



IACM – INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CUSTOMS/TAXATION MUSEUMS



NEWSLETTER 2022

28th IACM Annual Conference and General Assembly HELSINKI

MANAGING COLLECTIONS



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Welcome to Helsinki!

Hannu Mäkinen, General Director of Finnish Customs

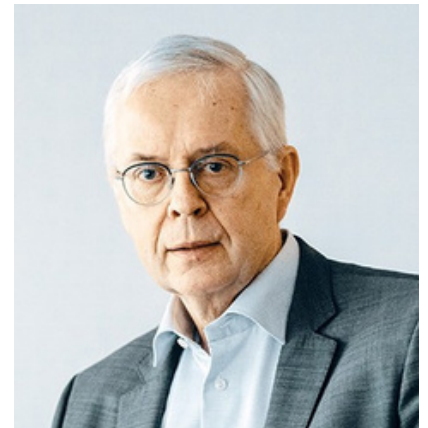
We are honoured to host the 28th General Assembly and Conference of the International Association of Customs and Tax Museums (IACM) here in Helsinki. This is now possible and I am truly glad it happens in Finland.

I can see here an exceptional number of historians at the same time present. I am not sure if it really fits that one can learn from history. You certainly have an opinion on that. For me it seems that the decisions are often taken without looking back to historical facts. It seems to be so that decision makers do not know history or do not care about it or the circumstances are very different compared to the past or it is for some other reason difficult to repeat the good solutions from the past. New time, new decisions.

Historical perspective is a base of the civilization. History gives us a general framework according to which we can arrange to order in our minds the facts we can see around us.

We rely more on a person who knows the history than on a person who does not know the history at all. Maybe the clue is somewhere there when we say that we should learn from the history.

Anyway the history of the customs is very interesting part of our common knowledge and about that I have to thank today you and your colleagues in these kinds of organisations which maintain the interest to the history of the customs.



Mika Parkkonen, Communication Director

The Customs Museum and communication about history are an important part of Finnish Customs' communication on current affairs. Through exhibitions, press releases and podcasts, we want to show that, for hundreds of years, Finnish Customs has been an essential component of Finnish society, a component that you can trust whatever the circumstances may be.

After many years of peace, we are now living in a wartime economy as a result of Russia's illegal attack on Ukraine. Forceful sanctions have been imposed on Russia and we are wondering how we will make it through the coming winter while dealing with electricity and gas shortages. The relevance of Customs has only become more apparent.

In these strange times, a new world history is being written. Our task is to record the role that Customs and the Tax Administration have had in these times. Put it together into books and new exhibitions at our museums, so that the citizens can understand how much we are needed.



Foreword

A word from a President 2017-2022

Wim van Es

When we closed the last IACM conference in Luxembourg in 2019, none of us could imagine that it would take 3 years for the next IACM conference to take place. As we all know, Covid-19 was the reason for the delay. Our lives were put on hold by the several lockdowns over the last two years. This also affected our planned IACM conferences. The IACM has been very fortunate in that our Finnish colleagues were flexible and could postpone the conference for a year.

At this conference 7 IACM members are present in Helsinki. I especially welcome the delegates that are new in the IACM family: our colleagues from the Customs museum in Lithuania and the Tax Museum of the Republic of Korea.

It is the second time that the IACM has gathered in Helsinki for a conference. The first time was in 1995. Therefore, I especially welcome Mr. Seppo Malkki as a honorary guest. He is the former curator of the Finnish Customs museum and the one who was involved in the IACM conference in 1995.

At this conference we will focus on collection management. At our digital meeting last year, for me one of the evident conclusions was that - due to the lockdowns - many IACM members had shifted in their museum work towards more collection oriented activities.

Today, the IACM family has in a way returned to the womb of the IACM. It was founded in 1992 by representatives of Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland. These countries were the founding fathers of the International Association of Customs & Tax Museums. Unfortunately, at this moment only Norway and Finland are still official members of our association.



We are gathered here in Helsinki for the 28th conference of our association and we are very grateful to you, Mr. Mäkinen, and to the Finnish Customs Administration - for hosting this year's conference of the IACM.

