MINUTES -- AIMA Executive Committee Meeting

Tartu, Estonia, 9 May 2017 (10:00 to 17:00), **Estonian Agricultural Museum in Ülenurme Manor in Tartu County**, Merli Sild, Director, and AIMA President; Ms. Piret Hion, Assistant

Meeting Convened 9 May 2017, 10:24: AIMA President and Director of the Estonian Agricultural Museum, Merli Sild, welcomed the AIMA Executive Committee.

Attendees (quorum present): Kerry-Leigh Burchill (presiding), Jan Maćkowiak (in absentia, represented by Hania Ignatowicz and Julia Hanulewicz), Cozette Griffin-Kremer, Isabel Hughes, Barbara Sosič, Pierre Del Porto, Merli Sild (Piret Hion), Debra A. Reid; Surajit Sarkar; Pete Watson (USA delegate named by Judith Sheridan and Terrance Sheridan who have retired); Ollie Douglas, Hisashi Horio; Henning Baatz. Not Present: Jan Kišgeci, Gheorghe Petre (in absentia, represented by Andreea Panait).

Motion to accept agenda; approved.

**Minutes**: 2016 Executive Committee meeting summary (Szreniawa, Poland), approved and published on AgriculturalMuseums.org (must be translated into French and published in Newsletter).

**Report of Secretary** (Griffin-Kremer): AIMA’s goal is to promote agricultural museums worldwide and its activities in various environments (rural life, open-air, ecomuseum, experimental archaeology, craft, trade and other museum categories). Archives deposit in COMPA (Chartres, France). Newsletter with substantive contents continues; relations with ICOM continues; membership grows with personal recruitment. Critical time in AIMA history in the context of the agricultural revolution [“the greatest error of humanity”-Hirari, *Sapiens* (2011)]; and in the era of concern about agricultural stewardship. AIMA is relevant and important to this conversation; growth is possible. **Recommendation**s: 1) Executive Committee must approve all AIMA bank accounts and AIMA projects prior to launching them (moved-Hughes; 2nd-Douglas; unanimous approval). 2) AIMA Exec Com should request financial obligations assumed by hosts of triennial congress and other official AIMA business, to ensure transparency and help future hosts understand costs of doing business. 3) To further goals of AIMA, need to increase nations represented on Executive Committee. To that end, recommend four candidates for nominations to Executive Committee (Norway, Germany, Belgium, Australia). Discussion about size of ExecCom (10-15 per statutes, not counting officers), additional French delegate). 4) Nominee for Secretary General (Kerry-Leigh Burchill) to present to General Assembly for approval. 5) Procedures to facilitate future business may include regular conference calls and virtual meetings.

**Report of Treasurer** (Del Porto): Finance report from 2014-2016. Expenses 254.71 Euros; Income 2530.75 Euros. Bank account balance: 4188.63 Euros. Audit Committee (Watson, Sheridan, Petre): recommended correction to addition in Expenses; completed (fiscal year equals calendar year). AIMA member 35 Individual, 10 Institutional, Total=45. Fees: Individual 10 Euros; Institutional 40 Euros. AIMA bank account with new AIMA address at COMPA accomplished. Del Porto requested permission to use a different branch of the same bank. PayPal: Took two months to get buttons to work (September), but then had to revise them (December). Del Porto has twice requested PayPal to recognize not-for-profit status; not yet approved. Griffin-Kremer explained that she documents members who pay dues in check or cash, and forwards information to Del Porto. More information is needed about who pays dues via PayPal and bank transfers to ensure an accurate membership list. Treasurer should continue to present three years of financial activity to the General Assembly. Treasurer should present a Balance Sheet with beginning balance, ending balance plus a separate income/expense report each year to the Executive Committee. Balances: 2012, January 6 opened account; end of 2013: 1111.57 Euros; end of 2014: 2115.64 Euros; end of 2015: 2661.84 Euros; 2016 Expenses 156.44 Euros; Income 887.58; end of 2016: 3387.30 Euros; 2017 to date: 4188.63 Euros. Approval of treasurer report as presented: Vote: 11 approved; 1 no; 0 abstention.

**Report of Membership** (Griffin-Kremer): Griffin-Kremer maintains a list of members, by country, with dates paid and full contact information. Available upon request. Need to have a check box on membership form so members can approve distribution of information. Griffin-Kremer requested ExecCom members to recruit; provide Sec-Gen contact information. List of members since last General Assembly who have renewed should be published in Congress publication (Griffin-Kremer/Del Porto): Approval: motion Barbara, 2nd Surajit. Approved.

