

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY ICOM'S 6TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Stockholm, Sweden
1959

ICOM'S 6TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Stockholm, Sweden, 8 July 1959

Motion No. 1: Advice on the Establishment of Museums of Science and Technology

Whereas

1. the role of museums of science and technology is no less essential in countries in the course of industrialization than in highly developed ones,
2. nevertheless museums of science and technology are scarce in countries of the former group,
3. this situation, detrimental to the interests of the population, can be partly explained by the ignorance of the aims, methods and achievements of this type of museum,
4. the diffusion of practical advice would in any case be useful to all countries,
5. the ICOM Committee for Museums of Science and Technology submitted recommendations on the subject which were favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Resolves

1. To publish a booklet containing «practical advice for the establishment of museums of science, technology and industry»;
2. To set aside a sum of \$2,750 in the provisional budget for 1961 to cover the expenses of this project;
3. To direct the Committee for Museums of Science and Technology to carry out the following plan:

- i. The Chairman of the Committee, with the help of chosen experts should

initiate the preparatory work for this publication;

ii. By 1 May 1960, he should submit a written progress report to the President of ICOM for consideration by the Executive Committee at its next meeting (1960);

iii. By 31 December 1960 he should submit the final text of the publication to the President of ICOM for consideration by the Bureau at its next meeting (end of January 1961);

iv. By February 1961 the text, duly approved by the Bureau should be sent to the printer by the Chairman of the Committee for Museums of Science and Technology;

v. By June 1961 at the time of the annual meeting of the ICOM Executive Committee and Advisory Board, the publication should be off the press and should have been distributed to all members of ICOM and to a number of specialists and institutions agreed upon by the Chairman of the Committee and the ICOM Secretariat.

Motion No. 2: International Directory of Museums of Science and Technology

Whereas

1. International directories of museums of the same category or field can be of great interest both to museum specialists and to those in other disciplines,

2. The ICOM Committee for Museums of Science and Technology and the ICOM Commission for Transport Museums have established the text of a common directory,

3. The ICOM Committee for Documentation submitted recommendations on the subject which were favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959

Resolves

1. To see to the publication of this directory;

2. To set aside a sum of \$500 in the provisional budget for 1961 to cover the cost of this project,

3. To direct its Committee for Museums of Science and Technology to implement the programme according to the following plan:

i. The Chairmen of the Committee and of the Commission, with the help of chosen experts, should initiate the preparatory work for this publication;

ii. By 1 May 1960, the Chairman of the ICOM Committee for Museums of Science and Technology should submit a written progress report to the President of ICOM, for consideration by the Executive Committee at its next meeting (July 1960);

iii. By 31 December 1960, he should submit the final text of the publication to the President of ICOM for consideration by the Bureau at its next meeting (end of January 1961);

iv. By February 1961, the text duly approved by the Bureau should be sent to the printer by the Chairman of the Committee for Museums of Science and Technology;

v. By June 1961, at the time of the annual meetings of the ICOM Executive Committee and Advisory Board, the publication should be off the press and should have been distributed to all member of ICOM and to a number of specialists and institutions agreed upon by the Chairman of the Committee and the ICOM Secretariat.

Motion No. 3: Exchange of Personnel Between Natural History Museums

Whereas

1. the 1956 General Assembly requested the ICOM Committee for Natural History Museums to prepare a report on the possibility of carrying out exchanges of personnel from natural history museums, especially small museums in different countries,

2. a report on the subject was submitted at the 5th General Conference by Mr W. van den Bergh, Chairman of the Committee,

3. this report, the result of an extensive survey, stressed both:

i. the importance attached by museums of this category to the possibility of exchanging their scientific personnel, and

ii. the financial difficulties involved,

4. the ICOM Committee for Natural History Museums submitted recommendations on the subject which were favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Resolved

1. To request the Director of ICOM to publish a digest of this report in ICOM News;

2. To request the ICOM Committee for Natural History Museums to continue the inquiry being undertaken,

Expressed the hope that the relevant administrations consider these problems and ways and means for their solution.

Motion No. 4: International Directory of Natural History Museums and Their Type Specimens

Whereas

1. motion 3 (b) adopted by the General Assembly in 1956 requested the ICOM Committee for Natural History Museums to encourage the establishment in each country of a list of natural history museums possessing type specimens,
2. the work is being undertaken,
3. the Committee submitted recommendations on the subject which were favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959

Resolved

1. To request the Committee to establish, prior to the 6th General Conference, an international directory of natural history museums and their type specimens,
2. To set aside in the 1962 provisional budget a sum of \$1,500 for the publication of the directory.

Motion No. 5: Role of Natural History Museums in the Protection of Nature

Whereas

1. the 1956 General Assembly requested the ICOM Committee for Natural History Museums to study the role of museums in the protection of nature,
2. a report based on answers from 139 museums throughout the world was presented at the 5th ICOM General Conference,
3. all those museums stressed the necessity for taking action in favour of the protection of nature,
4. the ICOM Committee for Natural History Museums submitted recommendations on the subject which were favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959

Resolved to request the Director of ICOM:

- a. to publish an analysis of this report in ICOM News, and
- b. to consult with a representative of the International Union for the Protection of Nature on the action to be taken.

