code of Ethics for Museums approved at the 21st General Assembly of ICOM, Seoul, in 2004 is now available on-line at <http://icom.museum/ethics.html>. I want to express my admiration for the work of Gary Edson and Geoffrey Lewis and all the other members of the Ethics Committee. The new Code is a very complete yet simple text, much better organised than previous attempts. Moreover, all the requests that UMAC made are included and in fact, I believe the Ethics Committee even did more than we asked for.

Several points apply directly to university museums and collections, namely the very important opening sections 1 & 2 devoted to the responsibility and obligations of governing bodies—in our case, read universities. The totality of section 3 applies to UMAC and 3.1 is incredibly appropriate and even a clarification between institutional and personal research was considered and recommended.

I think that when comparing with the old Code, three very important steps forward for us are:

1. the introduction of the concept of working collection aimed at encompassing research but also teaching collections;
2. the clear distinction between the three levels: governing body, museum, and collection;
3. the shift in terminology from museum to collection as the main concept of the Code.

I think UMAC has now a document that is both clear and comprehensible to be shown to any university administration in the world. It should be better known, perhaps even with a direct link from our website.

Lewis encourages “the development of national and specialist codes of ethics to meet particular needs” and I think UMAC should soon develop something particularly for universities. UMAC has been discussing a much needed policy for collections, guidelines for universities, and in fact, the new ICOM Code provides a perfect opportunity for this.



# News

by **Marta C. Lourenço**, Museum of Science, University of Lisbon

## Marconi Collection to Oxford University

The Marconi Corporation and the University of Oxford have agreed to transfer the historic Marconi Collection to the Bodleian Library and the Museum of the History of Science. Marconi's gift preserves the integrity of this unique collection. Mike Parton, Chief Executive of Marconi, said; "We have been concerned to find a secure and lasting home for this precious and historic collection, which is of world importance. The Collection will be maintained as a single entity offering the best possible access for serious academic researchers and students. The many visitors to Oxford will have the chance to see some of the original instruments used by the 'Father of Radio', Guglielmo Marconi."

Dating from 1895, the Marconi collection is an unrivalled collection of artefacts, apparatus and printed material, much of which formed the basis of early wireless communication. According to Dr. John Hood, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford, "The gift of the Marconi Collection is a significant acquisition for Oxford which will enhance the University's standing as a major cultural and scientific repository. This important archive will join extensive collections of scientific books and archives at the Bodleian Library and an unrivalled collection of historic scientific instruments at the Museum of the History of Science, attracting researchers and interested members of the public from around the world".

The Collection encompasses over 250 objects, including the apparatus used in the first transatlantic wireless transmission of 1901, a wealth of historical documents including telegrams sent during the Titanic disaster of 1912 and items relating to the birth of broadcasting, such as the microphone used by the legendary Australian diva, Dame Nellie Melba to broadcast the world's first live recital in 1920. The Museum of the History of Science will put on permanent public display some of the artefacts from the Collection at the Museum of the History of Science: <http://www.mhs.ox.ac.uk> Further editorial and media resources, including an 1874 - 1937 image gallery with captions, copy and extensive background information is available at: [www.marconi.com/MarconiCollection](http://www.marconi.com/MarconiCollection).

# News

by **Peny Theologi-Gouti** Architect-Ethnologist  
Head Patras University Science and Technology Museum  
Chair of the Greek University Museums and Collections Working Group

## Meeting of the Greek University Museums and Collections

The first meeting of the Greek University Museums and Collections was held the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December at the Hellenic National Committee of ICOM Headquarters, in Athens. The aim of this meeting was to create a working group for the Greek university museums and collections within the framework of the Hellenic National Committee of ICOM and in collaboration with UMAC.

The goals of the Greek working group are to

- Promote UMAC and ICOM and try to get more members and representatives to ICOM
- Diffuse UMAC activities to Greek university museums and collections.
- Participate more actively in UMAC activities and contribute to UMAC working groups
- Try to better know each other, register the existing situation in Greek university museums and collections and discuss common problems.
- Raise the Greek university museums and collections profile in the wider Greek museum community, in Greek universities and in the government and try to get better support.

Twenty-five people from ten Greek university museums and collections were present, as well as members of the Executive Council of the Hellenic National Committee of ICOM, and a number of students in the Museology Department of Athens University.