**Report of Webmaster**: Website: <http://www.agriculturalmuseums.org> (AIMA president, secretary, and webmaster have gmail accounts through this webpage). Social media needs discussed. Arfon Parry can set up application form, sort PayPal to ensure consistent member data, and confirmation to share information [fee: £100 (100 GBP or 120 Euro or 125 US dollars)]. Motion: moved Griffin-Kremer; 2nd Sild (Unanimous approval; with thanks for his work). Goals: 1) include TOC for *Tools and Tillage* [Reid to contact Lerche]; 2) activate Digital/Social Media committee reactivated; 3) adding more will require major revision of the website to ensure access; live-text searchable. Griffin-Kremer informed us of EARTH project dedicated to documenting practices and nomenclature (compiled bibliography); requires expertise in International Copyright Law. It should be a priority to facilitate exchange of agricultural information. Douglas reinforced Sarkar’s recommendation to add information to the website, but aggregating digital data like that is hugely time consuming; and managing the copyright takes time. AIMA can facilitate exchange about other publications (E-discussion). Reid recommended country bibliographies; Polish delegates reminded us of the need to sustain conversations with Eastern Europe, and between East and West.

**Report of President** (Sild; read by Hion): Report of official business of AIMA between meetings, conducted by the President and CIMA 18 Organizer Sild, read by Hion. Attended ICOM 2015; attended ALHFAM 2015 conference in Colonial Williamsburg; ExecCom meeting in Reading; planning for CIMA 18; presented on Bread at an international conference; livestock symposium in Szreniawa, Poland, and ICOM conference in Milan in 2016.

*CIMA 19, 2020* (Hughes/Douglas): Invitation to AIMA from Museum of English Rural Life as host institution Spring 2020. Budget: MERL would be responsible for all venues (meeting room for 60, three other rooms for breakout session; relatively inexpensive lunches) to save costs [Univ Rate of 45 pounds, with others days in breakout sessions/networks of practice/working groups; trips would represent extra expense. Reid mentioned that 2020 is an off-year for EURHO – Rural History 2019 – Rural History 2021. If Douglas raised issue of two acronyms (AIMA and CIMA), and recommended AIMA create a common brand. Both acronyms conflict with other international organizations. #AgriMuse2017

**Executive Committee, 2018** [India, Surajit Sarkar, Center for Community Knowledge at Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD) with colleagues]: ExecCom meeting in Khajuraho, Madhya Pradesh, central India, a one hour flight from Delhi. The meeting will be hosted by INTACH (Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage – a pan-Indian trust), with Sarkar’s Center at AUD, as co-host. We have discussed that after the meeting, field visits can be made. Either in the Satpura hills south of the Narmada region in central India, or to Victor Gomes at his Goa Chitra museum in the west at Goa. ExecCom members will have to take care of their accommodation and travel. The policy context (food security); as well as perceptions of tradition/modernity is a special initiative of ICOM. Funding sources exist through agencies that pay for researchers to travel to India. Date: mid- to late-November 2018. ALTERNATIVE 2018: National Museum of Ethnology, Lisbon, Portugal, Monsieur Paolo Ferreira da Costa

### Executive Committee, 2019: Slovenia-Barbara Sosič, Slovene Ethnographic Museum (SEM), Ljubljana

**Executive Committee, 2020**: Reading, preceding official opening of 19th Congress.

**Executive Committee, 2021**: Could be the host site for CIMA 20 in 2023; COMPA, Chartres, France

**2023 CIMA 20** : To be determined at 2018 Exec Com.

**Review of Statutes** (GA approved statute’s review at 2014 Congress; work during 2015 & 2016 with goal of delivering changes to membership for ratification at CIMA 18 Estonia during General Assembly): Much discussion about changes to the statutes; the Statutes are not on the General Assembly meeting agenda; Del Porto suggested that the Exec Com could request the GA to authorize them to revise and approve; others wanted to have an electronic extraordinary GA for members to participate. Discussion about V-2: Benefits of Membership (one institutional member – one vote/ or three votes? The ExecCom will announce to GA the statute revision process: the ExecCom will announce a virtual Extraordinary GA with one month time frame for review/comments on proposed Statutes; and to approve revisions to Statutes as presented (posted on AgriculturalMuseums.org).