Motion No. 6: Ethnographical Museums as Research Centres

Whereas

1. ethnographical museums serve as research institutions,
2. the ICOM Committee for Ethnographical Museums submitted recommendations on the subject, The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Expressed the hope

1. That ethnographic museums do not limit their collections to objects of a select nature, but that their programme expands to include as many aspects as possible of traditional daily life of the culture, particularly the profane work life;
2. That ethnographic museums include information as to the intangible context in which objects are used, in particular the customary behaviour in the use of the objects, the social situation and group which is engaged, the purpose for which the objects are used and eventually the productivity of the artifact;
3. That ethnography museums supply information on a larger geographical scale by means of questionnaires to be used, where possible, in the above programme.

Motion No. 7: Role of Ethnographical Museums in the Preservation and Diffusion of Handicrafts of Artistic Quality Made in Pre-industrialized Societies

Whereas

1. the rapid progress of industrial civilization, in itself a good thing, may tend to destroy precious cultural values whether in economically developed countries or in those in the throes of industrialization,
2. these destructions are particularly to be noted in the fields of plastic and applied arts with all the ensuing cultural, social and economic consequences,
3. in certain countries relevant practical measures have been taken by various organizations: services and associations for the protection of economically under-developed aboriginal populations, services for the preservation and diffusion of regional folklore, museums of ethnography and applied arts, etc.,

4. certain museums, notably those of ethnography and applied arts, sustain the traditional crafts of the countries in the geographical field they illustrate by encouraging the sale of handicraft objects, by apposing a quality label on the production and, in the case of open-air museums, by demonstrating to the public, with the help of craftsmen in their natural surroundings, the traditional methods of fabrication, etc.,

5. it would be useful to confront and study the various methods in use and the experiments carried out in this field with or without the help of museums,

6. the ICOM Committee for Museums of Ethnography and Folklore submitted recommendations on the subject, which were favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Resolved

1. To set aside, in its 1960 provisional budget, a sum of \$1,500 for a meeting of experts on the theme: «The Role of Ethnographical Museums in the Preservation and Diffusion of Products of Artistic Interest Made by Pre-industrialized Societies--the Problems of Acculturation Which May Arise»,

2. To request the Secretariat:

a. to organize the said meeting in cooperation with the interested bodies of ICOM and UNESCO and eventually with other qualified international organizations, and

b. to study the possibilities of publishing the results at an appropriate time.

Motion No. 8: Definition of Open-air Museums

Whereas

1. open-air museums, according to the definition established by the ICOM meeting on open-air museums, consist in a collection of buildings of historical value exhibited with their appropriate furniture and equipment,

2. this definition is generally accepted,

3. it is becoming customary, and happily so, to show temporary or permanent collections of sculptures in the open,

4. the denomination «open-air museums» for such collections may tend to create a deplorable confusion in the minds of the public and even of specialists,

5. the ICOM Commission for Open-air Museums submitted recommendations on the subject which were favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959

Expressed the wish

- a. that the term open-air museum be applied only to such collections of buildings as are mentioned in the above first paragraph,
- b. that the experts and organizations responsible for the presentation of groups of sculptures in the open, in a spirit of comprehension, avoid applying the term open-air museum to these collections,
- c. that the said experts or organizations consult with the ICOM Commission for Open-air Museums should they be in need of technical advice on problems of common interest.

Motion No. 9: Conservation of Representative Specimens of Pre-industrial Rural Architecture

Whereas

1. open-air museums are able to preserve and display representative specimens of pre-industrial rural architecture under the best conditions, as defined in the Declaration adopted in 1957 by the ICOM meeting on open-air museums,
2. such museums by their nature concern but a limited number of buildings,
3. the ICOM Commission for Open-air Museums submitted recommendations on the subject which were favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Recommended

1. That open-air museums be created in countries where they do not yet exist,
2. That action be taken in all countries in order to preserve the greatest possible number of representative specimens of pre-industrial rural architecture if possible with their furniture and equipment,
3. That the experience of open-air museums in this field be taken into account,
4. That existing open-air museums be entrusted with the implementation

of this programme in their geographical areas and the administration of the subsequent achievements.

Motion No. 10: Conservation of Wood Used in the Construction of Buildings of Historical Interest

Whereas

1. the wood used in constructions of historic value preserved in situ or set up in open-air museums is varied and perishable,
2. such building material is subject to deterioration through natural or human factors,
3. it may be useful to confront and verify the methods and processes of preservation used in various countries,
4. the ICOM Commission for Open-air Museums and the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories submitted recommendations on the subject which were favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Resolved to request the ICOM Commission for Open-air Museums to carry out the following programme, if possible before July 1962, when the General Assembly will again meet:

An expert chosen by the Commission, together with an expert nominated by the Committee on Museum Laboratories should:

a. draw up a questionnaire concerning the dangers which the various species of wood used for the construction of buildings of historical interest encounter by reason of dampness, dryness, insects and other pests,

the relevant methods of conservation and restoration, the required precautions for the taking down, transportation and remounting of the buildings;

b. send out the questionnaire: in countries with high-class open-air museums to the most important institutions of its kind; in a limited number of other countries, illustrating the main types of climate, to the responsible body most representative of the country (Historic Monuments Service, etc.);

c. produce an article, not to exceed 3000 words, with a selective bibliography and sufficient illustrations based on the answers received;

d. send the article, duly approved by the Chairman of the Commission and the Chairman of the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories, to the Director of ICOM for submission to the editorial Board of Museum.