I am officially retired now. As a curator of the Dutch Tax & Customs Museum; and since this morning, I am retired as president of IACM. I wish the new IACM Board and members all the best, especially Janne Nokki, my successor as president of the IACM. I hope that the IACM - despite all the world wide challenges we are facing right now - will prosper in the near future!

Foreword

Janne Nokki, The President of IACM 2022-

I am most grateful for your trust. The times have truly been exceptional, in more respects than one. I am glad we nevertheless have been able to gather here in my country.

After years of delays, the IACM is still alive but we must note that we are clearly standing on the threshold of a new era. Next year our association will be 30 years old. This means the first generation of activists is no longer with us. Those founding our association in the 1990s have now retired or passed away.

It is time for new generations to take over. Not just my generation, we need the younger ones too. But this demands some action. Some of it is quite urgent.

In recent years, the numbers of active members have diminished. Certain active countries have left us for good. Although some new member countries have appeared, this has not covered all the losses. There's not much we can do about this of course. This is out of our hands.

What we could still do is try to increase membership by making this association more attractive. There has to be some added value in IACM that is desirable to its members. In our next conference, we must be prepared to discuss new ways of doing things together.

We need to activate our membership to act together. To achieve this we must make cooperation easier and increase our ways of communication. Even meeting in person annually is by far the best way to communicate, it is also troublesome, and for some, travelling is not as easy as it is to others. Although in recent years most people certainly have grown tired of electronic meetings, they are nevertheless an option we must accept as permanent.

Feel free to contact me on any issue and I will try to find out what to do with it.
Thank you!



New president and retiring president at the stairs of old Helsinki Customs house



28th IACM Conference and General Assembly Helsinki 21 to 23 September 2022



Conference Theme: Managing Collections

PROGRAM

Wednesday 21st September 2022

13:15	Meeting at the Hotel Lobby <i>Please wear shoes with which you can walk on cobblestones!</i>	Scandic Grand Marina
13:30	Walk to the ferry	Market Square, JT Line
14:00	Transport to Suomenlinna	JT Line, m/s Ilves
14:30	Multimedia Experience at Suomenlinna	Suomenlinna
15:00	Walk to the Customs Museum	
15:10	Guided Tour at the Customs Museum "Leaves of Desire" - Exhibition on the History of Customs and Tobacco Permanent Exhibition of Customs Declaration, Enforcement and Smuggling	
16:30	Small Welcoming Dinner at Myllysali	
19:00	Transport to Market Square	JT Line, m/s Ilves

Thursday 22nd September 2022

8:30	IACM General Assembly Reports by the President, Secretary, Treasurer	Marina Congress Center
9:00	1. Opening by the President 2. IACM Report 2019 - 2022 by the President 3. Financial report by the Treasurer 4. New IACM Board (elections) 5. Next Conference(s)	
11:30	Lunch	
12:15	Bus Transport to Vantaa	Scandic Grand Marina
12:45	Excursion to Collection Centre of National Bureau of Antiquities	Vantaa
14:00	Bus Transport to Marina Congress Center	
14:30	Managing Collections and Collection Policies Mr. Eero Salmio (Helsinki City Museum) Coffee Break	Marina Congress Center
15:30	Managing Collections in the Netherlands Ms. Anne-Marieke van Schaik (Tax & Customs Museum, Rotterdam)	
16:00	Discussion	
17:30	Meeting at Lobby and walk to ferry	Scandic Grand Marina
18:00	A dinner cruise in the Helsinki maritime area The "Sveaborg menu" <i>Prepare that it can be cold on the deck, not inside</i>	JT Line, m/s Ilves
21:00	Return to Market Square and walk to the hotel	

Friday 23rd September 2022

8:30	Meeting at the Hotel Lobby	Hotel Environment
8:30	A Walking Tour in Customs History of the Katajanokka Quarter -includes guided visit inside the old custom house (1901)	
9:30	Continuation of Conference, Discussion, Miscellaneous	Marina Congress Center
10:30	Coffee Break	
10:40	Continuation of Conference, Discussion, Miscellaneous	
11:30	Lunch End of Conference	

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE IACM MEMBERS

Austria

The Iron Cassette

The Austrian Customs Museum in Vienna has many customs officers' uniforms, service weapons, historical documents and service utensils from the time of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy to the present day. The collection is constantly expanded with objects brought in by private individuals as well as by colleagues from the customs offices.

