

# A.I.M.A.

International Association of Agricultural  
Museums

Internationale Vereinigung der Agrarmuseen

Международная Ассоциация  
сельскохозяйственных музеев

Association internationale des musées  
d'agriculture

Asociación Internacional de Museos Agrícolas

(ICOM Affiliated Organisation)



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## E-newsletter n°1 – Summer 2012

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**AIMA:**  
**A rich European  
Past, a Future  
opened on the  
World**



François SIGAUT,  
AIMA President

AIMA was founded in 1966, that is nearly half a century ago, by a group of archaeologists, ethnologists and historians from several countries of Central and Northern Europe, among which Hungary, Czechoslovakia, East and West Germany, Denmark, etc., were the most active. Most European countries and a few others (Canada, USA, Mexico, Japan) joined in the following years. The main perspective was to develop links between agricultural museums throughout the world, especially within Europe itself, which was then separated in two parts by the so-called Berlin wall. To achieve this goal, it was decided that an International Congress (CIMA) should be held every three years, each time in a different country. The first CIMA was held in Liblice (Czechoslovakia) in 1966, the 16<sup>th</sup> one in Slobozia (Romania) in 2011. Initially, the Proceedings of the congresses were published by the National Agricultural Museum of Czechoslovakia, in a series entitled *Acta Museorum Agriculturae (AMA)*. The complete collection of *AMA* makes up 22 volumes, of which the last one contains the Proceedings of CIMA 9 (Randers, Denmark, 1989; this 22<sup>nd</sup> and last volume of *AMA* was published in 2001). After Randers, the Proceedings of each CIMA were published by the Museum which had taken the responsibility for its organization.

It should be recalled that another important institution was created in parallel with AIMA: the International Secretariat for Research on the History of Agricultural Implements, which was

located at Lyngby (Denmark). Beginning in 1968, the Secretariat published an annual review, *Tools and Tillage*, of which the last issue (Vol. VII: 4) came out in 1995. A few years later, the Secretariat itself ceased to exist.

This parallelism of dates is not without some significance. Until the early 1990s, the history of agriculture was alive and well in most European countries. In the following years, it went more and more out of fashion, at least in the academic world, even though the number of museums, private collections, harvest festivals, etc., continued to increase. Of course, the nature and chronology of events were not the same in every country. But from the point of view of AIMA, the consequences have been more or less the same, with for example a pretty general decrease in the number of participants in congresses. Something had to be done. New problems meant that new solutions should be looked for. The decision to face the new situation was made by the General Assembly meeting in Slobozia in September 2011.

This decision did not mean that the tradition of a CIMA every three years in a different country should be changed. Quite the contrary since, as a matter of fact, this tradition has worked so successfully for 45 years. But it should be enlarged and diversified. Until now, for instance, all CIMAs have taken place in Europe. But agriculture is present and important on all continents, so that this European prominence is less and less justified. From another perspective, "agriculture" represents a very large number of different activities. AIMA should offer specialists working on this or that activity opportunities to develop international exchanges, etc. To put it shortly, AIMA must open itself to all initiatives aiming at a better knowledge of agricultural practices throughout the world.

\* \* \*

Of course, this opening will imply a lot of innovations. First, AIMA has to reform its statutes and its working methods, including a much more systematic use of Internet. Those are most obvious needs, too obvious to be further discussed here.

AIMA has also to reinforce its links with ICOM and to establish new ones with FAO. AIMA has been "affiliated" to ICOM from its very beginnings,

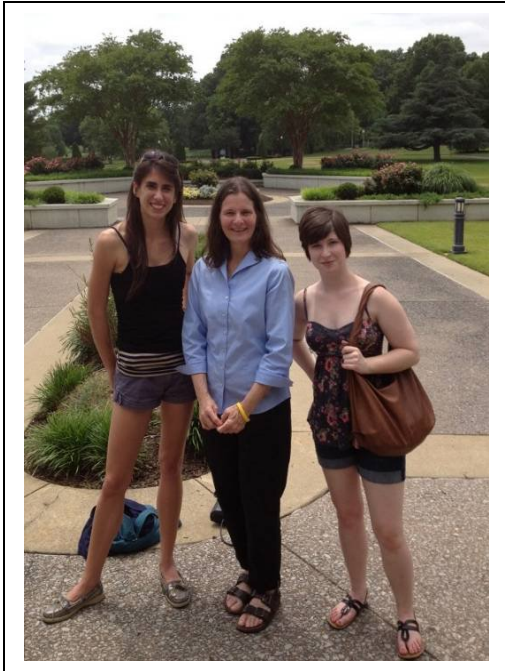
but had no links with FAO, which may seem something of a paradox. The reason was probably that its founding fathers were archaeologists and ethnologists: agricultural scientists were not interested. Or if they were, it was in a quite different way. There are in fact many museums and collections in agricultural academies and universities, which have never had any links with AIMA. But fortunately, this situation is changing. It is now more and more admitted that a proper knowledge of their past is useful to understand the agricultures of today and to find relevant means to improve their future. Now, museums of agriculture are a privileged place for gathering and transmitting that knowledge. A first contact has been taken with FAO; it is to be understood in that perspective.