Motion No. 11: Iconography of Portraits

Whereas

1. the study of the iconography of portraits is of great interest to museums of archaeology and history,
2. formerly there existed a Commission for the iconography of portraits within the framework of the International Committee of Historical Sciences,
3. the ICOM Committee for Museums of Archaeology and History submitted recommendations on the subject which were favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Expressed the wish that the International Committee for Historical Sciences,

- a. consider the possibility of reconstituting the said Commission, and
- b. should the suggestion be taken up, encourage the said Commission to work in cooperation with the ICOM Committee for Museums of Archaeology and History.

Motion No. 12: Inquiry on Canvas Supports of Paintings

Whereas

1. the ICOM Commission for the Care of Paintings, in continuation of its programme:
 - a. sent out a questionnaire on canvas supports and methods of treatment,
 - b. requested Mr Christian Wolters to draw up a report based on the answers received,
 - c. discussed the report at its 9th session and appointed an editorial board composed of Messrs. Germain Bazin, Sir Philip Hendy, Arthur van Schendel, and Christian Wolters to establish the final draft and send it to the ICOM Secretariat before 1 January 1960,
 - d. expressed the wish that the Director of ICOM submit this text early in 1960 to the editorial Board of Museum for publication in that periodical,
2. the Advisory Board expressed itself in favour of this procedure,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Expressed its gratitude to the Commission and to its Rapporteur, Mr

Christian Wolters, and

Resolved to request the Director of ICOM to see to the execution of this programme within the given time limit.

Motion No. 13: Inquiry on the Ground in Paintings

Whereas

1. the ICOM Commission for the Care of Paintings, having nearly terminated the inquiry on canvas supports, took up, at its 9th session, an inquiry on the ground in paintings,
2. the Commission requested Sir Philip Hendy to prepare a report on the subject, the text to be sent in French and English to all members of the Commission before 1 February 1960,
3. the members have been requested to send their comments to the Rapporteur before 1 May 1960,
4. a working party composed of Messrs. Cesare Brandi, Christian Wolters and the Rapporteur is to examine the answers and prepare a report for submission at the next session of the Commission in 1961,
5. this programme was favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Resolved to approve this programme.

Motion No. 14: Inquiry on the Paint Layer of Pictures

Whereas

1. the ICOM Commission for the Care of Paintings, pursuing its programme, decided to study the paint layer of pictures,
2. in view of the complexity of the question the Commission nominated a working party composed of Messrs. Germain Bazin, Georg Schmidt and Christian Wolters to present suggestions, at the next meeting in 1961, on the way in which to undertake this study,
3. this programme was favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959

Resolved to approve this programme.

Motion No. 15: Circulation of Exhibitions of Original Works of Art, gifts, loans, deposits and exchanges of museum objects from one country to another

Whereas

1. UNESCO increased its grant to ICOM by \$2,500 for 1959 «for assistance to the International Council of Museums to enable it to take measures to facilitate the circulation of exhibitions of original works of art»,
2. UNESCO requested ICOM to put this proposal before the 5th General Conference to enable its experts to submit a plan of action to UNESCO which would be carried out by ICOM,
3. the Conference discussed this question at a special meeting attended by 62 experts from 17 countries and drafted a motion for submission to the Assembly,
4. this motion met with the approval of the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959

Recommended to UNESCO that it agree that ICOM, with the help of the \$2,500, carry out the following action: a highly qualified specialist would be requested by ICOM:

- a. to visit a sufficient number of Eastern and Western countries where he would contact the most representative organizations concerned with museums in these countries in order to examine the possibilities of encouraging the international circulation of exhibitions of original works of art,
- b. to gather information, on this occasion and with a parallel aim in view, on the possibilities of stimulating gifts, loans or exchanges between museums from different countries,
- c. on his return, to submit to ICOM a report followed by recommendations for transmission to UNESCO.

Motion No. 16: Museums and Collections of Glassware

Whereas

1. motion No. 9 of the 5th General Assembly moved that ICOM give its patronage to the «International Symposium on Glass», organized in 1958 by the City of Liège,
2. the result has been the creation of a permanent Secretariat in Liège for the «Symposium on Glass»,
3. the specialists of museums and collections of glassware made recommendations during the 5th General Conference of ICOM,

4. these recommendations met with the approval of the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Resolved to create an ICOM Committee for Museums and Collections of Glassware, its Secretariat being at Liège and administered by the «Journées internationales du Verre»,

Recommended

1. that the ICOM International Committees for Museums of Archaeology and History, Museums of Art and Applied Art, Science and Technology, Museum Laboratories, and Architecture and Museum Techniques, cooperate in the work of the ICOM Committee for Museums and Collections of Glassware in fields of common interest,

2. that the City of Liège continue its action in this particular field in liaison with ICOM.

Motion No. 17: Specialized Museums

Whereas

1. specialized museums, though devoted to one subject, present this subject under many varied aspects,

2. they are therefore more or less connected with the various disciplines on which the leading museum categories are based: art, history and archaeology, ethnography, natural and applied sciences, technology,

3. the ICOM Committee for local museums presented recommendations on this subject which were favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Resolved

1. to charge the ICOM Committee for Local Museums, in cooperation with the Director of ICOM,

a. to devote its activities also to questions concerning specialized museums,

b. to prepare, with the help of National Committees and the ICOM-UNESCO Documentation Centre, a list of specialized museums and to submit the results achieved to the President of ICOM at the end of May 1960 for submission to the following meeting of the Bureau (end of June 1960) in view of future action,

c. to offer its cooperation to the editorial Board of Museum when the time comes for the publication of a special number on specialized museums.