Some time ago, a historic iron box was made available that had been in an office in the Federal Ministry of Finance for years.

This steel cassette originally came from a consumption tax line office (Verzehrungssteuer-Linienamt) and served as a safe for storing official items and the cash receipts from the consumption tax.

This was levied from around 1830 to the end of the century for food and consumer goods that were delivered from the monarchy's hinterland to the cities to supply the people.

Hopefully there will be new exhibits in the future so that our collection can always be up-to-date and varied.



Historical uniforms, service weapons and documents



Transfer of the iron cassette from a line office

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE IACM MEMBERS

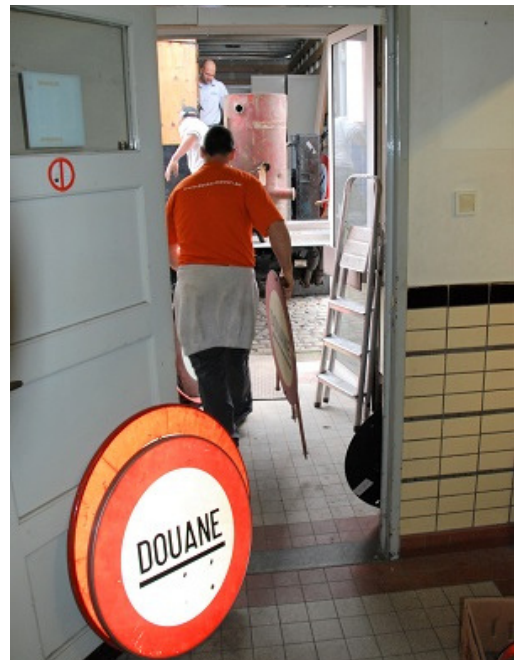
Belgium

Housing the collection – a work in progress

The basis for the National Museum of Customs and Excise when it was taking shape in the mid 1980's were the items collected and used for educational purposes in the training centres of the Belgian C&E Administration since the 1950's. However this collection has grown very significantly since then and housing it properly has been a major and ongoing concern for our team.

Currently we are facing another major challenge as the (rented) premises where our depot – containing more than 20.000 objects - is located will have to be returned to the Antwerp City Council in the near future. This announcement came before the COVID-19 lockdown and a lot of precious time was lost when we were not allowed there for several months due to strict restrictions. However, the deadline for this huge move has not changed and we will have to vacate the building by the end of 2023. It is also clear that we will not be able to take along all our items so some tough decisions will have to be made.

We have come a long way since 1986 in the Antwerp based museum and there is still a major relocation to be taken care of. Nevertheless by 2024 we will have the museum, its documentation centre and its depot under one roof and that will be an important achievement.



Clearing out our "Depot 21" in 2010



Moving parts of a seized illegal distillery from the facility in Meer to the main depot in Antwerp in 2015

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE IACM MEMBERS

Finland

Towards a Collection Policy

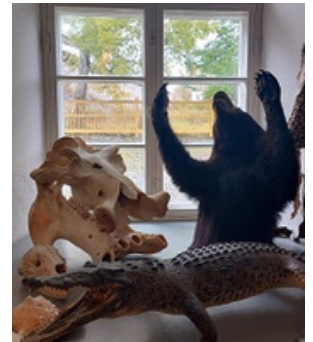
The Finnish Customs Museum has no written collection policy or any similar document. The Museum has nevertheless developed certain practical outlines for defining, which items deserve to be included in the collection and which do not. The items have to have some connection to the work of the Customs administration in Finland, but they may also be of private nature. Typical items are uniforms, insignia, tools or different types of office equipment as well as printed matters and documents.

Another rule of a more general type is that an item either has to be very typical to the work in question or somehow exceptional. Of course, in a way such rules may rule each other out. Yet this kind of general considerations may help define the historical value of the item.