The Chair of the Hellenic National Committee of ICOM, Mrs. Teti Hadjinikolaou, Director of the Directorate of Modern Cultural Heritage of the Greek Ministry of Culture welcomed the participants, presented ICOM aims and activities and explained how to become an ICOM member. Peny Theologi-Gouti, UMAC Secretary and Head of Patras University Science and Technology Museum, read the welcome note sent by the UMAC Chair Cornelia Weber and presented UMAC, its aims and activities, its publications, conferences etc.

# News

## *Meeting of the Greek University Museums and Collections continued*

The participants presented themselves, as well as their museums or collections. A discussion took place afterwards on the aims of this working group and on the different themes that interest Greek university museums and collections, such as security problems of the collections in a university campus due to the lack of qualified personnel and in several cases the lack of personnel at all, the relation with students and student behavior, the lack of funding, public etc.

It was decided to start the Working Group with a two level questionnaire:

1. For the university administration in order to survey universities' policies concerning university museums and collections. This questionnaire will be sent to the university rectors
2. For the university museums and collections in order to survey the existing situation of the Greek university museums and collections concerning staff, museum buildings, public, students, funding etc. This questionnaire will be distributed to the university museums and collections that we have registered. For museums and collections for which we have no information, the survey will be sent to the rector, asking him or her to forward it to their museums and collections.

The working group will meet 3-4 times a year at the ICOM Headquarters in Athens or at a different museum or collection each time in order to better know the Greek university museums and collections.



Send News for the UMAC newsletter.  
Short articles—300 to 400 words—  
are preferred.  
Send to [kingx001@umn.edu](mailto:kingx001@umn.edu) by March 30  
title your email UMAC news.

# News

by Peter Stanbury, Vice-Chancellor's Office, Macquarie University, Australia

## **A Tonic for University Museums – and for the Nation: A Review of University Museums in the United Kingdom – A National Resource for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (University Museums UK Group 2004).**

This report (<http://www.umg.org.uk/pages/advocacy.html>) surveys the activities and achievements of the UK's publicly accessible university museums. It highlights the research, learning, social potential and lustre available to those universities who foster their museum and collection resources. The report was undertaken by the University Museums UK Group. It has a Foreword by the Secretary of State for Education. It surveys only those university museums which are regularly open to the public. These comprise 120 of the 400 or university museums and collections in the UK. Of the 400 only 40 were found to have dependable core revenue. Since then an additional report has been published by the University Museums of Scotland (<http://www.dundee.ac.uk/umis/>).

This review summarises the two reports and briefly compares them to the two Australian Cinderella Reports initiated by CAUMAC (the Council for Australian University Museums and Collections).

### *Use of University Collections*

The UK report finds that it is increasingly difficult to justify retention of collections for which there is inadequate use. It makes the point that collections management should be connected to the access and learning agendas of a university, but not displaced by them. What university museums do is as important as what they have. The public programs of a museum may be as relevant and valuable, or more so, to the university in achieving its strategic aims, than the research programs of the museum.

Many university museums have greater opportunities to initiate interdisciplinary studies than other units within the institution, but this distinctive characteristic is rarely exploited to full potential. The great variety of university museums makes it difficult to identify unique features in this sector, rather the universities

# News

## *A Tonic for University Museums continued*

which have museums have a distinctive feature which can and should be exploited.

### *Research Links*

Museums in other sectors, often with few researchers, rarely attempt research links with university museums. University museums themselves, with a wealth of research at their doorstep, surprisingly fail to initiate links either, or dispel the perception that they are poor and poorly run.

### *Career Paths*

Museum personnel are not limited to teaching in the field of their collections. Rather the collections are a starting point to inspire and educate across broad fields of knowledge. However, as the report points out, often there is a lack of organisational clarity regarding the position of teaching in relation to other museum duties. Precise duty statements, clear career paths, professional development and job classifications are important. Leadership qualities are highly desirable but are rarely considered in appointments or in planing training. Surprisingly, in the UK, most university-based conservation courses are offered by universities without museums.

### *Maintenance of Community Links*

University museums are unthreatening doorways onto to the campus for the community and for school children, especially where the local community is culturally diverse. The importance of school visits on later university enrolment has long been realised, but too often programs for the public are dependent on short term grants. Efforts by university museums in this direction are often unrecognised by university management (except on Open Days and when distinguished visitors arrive).