Motion No. 18: Regional and Local Museums

Whereas

1. the role of regional and local museums is equally important,
 - a. in continuing in regions far from metropolitan areas the action of large museums,
 - b. in illustrating regional and local cultures and life, thus helping the development of large museums,
2. there still arises for those museums certain problems in terminology and scope,
3. the ICOM Committee for Local Museums presented recommendations on this subject which were favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Expressed its gratitude to Unesco and the editorial Board of Museum for the publication of several numbers and «albums» on local and regional museums, the systematic plan of these numbers making it possible to give a broad view of the achievements by numerous countries in this field,

Resolved to request the ICOM Committee for Local and Specialized Museums:

1. to cooperate with the Director of ICOM in order to submit material to the editorial Board of Museum for new albums or special numbers on this subject,
2. to carry out, in cooperation with the Director and ICOM Committees, an enquiry on problems dealing with the field and terminology of local and regional museums,
3. with this end in view:
 - a. to prepare a draft questionnaire and submit it to the President of ICOM towards the end of the present year before the coming meeting of the Bureau (end of January 1960),
 - b. to send out the approved text to National Committees and to a certain number of especially important local and regional museums,
 - c. to draw up a report based on the answers received, which should reach the President of ICOM around 1 May 1960 to be submitted to the following meeting of the Executive Committee (end of June 1960), for action.

Motion No. 19: Systematic Study of Some Properties of Matter in Relation with Museum Needs

Whereas

1. the study of basic principles is important in the museum as well as in any other field to better the understanding of existing techniques and possibly to introduce new developments,

2. a motion on the subject was adopted at the 5th session of the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories, following the presentation of a report by Mr F.I.G. Rawlins, Director of the National Gallery Laboratory, London,

3. the motion was favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Resolved to direct the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories to:

1. study the properties of matter of interest to museum conservators,

2. invite a few specialists to cooperate in this study,

3. request Mr Rawlins to present a progress report on this study to the Committee at a given time,

4. submit proposals in this respect to ICOM.

Motion No. 20: Situation of Mural Paintings in the Different Countries

Whereas

1. a programme defined in motion 17 was adopted by the 5th ICOM General Assembly on the recommendation of the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories,

2. motion 1 adopted by the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories at its 4th session (Amsterdam 1957) contained details of this programme,

3. one of the three questionnaires on the situation of mural paintings in the different countries was prepared by Mr P. Coremans, Director of the Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique, Brussels,

4. the said questionnaire was sent by the ICOM Secretariat to the ICOM National Committees,

UNESCO National Commissions and particularly qualified institutions,

5. the Rapporteur summed up the answers in cooperation with the

International Study Centre for the Conservation and Restoration of Cultural Property (hereafter termed Rome Centre),

6. the provisional Council of the Rome Centre and the Director of ICOM, observer at the Council, agreed on the importance of divulging this work and proposed that it be published by the Rome Centre, the costs being shared by ICOM,

7. it was roughly estimated that \$1,000 would cover the printing costs of a sufficient number of copies to ensure wide distribution according to a list drawn up in common agreement,

8. the Rome Centre under these conditions would be able to publish this report in 1960 after giving it final form,

9. the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories adopted a motion on the subject at its 5th session,

10. the said motion was favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Resolved

1. to approve this programme,

2. to set aside \$500 in its 1960 budget to cover the expenses incurred by the Rome Centre on behalf of ICOM for the publication,

Recommended that the Rome Centre:

1. Devote a large part of the publication to practical information received from the questionnaires, especially as concerns the organization of the services in charge of mural paintings,

2. Stress in the foreword, without neglecting other aspects, the importance of mural paintings in the world-wide cultural heritage, the dangers they incur through lack of care, the action undertaken by ICOM and the Rome Centre, more particularly as a result of the detailed inquiry carried out by Mr C. Brandi, Director of the Istituto Centrale del Restauro, Rome,

3. publish this report in 1960 if possible so as to ensure the actuality of its contents,

Congratulated itself on the close cooperation established with the Rome Centre and expressed its gratitude to the Director, Dr H. Plenderleith, Chairman of the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories.

Motion No. 21: State and Treatment of Mural Paintings

Whereas

1. a programme defined in motion 17 adopted by the 5th ICOM General Assembly on the recommendation of the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories,
2. motion 1 adopted by the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories at its 4th session (Amsterdam) 1957) contained details of this programme,
3. two of the three questionnaires involved concerning respectively the state and the treatment of mural paintings have been drawn up by Mr C. Brandi, Director of the Istituto Centrale del Restauro, Rome,
4. the six answers received, of the nine sought, incite the rapporteur, as mentioned in his report, submitted to the Committee by Mme Vlad Borelli of the Istituto, to broaden his initial programme,
5. the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories adopted a motion on the subject at its 5th session,
6. the motion was favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Resolved

1. to approve the programme set up by the Committee consisting in:
 - a. requesting the Rapporteur to continue his inquiry with all the required urgency,
 - b. appealing, if necessary, to the Rome Centre,
 - c. preparing a progress report for presentation at the next session of the Committee in September 1961,
2. to request the Executive Committee to follow the development of the programme and to report on the subject in 1962.