AIMA must also make every effort to open itself to new countries. This task has three aspects. First, to establish or re-establish contacts with museums of agriculture in countries where they already exist, like India, China, Egypt, etc. Second, to help countries which have no such museums as yet, but where there are projects to create them, as in some African countries. And third, explore museums which have important collections of agricultural implements coming from exotic countries. This is of course chiefly the case in countries with strong colonial traditions, like Britain, France, the Netherlands, Portugal, etc. But many such collections have also been gathered by ethnographers and travellers in countries without such traditions. In both cases, these collections may be important for a better understanding of the agricultures of the countries where they came from. In order to mark this opening of AIMA to non-European countries, it has been proposed that the next congress (CIMA 17, 2014) should be held in India. And we know that our friends in New Delhi are eager to welcome us.

Museums of agriculture have a rich future, provided that all possible ways and means for their development are explored. As an institution, AIMA should be used as a meeting place, where all kinds of initiatives and exchanges are encouraged and helped, on the sole condition that they contribute to a better knowledge of the agricultures of the world.

July 2012

## The new AIMA website



Kimberly Looby (compiler of the AIMA Index) (left), Debra Reid (middle), and Beth Sylak (website design and maintenance) (right). Picture: Alan Hanson (Historical Administration, EIU).

**To visit our website, go to:**

<http://agriculturemuseums.org>

As part of her duties as AIMA Vice-President, Debra A. Reid took on the task of making AIMA more visible and its products more accessible. She and the AIMA executive committee believed that a new AIMA website would make AIMA more noticeable, and a comprehensive index of AIMA publications would make the products more useful to a larger community. The next step of the process, creating a digital database of all AIMA publications to date, will facilitate access. Reid turned to talented graduate students that she already worked with in the graduate program in Historical Administration at Eastern Illinois University (EIU). Beth Sylak created the new AIMA website and Kimberly Looby compiled the index of AIMA publications which will be posted on the AIMA website soon.

Beth Sylak, whose family lives in Ohio, attended Albion College in Albion, Michigan, and earned bachelor degrees in Anthropology and Psychology before beginning the M.A. in History with a specialization in Historical Administration at EIU. She gained experience in archaeological field work and artifact processing through a field school sponsored by the National Science Foundation, and worked with collections care projects at the Allen County Museum in Lima, Ohio, and at the Coles County Historical Society. She is currently doing her internship with Mackinac State Historic Park in Michigan and remains the AIMA webmaster. You can contact Ms. Sylak at: [agriculturemuseums.webmaster@gmail.com](mailto:agriculturemuseums.webmaster@gmail.com)

Kimberly A. Looby is a native of Charleston, Illinois, worked at Lincoln Log Cabin State Historic Site, and focused her undergraduate honors thesis on the topic of first person interpretation at small historic sites to complete degree requirements for her bachelor of arts degree in Anthropology at the University of Illinois. She completed coursework at EIU at the end of the spring 2012 semester and is currently doing her internship at the Illinois State Museum, assisting the curator of decorative arts with several projects. Ms. Looby created the database and entered nearly 800 articles published in AIMA congress proceedings between 1966 and 2008. The index will be posted in various forms, alphabetically by author's last name, by language and by eleven different subjects. Watch for the index, coming to the AIMA website, soon, once final editorial changes are made. This will be updated after publication of AIMA Congress proceedings.



Find these pictures on our website...

## After CIMA XVI in Romania – 4-10 September 2011, the proceedings are ready and will be available in autumn 2012

### Proceedings Presentation:

Coordonator: Petre Gheorghe  
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[office@tipografiasa.ro](mailto:office@tipografiasa.ro)

### Put in an order now!

**Muzeul National al Agriculturii**  
(The National Museum of  
Agriculture)  
Slobozia - County IALOMIȚA -  
Romania  
[www.muzeulagriculturii.ro](http://www.muzeulagriculturii.ro)  
Email: [mna\\_slobozia@yahoo.com](mailto:mna_slobozia@yahoo.com)  
Price: 25 euro.



Coperta: Petre George Cătălin

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## AIMA Board Met January 14-15, 2012

The board of the International Association of Agricultural Museums (AIMA) met in January at the Normandy regional natural park on the Seine River (Parc Naturel Régional des Boucles de la Seine Normande). Delegates visited the House of Flax (Maison du lin) at Routot (in Normandy) with the board of the Association of French Agricultural and Rural Heritage Museums (AFMA) on Friday, January 13, before traveling to Bourg-Achard, near the nature park, for lodging.

The meeting commenced Saturday morning with discussion of issues to ensure AIMA's future. AIMA President, François Sigaut, and general secretary, René Bourrigaud, set an agenda that began with a discussion of policies and procedures to facilitate dues collection, the first in the 46-year-old organization's history, and ensure fiscal stewardship. The agenda continued with a discussion of the need for an official address for AIMA (President Sigaut will present a formal recommendation for the official address at the next Presidium meeting and then the AIMA membership will have to formally approve the official address at a General Assembly meeting, scheduled for the 2014 Congress). The topic of maintaining the reorganized AIMA as an affiliate organization of the International Council of Museums (ICOM) resulted in general consensus about the importance of such international collaboration. ICOM first recognized AIMA as an affiliate on July 28, 1968, two years after the organization formed (in 1966) [Tempir, *Acta Museorum Agriculturae* (1989), 113].

AIMA board members discussed changes to the Statutes that would facilitate membership growth and membership involvement, and agreed to consider formal proposals for amending the Statutes at the May 2012 Board meeting. The general assembly has to approve all amendments, and this cannot be done before the General Assembly convenes at the 2014 Congress.