University museums in the UK are increasingly offering a digital database of their collections to a world audience. Virtual visitors often outnumber actual ones, and there is potential for e-learning courses. Good curators recognise the potential for their museums of lifelong learning. In the UK, where there are well defined regional governments, often split into collaborating hubs, the possibility exists for partnerships

# News

## *A Tonic for University Museums continued*

and increased funding opportunities.

### *Funding*

The Report discusses the UK funding system and the political context in some detail. A recognised museum or collection receives support from the parent university and may apply for funding from Government bodies. The point is well made that no university museum can expect to receive funds sufficient for all its needs from the university alone. External funding must be sought.

Nevertheless a university museum cannot survive without the support of its own university. The best management arrangement from the point of view of the museums seems to be when it, or a group of museums, is placed in a relevant faculty or other academic unit. A museum may suffer neglect if it is not directly represented on, or accountable to, and thus has a voice to the university's executive. The Report clearly states that ultimate responsibility for a university's collections rests with the University Council or Senate, who are its legal owners. The responsibility is usually devolved to a Board, and a few universities are beginning to recognise that the presence on such a Board of a person from outside the University may well be to the university's advantage when seeking external funds.

### *University Museums in Scotland*

This brief Report (see <http://www.dundee.ac.uk/umis/>) highlights the uses of university collections in Scotland. They provides access to some of Scotland's best museums; widens access to higher education; contributes to the mission of universities; assists in professional museum training and promotes the development of a confident, prosperous and just Scotland and the image of its universities at home and abroad. The university museums in Scotland contain a significant proportion of the Country's collections – for example 74% of the medical collections. The Report highlights examples of recent innovations by Scottish university museums. It ends with four Recommendations which deal with recognition and management and two on funding.

### *Summary*

There are strong forces external to university museums

# News

## *A Tonic for University Museums continued*

impacting on their capacity to reach full potential. Many university museums lack adequate support and advocacy from their universities and struggle to support research and teaching or mount long term public programs. The solution lies, in part, with a close alignment to the mission of the university and participatory integration into the university's strategic planing.

University museums, as well as holding irreplaceable collections should be seen as repositories of significant knowledge and skills.

The concerns of the UK and Australia undoubtedly have relevance in other countries. Policy leading to an environment for university museums that allows continuous forward planning should be a priority everywhere. UMAC (the International Council of Museums' International Committee for University Museums and Collections) offers assistance and guidelines for struggling (and other) university museums and collections (see [www.icom.museum/umac](http://www.icom.museum/umac)). UMAC's annual conferences have provided significant opportunities to discuss strategy and advocacy, and to offer support for curators of university museums who feel that their collections are at risk; and its website lists many other conferences of relevance to university museums and collections. Discussions with colleagues who are familiar with problems (and solutions) are an important step on the journey to recovery. University Museums UK Group and UMiS are to be congratulated on their initiative.



by Sara Schechner, David P. Wheatland Curator of Historical Scientific Instruments, Harvard University, Cambridge, Massachusetts

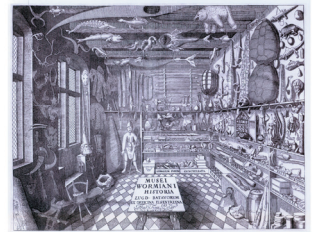
## **Exhibition *Bringing Nature Inside* Extended to June 10, 2005, by Popular Demand at Science Center Gallery, Harvard University**

This popular exhibition at the Science Center Gallery at Harvard University, has been so successful that the University has decided to extend its showing until June 10.

# News

## *Bringing Nature Inside continued*

Working from the celebrated frontispiece and catalogue of Worm's Museum, or the History of Very Rare Things, Natural and Artificial, Domestic and Exotic, Which Are Stored in the Author's House in Copenhagen (1655), Rosamond Purcell, an installation artist collaborating with Sara Schechner, a historian of science, has recreated the private museum of a Danish professor of medicine, Ole Worm (1588-1654), by using natural history specimens and ethnographic objects.



As we move from the engraving to the reconstructed room, we are confronted immediately with questions: How many layers are between us and the room? Can we peel this box back—as in an anatomy dissection—to see the bones and organs of the collection and their relationships to each other? Are we really seeing the thing in itself or just an artistic representation of it? Are the specimens archetypes or individuals? How do the monstrous and anomalous fit in?