Motion No. 22: Conservation of Graphic Documents

Whereas

1. a programme defined in motion 17 was adopted by the 5th ICOM General Assembly on the recommendation of the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories,
2. the Committee at its 4th session (Amsterdam 1957) introduced in its programme the study of the component materials of graphic documents such as prints and drawings (paper, parchment, ink, etc.),
3. the said Committee during the same session adopted a motion (No. 2) concerning illuminated manuscripts in particular and nominating a working party to study the question,

4. during the Committee's 5th session reports were respectively submitted:

a. for Mr Porcher, Keeper of Manuscripts at the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, by Mlle Kleindienst of the Bibliothèque Nationale,

b. for Mr L. Santucci, Chemist at the Istituto di Patologia del Libro, Rome, by Mr E. Werner, Keeper, Research Laboratory, British Museum, London,

5. during the same session Mlle Kleindienst and Mr Bohdan Marconi, Head of the National Conservation Laboratory, Warsaw, presented samples from ancient manuscripts on which trials of impregnation and paint fixing had been carried out,

6. the said reports proved the advisability of coordinating the two inquiries, each with its particular aim in view,

7. this met with the approval of the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Resolved

1. to request the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories to carry on its inquiries and experiments, as it sees fit, with the help of the working party mentioned in Resolution 2, to which should be included Mlle Kleindienst and Mr Santucci,

2. to prepare a progress report on the subject to be sent to the ICOM Secretariat for distribution before the next session of the Committee for Museum Laboratories in 1961,

3. to request the Executive Committee to follow the development of the programme and to report on the subject in 1962.

Motion No. 23: Conservation of Textiles

Whereas

1. the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories at its 4th session (Amsterdam 1957) introduced in its programme the study of the conservation of textiles,

2. a motion was adopted (No. 4) on the subject during the 5th session (Copenhagen 1959) following a report presented by Miss L. Bellinger of the Textile Museum, Washington,

3. the motion was favourably received by the Advisory Board, The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Resolved

1. to approve the following programme set down in the motion:

a. the Committee would form a working party before 1 March 1960, to continue to study the preservation of textiles,

b. it would request Miss Bellinger to prepare a progress report to be sent to the ICOM Secretariat before 1 November 1960 for distribution to members of the Committee,

c. it would put the discussion of the report on the agenda of the next session of the Committee in September 1961,

2. to request the Executive Committee to follow the development of the programme and to report on the subject in 1962.

Motion No. 24: Preservation of Animal Products as Component Parts of Museum Objects

Whereas

1. the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories at its 4th session (Amsterdam 1957) introduced in its programme the study of animal products, e.g. skin, leather, bone, ivory, horn and other similar materials,

2. a motion (No. 6) was adopted during the 5th session of the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories following a report presented by Dr W. Swinton, Keeper of Geology, British Museum (Natural History), London, which should be of great interest to all ICOM International Committees covering various museum groups,

3. the motion met with the approval of the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Resolved

1. to approve the following programme set down in the said motion:

a. the Committee would offer to collaborate with ICOM International Committees, notably those for Museums of Natural History and Ethnography, in the study of these problems,

b. it would request Mr W.E. Swinton, and Mr E. Werner, of the Research Laboratory, British Museum, London, members of the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories, to prepare a questionnaire on the composition, structure, identification, alterations, conservation and restoration of animal products, with an introduction and bibliography on the subject,

c. it would forward the questionnaire to the ICOM Secretariat before 1 June 1960 for distribution to a list of persons and institutions drawn up by the two experts, the answers to be received no later than six months after the mailing of the questionnaire,

d. it would request Messrs. Swinton and Werner to send their report to the ICOM Secretariat before 1 March 1961, for distribution to members of the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories, and for their information, to members of the ICOM Committees for Museums of Ethnography and of Natural History.

2. to request the Executive Committee to follow the development of the programme and to report on the subject in 1962.

Motion No. 25: Conservation of Limestone, Sandstone, and Brick, as Component Parts of Historic Monuments and Museum Objects

Whereas

1. the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories at its 4th session (Amsterdam 1957) introduced in its programme the study of limestone, sandstone and brick,

2. these materials are to be considered as component parts of historic monuments and of museum objects,

3. a motion was adopted (No. 7) at the 5th session of the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories, following the discussion of a draft questionnaire presented by Mr R. Sneyers, Laboratory Director at the Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique, Brussels,

4. this motion met with the approval of the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Resolved to approve the following programme outlined in the said motion:

1. in 1959, during the second semester:

a. the Committee would request the President of ICOM to submit the questionnaire to UNESCO and ask that the UNESCO International Committee on Monuments designate representatives on a working party formed by the Committee for Museum Laboratories to draft the questionnaire in its final form,

b. the Committee for Laboratories would request the ICOM Secretariat to distribute the questionnaire in its final form to a limited number of institutions and specialists whose names would be indicated by the Committee, the answers to be sent to Mr R. Sneyers, Rapporteur,

2. in 1960, during the last term, the Rapporteur would draw up a report on the subject based on the answers received and would submit it to the ICOM Secretariat at latest by the end of 1960,

3. In 1961, during the first term, the ICOM Secretariat would distribute the report to the members of the Committee and to those of the Monuments

Committee,

4. During the following months, the members of the Committee for Laboratories would each study the report, the said report to be discussed at the 6th session of the Committee (September 1961, Barcelona) for future action.