The board discussed the new AIMA website, nearly ready to launch. It should appear in early May 2012 if not sooner,

assigned by Beth Sylak, Eastern Illinois University [[see website article](#)].

To facilitate communication, AIMA first issued a newsletter in 1989, but only two issues seem to exist. AIMA general secretary Bourrigaud hopes to make the new AIMA newsletter a more permanent fixture of the organization. He plans to launch the newsletter in May/June 2012 and issue it twice each year (also in November/December). The newsletter will be available to members electronically and will be archived on the website.

Board members agreed that AIMA should establish working groups around issues critical to agricultural and rural museums. These groups will help AIMA develop activities, activate and motivate present and former members, recruit new members and prepare for the next congress in 2014.

In addition to business conducted during the meeting, AIMA delegates enjoyed meals together, a tour of storage at Maison du Parc with Alain Joubert (vice-president of Parc Naturel Régional), and stimulating conversation about the potential agricultural museums offer as well as the challenges that they face. The AIMA Board (Presidium) will meet again on May 18-21, 2012, at the Museum of Scottish Rural Life, East Kilbride (near Glasgow, Scotland), hosted by Duncan Dornan, museum manager. The meeting agenda will include the following: affirm (or revise) decisions made at the January 2012 meeting, secure legal stability for the re-constituted AIMA, identify a host country for the next congress: CIMA XVII, 2014, formalize the website and prepare a newsletter of AIMA; and decide and organize working groups.

In USA, if interested in learning more about or joining AIMA, please contact either Debra Reid (ALHFAM Vice President, and AIMA First Vice President) or Judith Sheridan (ALHFAM Secretary/Treasurer and U.S. delegate to the AIMA board).

(By Debra Reid for ALHFAM)



Delegates to the January 2012 meeting of officers of the International Association of Agricultural Museums (AIMA) include (l to r): Cozette Griffin-Kremer (France), René Bourrigaud, General Secretary (France), Jan Mačkowiak and Hanna Ignatowicz (Poland), Debra Reid (USA), François Sigaut, AIMA President (France), Merli Sild and Erelin Kõrts (Estonia), Pierre Del Porto (President, Federation of French Agricultural Museums and Rural Heritage, AFMA). Photograph taken at Maison du Parc (Parc Naturel Régional des Boucles de la Seine Normande – France).

## May 18-21, Presidium Meeting: Executive Summary

**We arrived at the Holiday Inn, near the National Museum of Rural Life, East Kilbride, South Lanarkshire, Scotland, on May 18 at night. Ten out of eleven AIMA officers and board members attended this three-day meeting. The complete minutes were sent to the Presidium members. Here is the summary:**

**First item: Status of Proceedings from CIMA XVI,** Slobozia, Romania. Gh. Petre presented F. Sigaut with the complete bound color copy of the proceedings. The National Museum of Agriculture in Romania will publish 250-300 copies by late June for distribution to CIMA XVI attendees and AIMA members. Extra copies can be mailed to new AIMA members between now and the next Congress and will be available for sale.

**Second Item: Expanding AIMA.** F. Sigaut and U. Nowakowska visited museums operated by the Agrarian University in Moscow, and F. Sigaut contacted staff with the National Agricultural Science Museum, in New Delhi, India, about the possibility of CIMA XVII on that continent at the facilities of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Discussion confirms the interest in expanding AIMA to new constituents, but wants to remain relevant to all.

**Third item:** Presidium 2013 in Estonia: The Estonian Agriculture Museum will host the 2013 Presidium, June 26-30. [[see programme](#)]

**Fourth item: Philosophy of agricultural museums** (role of collections compared to educational mandates). The National Museum of Agriculture of Poland will organize a conference in Poland on this topic during 2014 (the museum's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year). J. Maćkowiak invited AIMA to participate and to consider this an invitation to AIMA for the location and theme of CIMA XVII. The details of AIMA involvement must be worked out, but the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary conference will not conflict with CIMA XVII if the CIMA XVII does not occur in Poland. [[see Polish conference in September 2014](#)]

**Fifth item: Host country for CIMA XVII, 2014:** the President F. Sigaut suggested the National Agricultural Science Museum, in New Delhi, India, on the campus of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR). Maćkowiak believes that the AIMA statutes allow for meetings outside Europe but indicated that presidium members should visit the site to determine if the site can support a Congress. Sigaut believes that AIMA cannot grow beyond Europe if no congresses occur outside Europe. Sigaut along with two other Presidium members will visit the museum on the ICAR campus later during 2012 to determine the potential for a Congress. If successful, Sigaut will invite delegates from ICAR to the next Presidium in Estonia and will ask them to come prepared to propose CIMA XVII for India. Thus, the final decision on CIMA XVII will be made by the Presidium in Estonia. The Polish proposal for either Presidium or Congress in Poland during 2014 will be determined at the 2013 Presidium meeting.

**Sixth item: AIMA legal status.** No official documents confirm AIMA's legal status so AIMA, by *de facto* (common law), is an "Association" but a General Assembly must make it official. This extraordinary General Assembly can convene during the next Presidium meeting in Estonia. AIMA has a bank account, opened January 2012 (with AFMA as the professional organization vouching for AIMA's existence).

R. Bourrigaud is collecting membership dues. He will contact ICOM to inquire if AIMA's official address can be the ICOM address. A special committee will collect written recommendations and consolidate them into amended statutes for presentation at the special General Assembly during Estonia in 2013. Deadline: December, submit to M. Dondo-Tardiff. She will consolidate and submit a draft to President Sigaut who will disseminate to Presidium.