**Strategic Planning** (in tandem with ICOM goals): AIMA 2011-2013 plan updated at 2016 ExecCom in keeping with ICOM 2011-2013 plan. AIMA’s 2016-2020 strategic plan is posted on AgriculturalMuseums.org

**Program tracks for CIMA 19** (2020): Hughes and Douglas, AIMA needs to have a niche that people want and have a reason to participate in it. This requires consulting with the membership. These converge with Reid’s efforts over these years to have a strategic plan guide AIMA work. What should AIMA’s identity be, and what should its focus be? Smaller groups with geographic proximity may take on projects to serve their ends. Little training funding exists and the length of the AIMA conference requires investment. Recommendation: set up an E-Discussion List as a medium to engage with audiences virtually and facilitate sharing of their expertise; or SurveyMonkey or more substantive survey mechanism to secure stakeholder opinions (not just members); avoid duplicating what other organizations do, but cultivate organizational networks, i.e., with EURHO (European Rural History Organization) or European Museums Network: Museums.EU. Audit and evaluation advice for museums of agriculture; survey formulation and distribution for consultation including identification of recipients (museums, industry, universities), tallying results and dissemination of information. Douglas will set up a Google spreadsheet and ExecCom members can enter individuals to survey with anonymous submissions. ExecCom members will each submit three ideas for questions to include in survey. White paper as final product; with tables of data. Language: translations into English, French, German, Russian, Spanish (AIMA official languages), but also need to respect identify of respondents. This might require translation of survey into other languages and the executive summary into native languages. Each ExecCom member should recommend 5 recipients, and ask them to send on to 3 additional recipients (15x5=75x3=225+15 AIMA = 240 respondents).

**CIMA 18 Estonia**, 2017 (Sild/Hion): Distribution of Congress program. Workshops scheduled 1: Sustainable Agriculture-Past and Future; and Fibre Plants; 2: Museum Education and Research; 3: Conservation and Restoration; Digital Media in Museums; 4: Bread and Traditional Food; 5: Living Animals in Museums; 6: Agriculture and Rural Life in Art. Proceedings Submission Deadline: 15 July 2017. Specs??: 9000 characters with no more than 2 photos.

**General Assembly Agenda** (review, approval: motion; 2nd; carried)

**Executive Committee membership** (All): Committee agrees to recommend Watson to replace Sheridan (USA); Griffin-Kremer (France); Horio (Japan); Kisgeci not active and removed ExCom.

**Officers**: Burchill accepts nomination as Secretary-General. Burchill recommends Griffin-Kremer to continue as an international ambassador for AIMA. Sild as president recommends Hughes for consideration as incoming president; Hughes countered with she and Douglas be approved as co-presidents. After discussion: Hughes will serve as president; Douglas as First Vice-President; Reid as additional VP (one of which takes on membership and communication duties); All in agreement: 11 yes; 1 abstain; and one Executive Committee member responsible for international relations (11 yes; 1 abstain). Motion to recommend slate of officers and executive committee members to GA; Surajit moved, Sild 2nd. Approved.

**Old Business:**

**Fees** (Del Porto): requested a discussion about fees. Burchill recommend continuing with current fees for one more year, and then the ExecCom can review income/expenses.

**Bank signatures** (Del Porto): Signatures on bank account: AIMA President, Treasurer, Executive Secretary. Signatures should be updated to include new officers; including a fourth (and Griffin-Kremer as local Executive Committee member).

CIMA 16 (2011) Proceedings; CIMA 17 (2014) Proceedings: Rene has several copies. Where should they go? We need to try to get rid of them.

**Comments from Membership:**

Correspondence (Burchill): discussion of 8 May 2017 email from Rene Bourrigard about request for translation of documents into French. This is something fees should fund.

Membership recruitment/expansion (Sarkar): He described a project seeking to connect Indian projects with partners in other countries. AIMA could help make connections and expand project scope. Burchill agreed that this would further AIMA goals.

**Membership List** (Burchill): She charged the new Communications and Membership officer with maintaining a list of members.

Watson asked about the AIMA Newsletter; who compiled it and distributed it. Burchill indicated that it would continue, but she will appoint a subcommittee to ensure its production. Douglas and Reid are looking for better ways to compile and disseminate issues. Griffin-Kremer reinforced the idea that the newsletter should come out no more than twice a year, but with potential for special issues.

**Provisional Budget** items should include nominal office expenses; website updates; translations; membership in other professional organizations or to facilitate networking with other international organizations, i.e., EXARK; EURHO (AIMA is an associate of ICOM and that requires no fee).

**Proxies** (Griffin-Kremer): 15 proxies submitted by deadline of May 1. To conduct business, AIMA needs at least one-half of its members plus one. Out of concern for voter representation, the AIMA Executive Committee over-road deadlines on proxies. Vote: 11 approved; 1 abstain.

**Adjourn**: 18:40 (Ignatowicz moved; Horio seconded) Unanimous.