When some printed matter is offered that we already have, we have decided to accept it, as it may end up being sold at auction or in the trash. There is no other museum specialized in these type of items. It must be considered reputational damage if, for instance, old Customs handbooks appear in second-hand stores. The same applies to old uniform insignia or customs flags. Retired officers sometimes have such items in their homes, and when deceased, their beneficiaries often lack knowledge or interest.

Very special items in customs work are the confiscated objects. These also demand a special procedure. Items ruled by a court to the state, have to be applied for from the Ministry of Finance. Practical obstacles, such as size or distance, may sometimes lead to rejection of otherwise valid items.

Writing a more thorough Collection Policy document is currently in process.



Part of collection and also currently in the exhibition is this hippo skull, nicknamed once "Ernesti" by our staff. The skull was seized by the Helsinki Airport Customs in the early 2000s. "Ernesti" had been wrapped in thick plastic, which left a very particular smell in it. On a sunny day, the smell sometimes reappears in the museum. This can be prevented by using small amount of roasted coffee inside, which absorbs the smell well. The coffee must be changed regularly.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE IACM MEMBERS

France

Towards a Collection Policy

As for all museums, the purpose of the Customs National Museum is to gather, protect, preserve and display artifacts that represent the French customs history.

The preservation actions undergo many stages.

When artifacts are being acquired (by donations, administrative deposit, purchase), the first step is to welcome the object in the best way.

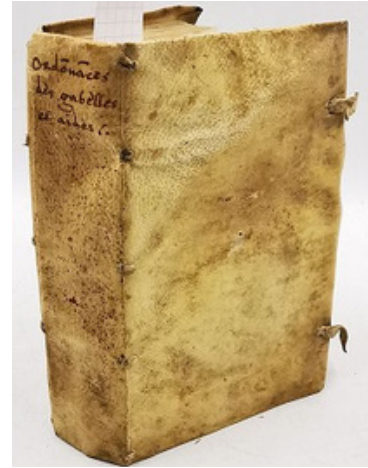
As the museum doesn't have a specific room for that purpose, the collections manager's office is used to that aim, as a « transit zone », before they are transferred in the storage area.

There, the artifact will be thoroughly checked to assess its integrity. It will be recorded in the inventory and many photographs will be taken.

If needed, a cleaning will be done and eventually the item will be temporarily marked. After these operations, the items can enter the storing rooms.

Throughout the year, original or rare artefacts can enter the collections.

For example a book dating from 1577, bought at an auction this year. It is a very rare compilation of royal legal texts from the XVIth century about fiscal topics : fees, levies and salt taxation.



Book, compilation of royal legal texts, 1577 - bought at an auction in 2022

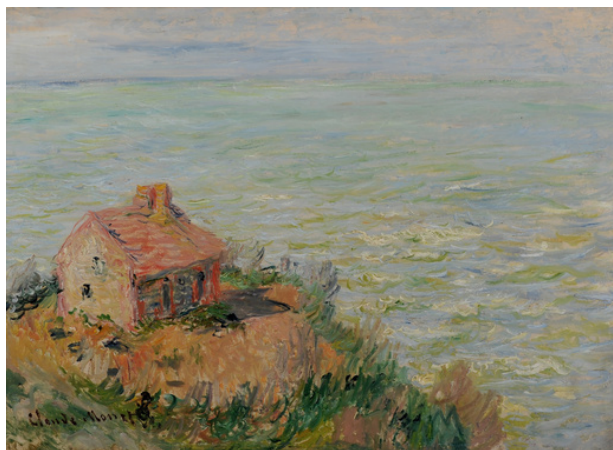
This book, whose binding is made of well preserved calfskin, is interesting in many ways : it illustrates the fiscal side of the customs administration, enriches the collection of ancient documents of the museum, and may be displayed in a future exhibition.

Other artifacts, part of the museums collection since many years, are subject of attentive care.

For instance the painting "Cabane des douaniers, afternoon effect" by Claude Monet. It was bought by the French Ministry of Finances in 1985 on proposal by the director general of Customs. Originating from an auction that took place in Japan, the painting was listed in the Louvre's inventory and then transferred to the Orsay museum that had just opened, with the obligation to send it to Bordeaux as a deposit.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE IACM MEMBERS

France



Claude Monet, "Cabane des douaniers, effet d'après-midi", 1882 - deposited by museum of Orsay, Paris

In that regard, this outstanding piece of art is under the double surveillance of the Customs national Museum and of the Orsay museum. It is regularly requested for loans for temporary exhibitions, all assessed by Orsay as owner of the painting.