**Seventh item: AIMA website and AIMA publication index.** The website (prepared by Elizabeth Sylak) is a work in progress. Please provide feedback to D. Reid. [dareid@eiu.edu](mailto:dareid@eiu.edu)

The address is: <http://www.AgricultureMuseums.org>

The list of publications resulting from each CIMA will be on the website to clarify who published what and when. The index will be on the website, sorted by author and subject (eleven categories including museology, agricultural technology, domestic work, education, research, specialized agriculture, i.e. beekeeping, etc.). Discussion about a permanent location for the AIMA needs to be revisited at a later date, but the papers should be in a research institution/library to facilitate researcher access.

**Eighth item. AIMA newsletter.** AIMA should establish a newsletter for distribution regularly (two times per year) and easily distributed electronically in HTML format to a wide audience. The format will follow that of the ICOM e-newsletter. The newsletter contents will be in the language of the author's choice.

**Ninth item. AIMA Working Groups.** After rich discussion, Sigaut concluded that AIMA needs to:

- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> be aware of working groups outside AIMA,
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> support formation of working groups, especially those that have international context,
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> focus more on museology,
- <sup>35</sup><sub>17</sub> have time during each CIMA dedicated to working group discussion.

**Tenth item. AIMA future direction.** This discussion resulted in a proposed clarification of AIMA's mission. AIMA supports the collection, preservation and interpretation of agriculture and rural life, broadly defined. To that end, it facilitates communication between collectors (museums, special interest groups, and individuals), preservationists and interpreters of agriculture and rural life history worldwide. AIMA supports the exchange of ideas and solutions to issues that address the long term preservation and access to the data (living and inanimate livestock, plants; tangible and intangible heritage, archival, etc.). AIMA also supports exchange of results by researchers who use these objects to gain understanding and convey the information in various ways (publications, exhibitions, programs, living history sites, museums).

(Prepared by Debra Reid, First Vice-President)  
Email : [dareid@eiu.edu](mailto:dareid@eiu.edu)

## The National Museum of Rural Life Scotland

(by Duncan Dornan, manager)

### Museum history

The National Museum of Rural Life, in the county of South Lanarkshire, Scotland is a partnership between the National Trust for Scotland, a private member-led organisation and National Museums Scotland, a public body funded by the Scottish Government. The National Trust own the site and are landlords to the project, the National Museums manage and operate the museum, which houses the National Working Life Collection, and meet all of the operating costs.

The museum represents the culmination of almost 40 years of work to establish a museum representing the rural history of Scotland. In the 1950s a young Sandy Fenton was appointed by the Scottish Museum of Antiquities to establish the collection and quickly determined the need for a dedicated open air site. The final delivery of this aspiration fell to Gavin Sprott in the 1990s, with the new museum opening to the public in 2001.

The museum was created to exhibit the country life collection, which currently consists of around 22,000 objects predominantly covering the period from the start of agricultural improvement in Scotland in the 18<sup>th</sup> century up to the 1980s. Although predominantly agricultural the collection also covers associated rural trades such as blacksmithing and joinery.

### Visitor experience

The museum was developed to interpret the collection in a living environment, as a consequence, the 1950s working farm is a core part of the attraction. The farm extends to 70 hectares and is managed as a livestock unit, as is still common in the area. We run a herd of 13 Ayrshire dairy cattle, breeding our own replacement stock to reflect the physical appearance of the breed in the 1950s, which has resulted in cattle which are smaller and darker in colour than contemporary Ayrshires.



Herd of Ayrshire cows

We have a flock of 80 Scots Blackface ewes, this is the native hill breed, commonly found in our area as “cast “ hill sheep, that is sheep too old to survive on the hills. As with the dairy cattle we breed our own replacements allowing us to maintain high health standards. In May of this year we

bought 6 Aberdeen Angus cattle with calves at foot, to establish a small beef herd, this will provide beef to the museum café and eventually the shop, emphasising the link between farming and food for our visitors. The farming techniques demonstrated are, as far as possible those used in the 1950s, though the need to sell into the modern food chain does place constraints on us.

The exhibition building houses 3 permanent galleries explaining the development of the Scottish countryside since the 18<sup>th</sup> century. As a new build it benefits from excellent access arrangements for disabled visitors and good standards of energy and environmental conservation. These characteristics have proved to be compatible with the public perception of the museum and farm as representing a more responsible period of land use.



The collection is predominantly from lowland Scotland, a reflection of the significance of the collection held by the Highland Folk Museum in representing the highland region. Areas of particular note include: our combine harvester collection, some 12 machines including the first European built combine and examples of key developments up to the 1980s, the best public collection in the UK, the beekeeping collection with examples of a number of influential hive designs, the dairy collection which is particularly strong in industrialised 20<sup>th</sup> century dairying, the blacksmithing collection, a group of objects with excellent provenance and detailed records of the use of each object reflecting the industry across Scotland. The museum makes a determined effort to collect items from the post-1960 era to ensure our collections remain connected to modern life, for example one of our latest acquisitions was the Geiger counter used to test sheep flocks contaminated by Chernobyl, and this was being used until 2010!

The museum plans to develop the farming business to deliver more finished produce, helping to strengthen our financial position and to raise the profile and image of the museum to a wider public. In doing this we intend to show how our collection can help modern visitors to understand food production and make sense of the questions raised by the modern industry.

## Presidium Meeting and its Scottish host by pictures...



In the Farm Explorer...