These questions were relevant to Worm and his contemporaries, too. One distinguishing characteristic of early modern science was the emphasis on learning through observation and not just through the study of texts. Worm firmly believed that vision was the most trustworthy sense for natural history investigations. He assembled his museum collection as a resource for teaching. This exhibition looks at the work of Worm and other naturalists in this age of vision and optical instruments. It asks what was the authority of vision, and what impact did this have on the classification of things and understanding of Nature. In exploring these themes, the exhibition juxtaposes many kinds of material culture used by early modern scientists. These include scientific instruments, natural history specimens, ethnographic objects, rare books, and prints. For more information email [schechn@fas.harvard.edu](mailto:schechn@fas.harvard.edu)



# News

## UMAC Meeting Seoul October 2004

by Peter Stanbury, Vice-Chancellor's Office, Macquarie University, Australia

Note: A selection of the papers described are on the UMAC web site - [www.icom.museum/umac](http://www.icom.museum/umac). Please also visit [www.els.mq.edu.au/korea.html](http://www.els.mq.edu.au/korea.html)

The UMAC Conference held during ICOM's General Assembly in South Korea was attended by over 50 people registering from 27 different countries. Of significance was the presence of students at the meeting for the first time: Tennille Noach compiled a daily report on the web for her fellow museum studies students at Macquarie University in Australia (see <http://www.els.mq.edu.au/korea.html>) and Tiina Metso and Jouni Saarenpää presented a poster about the long running Students' Museum at Helsinki University of Technology in Finland.

Our generous hosts, led by Professor Kidong Bae, Chair of the Korean Association of University Museums (KAUM), Director of Hanyang University Museum, and Chungkyu Lee, Director of the Yeungnam University Museum (assisted by Jaeseok Shim) organised an extensive academic program which included over 20 papers, posters and study visits to three universities. Our meetings were held at the COEX Centre; Seoul National University, Yeungnam University (Gyeonsan) and Keimyung University (Daegu). At each of the universities our hosts not only provided tours of the museums but fine meals. At the first of these KAUM and UMAC members were introduced and the results of the UMAC elections were announced. At the other universities the dinners held in the museum foyer with musical performances, ceremonial cake cutting and beautiful gifts for all, and the university Presidents of each welcomed and addressed us.

UMAC members were particularly fortunate to see not only university museums and collections but also the archaeological sites at Tumuli Park and Gyeongju

# News

## *UMAC meeting in Seoul continued*

National Museum crowded with enthusiastic schoolchildren. We also experienced intangible heritage expressed in the form of a living 500 year old village (Yangdong), authentic relocated buildings in the grounds of Yeungnam University and a new heritage site recently constructed to age-old principles in Keimyung University in which today's students can learn at first hand some of the old ways of life of Korea's long history.

## **The Formal Presentations**

The 2004 UMAC formal presentations had been organised so as to give an equal time for discussion, each day starting with one or two lead papers. Nearly all the audience participated in the discussions, interesting points were raised, participants grew to understand each other and so it is strongly recommended that this formula be followed in future conferences.



Wooden Statue,  
Unified Silla Era,  
Hanyang University  
Museum, Seoul

## ***Traditional Culture and Intangible Heritage***

On the first day Professor Kidong Bae read a message from the Vice-Minister of Education that introduced the theme of intangible heritage and suggested that the conference provided an opportunity for university museums to actively promote cultural change. Kidong Bae then gave his keynote address, speaking about the background, history and development of university museums in Korea. This was followed by a complimentary account by Yun Shun Susie Chung who also looked at differences between university museums in Korea and the West. Han Hee Hahm explained the significance of folklore in regional and local festivals in keeping with the conference theme. Bonnie Kelm spoke about the importance of university museums exhibiting research and other academic work. Her paper was followed by Julia Cordova-Gonzalez's detailed analysis of the relationships between textile patterns and past and living heritage.



# News

## *UMAC meeting in Seoul continued*

After lunch there were three speakers. Ocal Oguz spoke about the movements to protect intangible heritage in Turkey. Venkata Ramana Rayaprolu's paper (read by Peter Stanbury) dealt with the intangible heritage inherent in objects and pictures and ways to extract it for modern audiences. Jaeseok Shim discussed the necessity to plan and understand the complete scenario before photographically recording festivals or rituals lest important details be lost or overlooked. Sunchu Park discussed the importance of oral heritage archives and their close relationship to museum collections.

UMAC working Group meetings ended the day.