Motion No. 26: The Study of Metals as Component Parts of Museum Objects

Whereas

1. The ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories at its 4th session (Amsterdam 1957) introduced in its programme the study of metals in view of their conservation,

2. a questionnaire was prepared in 1957 by Mr R. Organ, Senior Experimental Officer, Research Laboratory, British Museum, London, and sent to seven specialized laboratories in various countries,

3. this questionnaire was deemed satisfactory as were the three answers received,

4. a motion was adopted (No. 8) at the 5th session of the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories following a report presented by Mr Organ,

5. this motion met with the approval of the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Resolved

1. to approve the following programme outlined in the motion,

a. the Committee would pursue this study inline with the original aim and applied to various metals,

b. it would form a working party specially devoted to the study of these particular problems and which would include Mr R.J. Gettens of the Freer Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.,

c. it would request Mr Organ to submit a report summing up the answers to the ICOM Secretariat, for distribution to members of the Committee,

d. it would include the discussion of the report on the agenda for its 6th session (September 1961, Barcelona)),

e. it would send a progress report to the President of ICOM by December 1961 in view of the 1962 General Assembly,

2. to request the Executive Committee to follow the development of this programme and to report on it in 1962.

Motion No. 27:

Whereas

1. the use of synthetic materials for the preservation and restoration of cultural property is becoming more and more frequent,
2. this will result in a fundamental change in preservation and restoration techniques,
3. the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories and the ICOM Commission for the Care of Paintings discussed this problem at their joint session in Amsterdam (September 1957),
4. Messrs. G. Thomson and E. Werner (UK) presented reports on the subject at the joint session of the two bodies in Copenhagen (June 1959),
5. the joint meeting requested a working party composed of Messrs. A. van Schendel, E. Werner and R. Feller to present a progress report on the subject at the next joint session (Barcelona, September 1961),
6. it will be necessary for the working party to meet in the meantime, in London if possible,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Resolved to approve this programme.

Motion No. 28: International Directory of Museum Laboratories and Workshops

Whereas

1. a programme concerning the establishment of a directory of museum laboratories and workshops had been defined in motion 17 and adopted by the 5th ICOM General Assembly at the suggestion of the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories,
2. the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories, at its 4th session (Amsterdam 1957) adopted a subsequent motion (No. 3) on the subject,
3. the proposed questionnaire has been drawn up and circulated by Mr P. Coremans, Director, Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique, Brussels,
4. Mr Coremans prepared a first text based on the answers received from the institutions concerned which was circulated by Mr R.J. Forbes, Professor at Amsterdam University,
5. the provisional Council of the Rome Centre and the Director of ICOM:
 - a. considered it advisable to entrust the RomeCentre with the final drafting and publication of the directory,

b. considered after a rough estimate that a sum of \$2,000 would cover the publication of a sufficient number of copies for wide distribution at a given time to an agreed list of institutions, the printing costs to be shared by ICOM,

c. considered that the Rome Centre under these conditions could assume publication in 1960,

6. the Bureau of ICOM, in agreement with this point of view proposed to set aside \$1,000 on the preliminary budget for 1960,

7. the proposal met with the approval of the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Resolved

1. to set aside \$1,000 on the preliminary budget for 1960 to cover expenses incurred in the meantime for ICOM by the Rome Centre,

2. to request the President of ICOM to assure the Director of the Rome Centre of ICOM's satisfaction at this cooperation.

Motion No. 29: Rome Centre

Whereas

1. motion 16 of the 5th ICOM General Assembly recommended:

i. that the General Conference of UNESCO, at its 9th session, decide on the creation of the above Centre and assign it an adequate subsidy, at least during the first years of its existence,

ii. that a perfect coordination be established when the time comes between the new Centre on the one hand and on the other the ICOM Committee for Museum Laboratories, the International Institute for the Conservation of Museum Objects and all other qualified organizations with similar objectives,

iii. that the new Centre be supplied with a highly qualified Director,

iv. that the new Centre give special attention to problems outside the geographical and cultural area of western Europe,

2. Messrs. Jean Thomas, Assistant Director General of UNESCO, Frédéric Gysin, Chairman of the Provisional Council and H. Plenderleith, Director of the Rome Centre spoke on the subject at the meeting on 7 July of the present session,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Noting

1. that the Centre has drawn up a most interesting programme and is actively putting it into effect,
2. that 14 countries: Austria, Belgium, Ceylon, Dominican Republic, Ghana, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, had already adhered to the Centre,
3. that this had met with the approval of the Advisory Board,

Resolved to express its gratitude to UNESCO,

Recommended to the National Committees in those countries which had not as yet joined the Centre that they inform their governments of ICOM's point of view and encourage them to become members of the Centre.

Motion No. 30: Museums and Architecture

Whereas

1. in recent years a number of museums have been built which are not in accordance with present-day knowledge in the field of museology,
2. the reason may reside in the architects' lack of knowledge of museum requirements, in other words the construction is not well fitted for the conservation or display of museum objects but tends to be a building as such, even a work of art,
3. in other cases the failure may be imputed to the curator whose programme had not been sufficiently prepared according to well-approved methods,
4. the ICOM Committee for Architecture and Museum Techniques presented recommendations on the subject which were favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Expressed the wish, when a new museum building is to be erected,

1. that the museum director establish beforehand a factual and detailed programme of the museum's requirements,
2. that a qualified architect be asked to draft his plans in accordance with the established programme,
3. that in cases where the architect is chosen by competition, the competition serve but to designate the architect, it being understood that the prizewinning plans are not final,

4. that the selected architect carry out his programme in close and permanent cooperation with the museum director.