Scottish-French Exchanges: Pierre Del Porto (AFMA), Duncan Dornan and Hugh Cheape (NMRL), François Sigaut (AIMA)



Presidium members in front of NMRL



Ayrshire cows and sheep in museum's meadow



Lunch during a working session



In the middle of the permanent exhibition, the first threshing machine in the world!



**June 26-30, 2013: Welcome in Estonia**

**Next AIMA Presidium meeting and Extraordinary General Assembly**

**will be hosted by Estonian Agricultural Museum**

Estonia is an amazing place of natural beauty and steeped in colourful history. Geographically, Estonia is on the northeastern edge of the European Union, bordering Russia and Latvia.



Estonian Agricultural Museum, founded in 1968, is situated near Tartu in the beautiful area of the

former Ülenurme Manor. The museum explores every aspect of Estonian agriculture, from the old days of hand plows to modern horticulture. The museum acts as a versatile centre of rural culture. Exhibition development, educational programme renewal, systematic collection and structural renovation ensure that the museum is growing and moving forward all the time.

On the website of Estonian Agricultural Museum, you can already find two links about the programme (<http://epm.ee/aima/programme.php>) and the venue (<http://epm.ee/aima/venue.php>).

You will find information about the meeting agenda and participation fee in one of our future newsletters but you can let us know about your participation already now by contacting Sille Sepmann (phone +372 738 3822, email [sille.sepmann@epm.ee](mailto:sille.sepmann@epm.ee)).

The General Assembly is required only for changing the statutes of AIMA (see Minutes of the last AIMA Presidium, [sixth item](#)). For more information, contact Michelle Dondo-Tardiff [dondotardiff@xplornet.ca](mailto:dondotardiff@xplornet.ca).

## Working groups

### **BROT-BREAD-PAIN**

#### **Presentation from the thematic group "Brot-Bread-Pain..." Following AIMA's last international congress in Romania**

Bread, made from cereals, occupies an essential place in the history of our foods.

It constitutes the ultimate step in a long chain of operations including cereal production (ploughing, sowing, harvesting, etc.); grain transformation (milling); and the transformation of flour into bread (sieving, kneading, forming, baking).

That is why most agricultural museums have in their collection tilling instruments, machines, tools or cooking utensils used in these different technical processes.

A basic food for many populations, bread is a large subject matter that can be studied and discussed in many ways. Hence, during the last AIMA congress (Slobozia, Romania) dedicated to bread and wine, many presenters mentioned the symbolic, religious, festive, etc. aspects of bread. Ms. Viorica Croitoru wishes to continue this work with us.

When AIMA's President François Sigault put forward the idea of creating thematic groups within AIMA, I proposed the theme of bread. Dr. Andrea Fadani, Conservator of *Museum der Brotkultur* in Ulm, Germany, has accepted to be our partner in order to bring this project to fruition. We will meet soon to determine the initial direction and the subject of a presentation at the next AIMA congress in 2014. Our personal contacts and people that have demonstrated an interest in this theme such as Mr. Henning Baatz, member of the Presidium, should allow us to create a working group very rapidly. This newsletter from AIMA will enable us to keep you informed of our progress.

Contact : Mouette Barboff [mouette.barboff@wanadoo.fr](mailto:mouette.barboff@wanadoo.fr)  
And you can visit : [www.museum-brotkultur.de](http://www.museum-brotkultur.de)

## Thematic group: Live animals in agriculture museums

### Many members of AIMA are interested!

The thematic group set up during the last Presidium wishes first to launch an international survey among museums already identified in AIMA as well as other museums interested in this subject in order to find out more about the present situation of live animals (including bees, silk-worms and up to large draft farm horses) bred or exhibited in museums.

The survey will be a kind of "Who's who? Who has what?", to identify constraints, successes, good examples, difficulties to overcome with the animals as well as the visitors, relations with agribusiness, conservation programs, animals in the landscapes, the sale of animal products, local regulations for livestock and exhibits, the impact of animals in attracting visitors and on museology in general, etc.

After processing the results of the survey, we propose to organize a workshop on this topic (perhaps in Poland in May 2013), as well as a permanent virtual forum including exchanges with international experts on animal welfare,

communication with the local livestock industry, pedagogical programmes, advice, etc.

A network on the Use of Working Cattle in Museums and Farming has been in operation for a few years and shares information on the organization of specific training sessions, meetings, historical data collection, equipment, etc. [Read more](#)

Do not hesitate to contact us and send information, documents, and your ideas to:

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## Networking for the Use of Working Cattle in Museums and in Farming

Three quarters of the world's farmers still use animal draft for agricultural work and transport and animal power is not at all absent in "developed" countries such as those of Europe or North America, although it is indeed marginal from an economic standpoint. However, the importance of renewable power sources in light of today's perceptions will hardly fall on deaf ears in the world of museums responsible for presenting and interpreting the history of agriculture, rural life – and for that matter – city life and the life of citizens. Museums have been and continue to be of vital importance in presenting and utilizing their often rich collections of harness. They have frequently engaged researchers interested in such diverse questions as the use of horses vs. oxen (a dichotomy that oversimplifies the issue in many regions and for different time periods) or in the type of transmission systems involved. One of the AIMA members, the Slovene Ethnographic Museum, is presently at work meticulously bringing documentation on their collection of yokes up-to-date in the framework of a broad research project. An entire team from the National Museum of Agriculture and Agricultural-Food Industry in Szreniawa,

Poland, made a zootechnical tour of museums in France and Germany in 2011 [[see below](#)] to take a closer look at how their colleagues managed both working animals such as oxen and the keeping of the rare regional breeds that likewise interest so many agricultural museums. These same museums have been the effective hosts over recent years for meetings of enthusiasts of working cattle and the informal networks connecting museums, researchers, enthusiasts, zootechnicians and veterinarians – not to mention an equally enthusiastic public – are worldwide, extending from Ireland to Australia.