The picture, that too few visitors of the museum know of, has not been seized and is not counterfeit. It illustrates the surveillance of the coast by customs agents.

Another iconic artifact of the museum is the monumental scale. This 390 meters tall wooden scale is partially rebuilt: the ropes and the pans were made in the 1980's to complete the massive wooden gantry and the metal beam, which is engraved with the year "1783" and the name of the scale maker "A. Fournel".



Balance monumentale, 1783 - found in the hall of the museum, end of XVIII century

The dismantled parts of the scale were discovered during the renovation of the hall where the museum is located. Once rebuilt, the scale illustrates one of the most important tasks of customs agents during their work: the weighing of goods. Indeed, it allowed the calculation of taxes.

The variety of nature and of types of collections curated at the Customs national Museum require constant adaptation and adjustment in managing and presentation. The type of acquisition, especially customs seizures, enhance the originality of the museum's collections and all these features concur to the uniqueness of the Customs national Museum in France.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE IACM MEMBERS

Germany

"When the barriers fell. The German Customs Union" 1833. The new interaction in the German Customs Museum

The innovation of the German Customs Union almost 200 years ago still has an impact on many areas of our lives today. The achievements of that time will continue to be implemented at European level. The German Customs Union thus served as a pioneer and role model for the EU, and we continue to benefit from a single currency, standardized lengths and weights, the elimination of customs borders and a uniform tax system.

The aim of the interaction is to convey to the visitor that a union was created in Germany in the 19th century with the aim of abolishing trade barriers and thus promoting peace, prosperity and progress. The projection surface suspended from the ceiling with the title "When the barriers fell. The German Customs Union." is visible to visitors from afar. Here the film "State Puzzle" shows the growing together of the German states in the German Customs Union.

The top of the exhibition table is designed as a game board and invites you to explore the topic with fun. The course of the game is based on the 40 most important events. Placing the game pieces on the event spaces starts different interactions that bring entertaining content to the respective historical event in a nutshell.

Instructions on how the game is progressing appear on a second monitor. If the button for the other ICONS is started, information on the state puzzle, on historical personalities around the German Customs Union and examples of currency conversions and barter transactions at the time appear on the monitor at the end of the gaming table. Anyone who does not want to delve too deeply into the subject can use the rotating timeline on the exhibition furniture, which graphically depicts the most important events surrounding the founding of the German Customs Union.



Additional exhibits are displayed in eleven small and large showcases and a touchscreen monitor provides information on the protagonists' CVs, explanations of foreign words and much more on different text levels. The new exhibition element was also made possible by the generous financial support of the Förderkreis Deutsches Zollmuseum e.V (museum support group), which completely covered the costs for the content research of a historian.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE IACM MEMBERS

Hungary

Groma mechanical typewriter

The first typewriter was created by Peter Mitterhofer, of Tyrolean origin. It was a working model of which he presented at the Viennese court on December 18, 1866. He had no money to patent the typewriter, so the success was achieved in America by Christopher Latham Sholes with the typewriter he created. Mass production of typewriters began in the early 1900s.

An old piece in the collection of the Museum of the History of Finance and Taxation (PAM) is a well preserved Groma-type mechanical typewriter made around 1930 at the Markersdorf factory near Dresden.

In 1927, to make office work smoother and more efficient, the Minister of Finance ordered the use of typewriters in office work. The contemporary specialised press remembered this: „Typewriters. Most recently, the Ministry of Finance authorized the use of typewriters for all finance guard performers (two in a larger district) for performers' use (finance guard department). Typewriters have already been procured in most places and must be taken into inventory by the finance guard.” (Journal of Finance, July 1-15, 1927, Vol. XVII, No. 13-14, pp. 220-221.)