Motion No. 31: Repositories for Microfilms

Whereas

1. the 2nd ICOM General Assembly (London 1950) adopted a motion which, in conformity with the conclusions of an inquiry carried out by ICOM at the request of UNESCO (resolution 6.143 of the UNESCO General Conference, Paris, 1949), proposed the creation of repositories for the safeguard of the world's cultural heritage and plans for carrying out this purpose,

2. other institutions such as the International Council on Archives (3rd Conference, Florence 1956) have already adopted resolutions with the similar aim of constituting microfilm archives,

3. the ICOM Committee for Documentation submitted recommendations which were favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Recommended that ICOM National Committees pay special attention to the question of the microphotographic reproduction in four copies of museum objects and works of art in collections in the various countries, to be placed in repositories in different regions of the world.

Motion No. 32: Meeting in Paris, in 1961, of the ICOM Committee for Documentation

Whereas

1. it is important to standardize numerous elements of museum documentation,

2. certain members of the Committee from several countries wished to discuss among themselves a number of technical problems in their respective fields,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Recommended that the ICOM Committee for Documentation meet in Paris in 1961, it being understood that no financial obligation would be imputed to ICOM and that the experts should obtain funds from the National Committees or specialized institutions in their respective countries.

Motion No. 33: International Directories of Specialized Museums and National Museum Directories

Whereas the elaboration by the UNESCO-ICOM Documentation Centre of a directory of all museums is a long-term work requiring the cooperation of museums in all countries,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Recommended

- a. that the ICOM international subject committees pay particular attention to the elaboration of lists of directories of specialized museums,
- b. that the ICOM National Committees encourage the publication of national museum directories in those countries where they do not as yet exist or are no longer up-to-date.

Motion No. 34: Safeguarding of Private Photographic Archives

Whereas

1. collections of photographs of works of art which belong or have belonged to professional photographers are in danger of being dispersed or destroyed in spite of their importance,
2. the ICOM Committee for Documentation submitted recommendations which were favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Recommended that ICOM National Committees, in accordance with the laws on the subject in their respective countries, study ways and means of preserving this source of information of particular interest to museums,

Expressed the wish that museums constitute photographic libraries (photos and negatives), while preserving the rights of the owners of the negatives, in accordance with the laws of the country.

Motion No. 35: Documentary Exhibitions during the ICOM General Conferences

Whereas

1. Motion 22 adopted by the 5th ICOM General Assembly included the resolution «to display on the occasion of ICOM General Conferences in the places where they are held, ICOM and UNESCO publications concerning museums as well as educational methods and activities»,

2. the ICOM Committee for Education was the only one to carry out this resolution, and remarkably well, during the 5th General Conference,

3. the Committee presented recommendations on this subject which were favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Expressed its gratitude to the above-mentioned Committee, and Resolved to request the Chairmen of the International Committees and Commissions to carry out the following programme in cooperation with the Organizing Committee of the 6th ICOM General Conference:

1. 1st term 1960: each Chairman will inform the Chairman of the Organizing Committee of the space and material required to organize an up-to-date display with documents lent by his group, or UNESCO, or other organizations and various experts,

2. 2nd term 1960: the Chairman of the organizing committee informs the various Chairmen of the approximate measure in which he will be able to satisfy their demands,

3. 2nd semester 1960-1st semester 1961: the Chairmen of the ICOM Committees organize their participation in cooperation with the Chairman of the Organizing Committee,

4. December 1961: The National Committee Chairmen and the Chairman of the Organizing Committee inform the ICOM Secretariat on the advancement of the preparatory work so that this may be reported to the Bureau at its meeting early in 1962.

Motion No. 36: Colour Reproductions of Masterpieces of Eastern and Western Art

Whereas

1. The diffusion of colour reproductions of masterpieces of Eastern and Western art, if carried out on a large scale in a great number of countries, is one of the leading methods for promoting the mutual appreciation of the cultural values of peoples,

2. Considerable results have been achieved on these lines by means of collections of coloured slides, directories, collections of colour reproductions of works of art, whose diffusion is encouraged by UNESCO,

3. The high cost of producing colour plates precludes the use of such reproductions on a large scale in publications for adult education,

4. The ICOM Committee for Education submitted proposals which were favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8

July 1959,

Recommended

1. that UNESCO study the possibility of encouraging in various countries the publication of books for adult education containing a choice selection of colour reproductions of representative works of Eastern and Western art,
2. that this action be pursued within the framework of the UNESCO major project «Mutual Appreciation of Eastern and Western Cultures».

Motion No. 37: Most Effective Means of Rendering Museums Accessible to Everyone

Whereas

1. a working party consisting of members from 20 countries examined during the 5th ICOM General Conference the draft «Recommendations on the Most Effective Means of Rendering Museums Accessible to Everyone» and submitted a report on the subject to UNESCO,
2. This report met with the approval of the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Expressed its gratitude to the working party, and Assured UNESCO of the interest it took in the success of this project.