This is a subject which may well interest many members of the AIMA and we would be happy to send on more information in pdf format to anyone interested. Thanks to our friends who held the 2008 CIMA in Novi Sad, Serbia, and the 2009 AIMA Praesidium meeting in Szreniawa, Poland, we have publications with up-to-date news on the network to send those interested.

Please contact: Cozette Griffin-Kremer at  
[griffin.kremer@wanadoo.fr](mailto:griffin.kremer@wanadoo.fr)

## Ethnozootechnics

## An open-air museums study tour in Germany and France from Poland

by Urszula Nowakowska and Witold Wołoszyński, for the delegation of the National Museum of Agriculture and Food Industry in Szreniawa, Poland

Between June 18 and 24, 2011, a delegation from the National Museum of Agriculture in Szreniawa set off on a study tour to several open-air museums in Germany and France. The objective was to get acquainted with methods and technical conditions of livestock keeping and field cultivation in West European open-air museums. Another important aim was to observe ways of presenting animal and field work in the framework of interactive and educational demonstrations for a wide public. However, taking into account that not all of the delegation members were zootechnicians, the tour can be considered as a comprehensive insight into the activity and profiles of open-air museums.



Delegates of Szreniawa Museum at Open-Air Museum in Kommern, and hosts. Left to right: Dr. Josef Mangold, Jakub Zawadka, Deputy Director of Szreniawa Museum for Infrastructure, Malgorzata Pietrzak, curator, head of Department of Education at Szreniawa Museum, Milena Wiczorek, zootechnician, Urszula Nowakowska, junior curator and editor at the Szreniawa Museum, Gert Linden, in charge of animal keeping at the Kommern Museum, Dr. Witold Wołoszyński, zootechnician, head of Department of Animal Keeping at Szreniawa Museum, Krystyna Sawik-Brodowska, zootechnician.

The tour would not have been possible without the previously established network of contacts between open-air and agriculture museums, to which our museum was introduced thanks to international meetings. It all began in September 2008, at the 15<sup>th</sup> International Congress of Museums of Agriculture in Novi Sad, Serbia, when the Polish delegation, with Dr. Jan Maćkowiak, the Szreniawa Museum manager as the head, met delegates of AFMA, Prof. François Sigaut and Dr. René Bourrigaud. A year later, AFMA representatives, this time Dr. Cozette Griffin-Kremer along with Dr. Bourrigaud and other French representatives, came to Szreniawa, along with other AIMA members, to honor the 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Szreniawa Museum. The celebrations were accompanied by a conference on “Mission and options for development of museums of agriculture in the contemporary world”. There was much attention to livestock in museums of agriculture and interpretation of traditional farming with the use of working animals, which have always been one of the major concerns of museums of agriculture and open-air museums. In order to exchange experiences in keeping and presenting animals, Dr.

Maćkowiak asked Dr. Griffin-Kremer, who has long been an active member of research and cooperation concerning working animals, to co-organize a tour for Szreniawa Museum delegates.

After months of endeavoring and planning for such a challenging study tour, both on the part of Dr. Cozette Griffin-Kremer and Szreniawa Museum coordinator for the trip, Urszula Nowakowska, schedule and itinerary were ready. In the Szreniawa Museum delegation there were six representatives: a member of the Museum Board, zootechnicians and curators.

We set off on the trip on Monday June 18. On the way to our first destination we visited Domäne Dahlem Open-Air Museum on the suburbs of Berlin, and in the evening we arrived in Westphalia. On Tuesday June 19 at the Westphalian Open-Air Museum in Detmold, we met the manager, Dr. Jan Carstensen, and Ms. Agnes Sternschulte, who showed us around the museum. We liked the ambiance of traditional enclosures and interiors for livestock. We were surprised by the presence of manure piles, which however we understand were meant to show their inseparable role in animal husbandry. We also liked two vegetable gardens at the Detmold Museum.

Apart from animals, ways of keeping them and examples of good practices in their presentation (e.g. a wagon drawn by a team of picturesque heavy “cold-blood” horses), we got acquainted with the museum’s vast grounds and interesting objects of vernacular architecture. We were lucky to see two new exhibitions, a temporary one of vintage photography portraits, and another, typically “animal”, entitled: “Senner – the oldest German horse race”. The latter, being an example of a multidisciplinary and comprehensive approach to a subject, was of much interest, and not only from the viewpoint of zootechnicians but also for all curators, as it features not only artifacts indirectly concerning the animal (herd books, harnesses, saddles, etc.) but also works of art representing the subject.

The next destination on our itinerary was the Open-Air Museum of the Berg Region in Lindlar, in western Westphalia. As previously, we paid most attention to livestock and the ways they are kept and displayed to the museum public. In Lindlar, we saw an interesting demonstrative bee-hive and an exhibition on apiculture.