## *University Museums: New Purposes; Future Possibilities*

The lead speaker at Seoul National University was Sun Hwa Rha. She described how the archaeology of a pottery has served as a stimulus to explain Korea's heritage to present day youth by utilizing an old school building to present many aspects of past culture. Aldona Jonaitis' dynamic description of the University of Alaska's new museum building in which not only does one go to see and learn about heritage, but also to listen to, and experience the surrounding environment. Andrew Simpson spoke of the danger to geological research in the future if the specimens of past and present studies were not available for reference.

Barry Lord pointed out the potential for the institution in sharing its collections among many communities. He said that some university museums struggled because of poor location, an ambiguous role, imprecise or multiple lines of authority and an indifference to attendance levels. Cornelia Weber reviewed the status of historic sound media collection in Germany and discussed their importance in present and future research. Peter Tirrell suggested that UMAC consider how it might assist those university museums that felt the need for help or review by means of an international assessment program. Jane Legget discussed the impact of multiple expectations of stakeholders on museum performance.

# News

## *UMAC meeting in Seoul continued*

Leonore Miller's gave accounts of successful cooperative exhibitions in which faculty members were invited to share in the planning processes and which were complementary to goals of colloquia or conferences. Il Sun advocated the use of visual references such as series of photographs or maps to augment visitors' understanding of museum objects. Digital technology has made this easier and museums should adapt their displays as soon as possible.

During the course of the day opportunity was provided to comment on poster presented or to ask the authors questions. (Eduardo Ramirez, *Methods and Tools for Conservation in the Digital Age*; Gabriel Wilder, *The 20<sup>th</sup> Century Visual Arts as a Weltanschauung*; Kati Heinamies, *Helsinki University Museum*; Tiina Metso and Jouni Saarenpää, *Polyteekkarimuseo*).

UMAC Working Groups met and the UMAC elections concluded.

## *University Museums through the Eyes of Others*

On Wednesday four papers were presented before we set out on the 320 km. journey south. Jenny Horder, outlined parameters to be considered in getting the balance right: teaching vs. research vs. community outreach during which she discussed the cost benefits of volunteers, donations, niche markets and lifting educational values for the disadvantaged. Panu Nykän outlined the changing cycles of emphasis for exhibition as a tool of technical education over a century and how museum collections must not be undervalued just because they are not currently in vogue. In the last paper,



Contemporary Art from the collection of Seoul National University Museum

Leonard Janiszewski and Effy Alexakis returned to the main theme of the conference showing how intangible heritage can drive a museum's exhibition development by citing the examples of two touring exhibitions on the experiences and identity of Greek Australians.

# News

## *UMAC meeting in Seoul continued*

During UMAC's study tour in the south of Korea (Wednesday and Thursday) the President of Yeungnam University, Sang Chun Lee, addressed the delegates. He echoed the feelings of his audience by emphasizing that a strong link between university management and university museums provides many benefits for both. He cited examples at his University that the delegates appreciated having seen some of them during the course of the day. The next day, the Director of Keimyung University, Kwon Gu Kim, continued the theme, pointing out the many advantages for the University in having excellent museums serving the local community.

### Conclusion

UMAC Seoul 2004 was a strong conference: the many presentations were of good standard; the speakers came from many countries and backgrounds; the experiences were rich; and the organization and hospitality of our many Korean hosts were the crowning glories



Portrait of a Woman, Modern Era, Hangyang University Museum



Gilt-bronze crown, Gaya Age, Keimyung University Museum



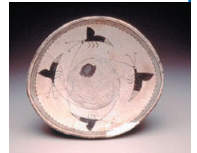
Kids education program at Yeungnam University Museum

# Announcements, Exhibits Available, and other Miscellaneous *—but useful—* Information

Weisman Art Museum, University of Minnesota has several exhibits that may be available for international travel starting in 2006.

★ A photo exhibit of Frank O. Gehry's designs for museums that will be traveling to Ireland in 2006, and could be available for other European museums at a reasonable price plus shipping. Please e-mail Gwen Sutter at [sutte001@umn.edu](mailto:sutte001@umn.edu) for information.

★ The Weisman is interested in circulating its ancient Native American pots from the Mimbres culture of southwestern New Mexico to museums in Europe or Asia. If interested in discussing this possibility, please e-mail Gwen Sutter at [sutte001@umn.edu](mailto:sutte001@umn.edu). See <http://www.weisman.umn.edu/collection/mimbres.html> for more information on the collection.



**Send  
Announcements,  
Exhibits Available,  
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