Motion No. 38: Inquiry on the Museum Profession

Whereas

1. Dr Otto Benesch, Chairman of the ICOM Committee for Administration and Personnel was requested by motion 24 adopted at the 5th General Assembly of ICOM to study the possibilities of carrying out an international inquiry on the museum profession,
2. Dr A.B. de Vries was requested to carry out this inquiry and has prepared a detailed questionnaire on the subject, with the cooperation of Dutch members of the bureau of statistics,
3. The 5th General Conference, at the end of a special meeting at which 25 experts representing 10 countries, submitted to the General Assembly recommendations which were favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Resolved

1. to express its gratitude to Dr A.B. de Vries,
2. to request Dr de Vries:
 - a. to pursue his inquiry in liaison with the Dutch experts and the ICOM Secretariat,
 - b. to present at the next meeting of the Advisory Board in 1960 a report on the point reached by the inquiry, and
 - c. should he be entrusted with the mission mentioned in motion 15 of the present General Assembly, to gather at the same time from the competent organizations of the various countries, information on the problems concerning the museum profession.

Motion No. 39: Inquiry on Measures Against Theft in Museums

Whereas

1. The International Office of Criminal Police (INTERPOL), at the request of and in cooperation with Mr A. Noblecourt, Chairman of the ICOM Commission for Security, prepared and sent out a questionnaire concerning the measures against theft taken by museums,
2. This inquiry brought about numerous and important answers from INTERPOL national sections,
3. The said organization intends to publish the results in a special issue of its bulletin and has suggested that ICOM should acquire a number of reprints at cost price for diffusion to its members,
4. The Chairman of the ICOM Commission for Security and the Bureau submitted recommendations on the subject which were favourably received by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Expressed its gratitude to INTERPOL and to Mr Noblecourt, and

Resolved

1. to accept the INTERPOL proposal,
2. To set aside in the 1960 budget a sum of \$200 to cover printing and mailing costs of reprints of the above-mentioned special issue,
3. To request the Director and Mr Noblecourt to communicate with INTERPOL on this subject.

Motion No. 40: Cooperation Between Museum, film and Television Experts

Whereas

1. Four resolutions were adopted in Brussels in 1958 by the Symposium on Museums, Film and Television, organized by ICOM at the request and with the aid of UNESCO,
2. Closer cooperation between museum experts on the one hand and film and television experts on the other on the lines set down in the resolutions can but lead to their mutual advantage,
3. Mr Paul Johnstone, Member of the Symposium, presented a report on the subject at a special meeting of the 5th ICOM General Conference,
4. The Advisory Board submitted recommendations on this subject,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Expressed its gratitude to UNESCO and to the members of the Symposium, and

Resolved to request the ICOM Committee for Museums, Film and Television to carry out, in cooperation with the relevant UNESCO experts and departments and the ICOM Secretariat, the following programme:

1. Give final form to and develop if necessary through analyses, proceedings of the Symposium and other sources, and if possible publish the said resolutions,
2. Study the possibilities of:
 - a. collecting and regularly publishing information on the production of films and television programmes on museums and on the experience in this field in different countries,
 - b. encouraging international exchanges of films and television programmes, as well as lists of films, kinescopes, and television scripts concerning museums,
 - c. endeavouring to promote direct television programmes such as those of Eurovision,
 - d. encouraging, in cooperation with the UNESCO-ICOM Documentation Centre and the ICOM National Committees, the preparation in as many countries as possible, according to standards suggested by the Committee, of directories of films, kinescopes and scripts devoted to museums for the publication, when the time comes, of an international directory,
 - e. setting-up an international prize to be awarded, at the time of a large

international meeting on films or television, to the best film or television programme on museums,

Recommended to UNESCO that it give its support to this programme.

Motion No. 41: Safeguarding of Cultural Property While Making Films and Television Programmes

Whereas

1. a resolution on this subject was adopted in Brussels in 1958 by the Symposium on Museums, Film and Television organized by ICOM at the request and with the aid of UNESCO,

2. Dr Paul Coremans, Director of the Institut Royal du Patrimoine Artistique contributed in an outstanding way to the drafting of the said resolution,

3. it is of the greatest interest that the cooperation between museum experts on the one hand and film and television experts on the other be exercised with due respect for the safety, signification and dignity of cultural objects housed in museums,

4. recommendations were submitted on this subject by the ICOM Committee for Museums, Film and Television and by the Advisory Board,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Expressed its gratitude to Dr Coremans,

Resolved to request the Chairman of the Committee for Museums, Film and Television to:

a. nominate a working party to draw up a questionnaire on the measures to be taken for the safeguarding of cultural property,

b. send out the questionnaire to a number of experts chosen by the working party,

c. encourage certain laboratory experiments on the question,

d. request one or several experts to draw up a report based on the answers to the questionnaire or other sources together with draft recommendations,

e. submit this report and the draft recommendations to the President of ICOM around 1 May 1962 in view of the General Conference to be held in July 1962,

f. see to the publication of the said documents, duly approved by ICOM in liaison with the ICOM Secretariat,

Recommended to UNESCO that it give this programme its support.

Motion No. 42: Production of Standard Films on Museums

Whereas

1. Resolution No. 4 on film and television programmes was adopted in Brussels in 1958 by the Symposium on Museums, Film and Television, organized by ICOM at the request and with the aid of UNESCO,
2. A recommendation was passed at the UNESCO Seminar on Museums and Education held in Rio de Janeiro in September 1958 under the direction of the Director of ICOM concerning films and education programmes in relation with museums,
3. the Advisory Board was in favour of the proposal,

The ICOM General Assembly, at its 6th session, held in Stockholm on 8 July 1959,

Expressed the wish

1. that qualified national organizations produce standard films on museums and education, in cooperation whenever possible with members or representatives of the ICOM Committee for Museums, Film and Television and of the ICOM Committee on Education, in the respective countries,
2. that should such films be made, they serve as examples for other countries.