On Thursday June 20, we had an appointment fixed with Dr. Josef Mangold at Rhineland Open-Air Museum in Kommern. The Museum manager, along with Mr. Gert Linden, responsible for keeping animals, guided us round so we could see all the facilities for animals, and they interestingly presented their cooperation with an institute which carries out a pig breeding programme. It is meant to reconstitute a traditional German race of pigs – das Deutsche Weideschwein. We appreciated the opportunity to see it, as it is not shown to the museum public. We also enjoyed the Museum’s vegetable garden, rich in species of plants and herbs.



Hosts at Kommern Open-Air Museum presenting their pupil Max to guests.

The day before, the Museum celebrated its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On that occasion there was a temporary exhibition on display, entitled: “Hidden Treasures. 50 years – 50 themes”, which was a good example of promoting a museum’s holdings.

The last point on our itinerary was the Alsatian Open-Air Museum in Ungersheim, France. We had a double appointment there. First we met Professor Bernard Denis, a member of AFMA, President of the French “Société d’Ethnozootechnie” association and member of France’s Academy of Agriculture.



Members of delegation with Professor Bernard Denis, in the middle.

Then, after a presentation of the Museum by its manager, Mr. Pascal Schmitt, we went together through the museum, guided by Mr. François Kiesler, who showed us facilities for animals and various activities of the Museum. We liked the idea that there were fixed hours of feeding or animal care activities (milking, distributing fodder in a cart drawn by a team of horses), when the public could have a look at them and listen to the staff explaining what they were doing. During the museum tour, we liked our guide’s educative recount about traditional crops, and mutual dependences in the ecosystem: human being – animal – plant – environment, all we museum curators know but our museum public, mainly the young and urban part of them, usually do not realize. When we came back, Professor Denis and our delegation had a discussion about keeping animals of heritage breeds as part of intangible heritage. Apart from reflections upon the cultural value of heritage breeds, as well as their significance for biodiversity, we also exchanged information about Polish and French initiatives of safeguarding biodiversity and sustainability. A common conclusion that we came to was that, in the light of economic difficulties faced by keeping of heritage breeds, museums of agriculture play a vital role in promoting it for the good of both biodiversity and mankind.

The open-air museums tour was of great interest and benefit for us. We saw good practices in museums’ activity regarding farming animals and live exhibitions. As there are new facilities for animals being built at our museum, we had wished to look for inspirations in educational activity, and this objective was definitely met.



A stop on the Alsatian Open-Air Museum tour

## An AIMA delegation visited the Russian State Agrarian University (RSAU) / Moscow Timiryazev Agricultural Academy (MTAA)

This visit took place following a kind invitation by Prof. Alexei V. Golubev, the Rector of the University and Valeria Arefieva (Head of International Relations Office) in order to present AIMA to our Russian colleagues; the president was accompanied by Urszula Nowakowska, of the Szreniawa Museum in Poland. We arrived in Moscow on April 24th and departed on April 27.

The RSAU/MTAA is probably the most ancient and important institution for agricultural and related sciences in Russia. It was founded in 1865 and is still located in its original site, a vast domain North of Moscow. There are many departments, 10 of which have

collections/museums that have been gathered for teaching or research purposes. In a first meeting with the staff of these museums, we presented AIMA, its history, its present activities and its perspectives for the future. After that, we were led to visit some of the most important collections. In a second concluding meeting before our departure, we delivered our impressions on the collections we had been shown, and Prof. Golubev told us his intention to join AIMA.

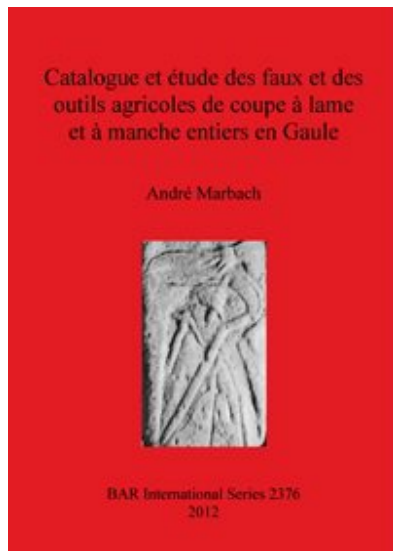
Among the collections we were shown, the two most impressive were probably those of the Horse-breeding Museum and of the Soil Science Museum. Suffice it to

say that the latter contains about 5000 samples of soil profiles from every part of the former USSR, 800 of which are exposed to visitors. This is especially significant for everyone who has had the opportunity to learn that the bases of soil science (pedology) were set out in Russia in the late 19th century (Dokutchayev).

These collections are of a kind which is not much represented within AIMA presently. The emphasis is not on peasant practices and life, rather on science and

teaching. But there are many such museums and collections in other countries than Russia, for example in France. The adhesion of Russia is important because it can thus open the way to a new field of activity for AIMA. The efforts of scientists and teachers to improve agriculture and animal husbandry throughout the world now have a history of many centuries which should be fully taken into account in museums of agriculture.

F. Sigaut



### New study of history of scythes in Europe (in French)

André Marbach's study of scythes and cutting-edged agricultural implements in Gaul is based on a survey of archeological results of whole metal pieces and enables a function-related classification system dividing the pieces into frontal and lateral cutting instruments. The latter, "true scythes", arrived in Gaul in the 1st and 2nd century CE and are compared with those from Great Britain, southern Austria, southeastern Europe and Germania. This book is a must for those concerned by the history of agricultural implements. Forward by François Sigaut. André Marbach. Catalogue and study of scythes and agricultural implements with cutting edge and long handle in Gaul (in French: *Catalogue et étude des faux et des outils agricoles de coupe à lame et à manche entiers en Gaule*), Oxford: Editions Archeopress, Coll. British Archaeological Reports (BAR) International, N° S2376, 2012, 175 pages, ISBN: 9781407309668 – £ 33.00

Cozette Griffin-Kremer

### Agriculture in the news!

Agriculture is often in the news in both more general information media as well as in specialized publications and journals – and often in the thick of debate. Two recent articles on the economy and the world epidemic of obesity bear witness to the challenges implicit in representing and interpreting agriculture and food production to the museum public. One from the journal *Foreign Policy* (27 April 2011) is entitled "How Goldman Sachs Created the Food Crisis". The connection of an American multinational investment banking and securities firm with skyrocketing food costs and the fate of farming communities announces without further ado that the subject is warm, if not hot. A second article from The Guardian newspaper (11 June 2012) broaches the issue of obesity related to the development and

massive utilization of corn oil products, as well as the American government's push to farmers to "get big or get out", a slogan now familiar around the world. These articles are available in pdf format to anyone interested and we would like to encourage AIMA members to send us any others they find. We hope to have brief reviews of articles directly concerning agriculture – whether in historical documents, archaeological remains or current affairs – that might interest and inform those working in museums or connected with research in the fields of the AIMA members. Please contact Cozette Griffin-Kremer at [griffin.kremer@wanadoo.fr](mailto:griffin.kremer@wanadoo.fr)

### Calendar of Events

#### 5th International Preservation Conference "Problems connected with keeping and conservation of collections in museums"

The National Museum of Agriculture and Food Industry in Szreniawa invites you to take part in the 5th edition of International Conservation Conference entitled *Problems Connected with Keeping and Conservation of Collections in Museums*, which is going to be held on October 5-6, 2012, at the Conference Hall of Szreniawa Museum.

The Conference is co-organised by Polish National Committee of ICOM



Read more:

<http://www.muzeum-szreniawa.pl/?q=en>

## 2013 ALHFAM Annual Meeting: 14-19 June

The 2013 meeting will be held in Akron, Ohio at the University of Akron. The host site will be Hale Farm & Village. The dates are 14-19 June and include two days of sessions, a field trip day and a full day at Hale Farm & Village with workshops on foodways, livestock and crafts. The field trip day will include visits to President James A. Garfield's restored home, Historic Kirtland, a Mormon site and Lake FarmPark where the plowing contest will be held. Registrants will have an evening on the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad that will include dinner while passing through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park. More than 60 sessions are being planned based on the theme "Bringing it all to the Table - Feed your body, Feed your mind". The call for papers is on the ALHFAM website [www.alhfam.org](http://www.alhfam.org) Conference costs and details will be available in early 2013. All members of AIMA are invited to attend.

### What is ALHFAM?

ALHFAM is the Association for Living History, Farm & Agricultural Museums. Based in the United States, it has 800 members in Canada and Europe. These members are both institutional and individual. Members receive a quarterly, printed publication called the *Bulletin* and invitations to regional and annual meetings. The 2012 annual meeting was held in Farmers Branch, Texas and attended by 175 members. ALHFAM publishes the annual meeting presentations in *The Proceedings*. These are available through the website. Membership forms, lists of publications and timely information are available at [www.alhfam.org](http://www.alhfam.org)

### 2014 Museum conference

## Museums of agriculture: What future do they face?

in the framework of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of

September 2014, National Museum of Agriculture  
and Food Industry in Szreniawa, Poland

The conference shall be an attempt to answer some questions about the future of museums of agriculture. How shall they develop, function and meet educational, cultural, intellectual and leisure time needs of the society in the decades to come?

In order to try to give some answers to these questions, the conference shall take into consideration the following aspects:

- <sup>35</sup>/<sub>17</sub> Demographic changes of the world (considerable decrease of rural populations and those working in agriculture).
- <sup>35</sup>/<sub>17</sub> Transformations in agriculture consisting in diminution of the role of countryside which has always been a natural social background for agriculture.
- <sup>35</sup>/<sub>17</sub> Development of industrial agriculture which no longer needs the previous social and cultural background.
- <sup>35</sup>/<sub>17</sub> Directions of development of technology and civilization versus perspectives for agriculture.
- <sup>35</sup>/<sub>17</sub> Concept of natural and ecological agriculture versus the development of industry.
- <sup>35</sup>/<sub>17</sub> Civilization diversity of world agricultures, their stages of development and models.
- <sup>35</sup>/<sub>17</sub> Cultural and educational needs of mankind of nowadays – where is human civilization going?
- <sup>35</sup>/<sub>17</sub> Place and role of agricultural museums on cultural map of the world – are they keeping pace with world museology?
- <sup>35</sup>/<sub>17</sub> Cultural heritage of the countryside and agriculture – how to protect, safeguard and spread it?
- <sup>35</sup>/<sub>17</sub> Are museums of agriculture necessary? If so, to whom and why?

### Contact Us

- You will find increasingly more information on our website: <http://www.AgricultureMuseums.org>
- If you wish to join us in AIMA, you will find an application form in five languages on the website: English, French, German, Russian and Spanish.
- If you wish to inform other agricultural museums in the world about your initiatives and news (exhibitions, conferences, publications), send your brief note to the secretariat of this newsletter: [rene.bourrigaud@sfr.fr](mailto:rene.bourrigaud@sfr.fr)