Previously handwritten files were gradually replaced by those prepared by typewriter. This technical innovation represented a step forward in official writing, not only in financial administration, but also in the entire state and public administration. It facilitated the reproduction of documents, but it also posed new challenges, as the technical means had to be maintained and, needed to be repaired, if necessary. From time to time, the Ministry of Finance issued regulations on maintenance, e.g. for the purchase of typewriter tapes, inks.



With the official use of typewriters, a kind of historical development of technology can be observed with the emergence of mechanical, electromechanical and electrical models, and then computers and word processing programs, appeared at the end of the XX century, gradually replaced them.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE IACM MEMBERS

Lithuania

A Vase of the Victims of Medininkai

This vase was intended to be donated as a wedding gift to the Lithuanian customs officer Tomas Šernas, who was working at the Lithuanian Customs after the restoration of Lithuania's independence on 11 March 1990. The vase is engraved with inscriptions on the occasion of the wedding with the wishes of those colleagues, who worked at the Medininkai customs post together with Tomas Šernas.



However, on 31 July 1991, Lithuania was shocked by a painful tragedy. The head of the shift of the Medininkai border post Tomas Šernas was on duty at the Medininkai customs post on 31 July 1991, on the eve of his wedding, when OMON (Soviet militia) forces attacked and brutally murdered the officers working there, i.e. customs inspectors Antanas Musteikis, Stanislovas Orlavičius, Ričardas Rabavičius and four of their fellow police officers. Only the customs inspector Tomas Šernas was destined to survive.

Tomas Šernas, seriously wounded during the attack, remained alive. The protection of Tomas Šernas, as the only witness of the crime, was strengthened with the start of the coup d'état in Moscow, and he was treated secretly.

Tomas Šernas married his fiancée Rasa only on 1 July 1993.

Tensions on the border were instigated not only by frequent attacks, but also by the diarchy of the customs authorities, as the Soviet customs authorities were also operating in Lithuania until the collapse of the August coup in Moscow. Only on 26 August 1991 their activities were terminated, and the functions of the foreign state institution were taken over by the Customs Department. In the same year, the Lithuanian Customs emblem and the uniform of officials were approved.

The main tasks of the young institution at that time were to enforce laws determining customs policy, to apply customs tariffs and to collect customs duties, to prevent smuggling and other violations of customs regulations.



CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE IACM MEMBERS

Switzerland

Collection policy of the Swiss Customs Museum

Only a small part of the object collection is housed in the Swiss Customs Museum in Lugano. The majority of the exhibits, around 3,000 pieces, are housed in the Swiss National Museum (Collection Centre) in Affoltern am Albis by Zurich. There, all objects are professionally inventoried, conserved and restored. In addition, the team of the National Museum (object protection) carries out an inspection of the museum every year in spring and autumn. During these visits, the objects are packed and unpacked, prepared for exhibition and, if necessary, damaged or defective objects are taken back to the collection centre and restored there.



Special loan from the Swiss National Federal Archives

«Refuge control». The Caprino register (September 1943 to April 1945).

The "Refuge control" is an exclusive document and unique in its kind. It lists the refugees accepted and rejected in Cantine di Gandria. Here you can discover some of their stories, at times successful, at times tragic.



A room of the exhibition features an exceptional document: the register of refugees who arrived in this building that was once a border post and now houses the Customs Museum. At the present time, it is the only such register in Switzerland. It tells us about the refugees who sought refuge from persecution in Cantine di Gandria; dramatic, adventurous and moving stories that make us think and reflect.

CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE IACM MEMBERS

The Republic of Korea

Metaverse – a virtual copy of the ancient “Cho-un-seon 조운선” vessel for transporting taxed goods

During the Korean Koryeo dynasty (918–1392) and the Joseon (1392–1897) dynasty, crown taxes were collected from different parts of the realm with sailing vessels specially designed for this purpose. Below is a painting of such a ship.

With this vessel, grain or other goods collected as taxes were transported to the Korean capital by sea or along rivers. The bottom of the ship was flat and its structure suited the maritime environment of the Korean peninsula, where tides are high and water levels are low.

The ships used on rivers were smaller than the ones used at sea. They were also narrower and longer, which made them optimal for sailing rivers with low water levels as well as sailing during the winter season with less rain.



The painting of Gak-seon-do-bon “Joseon”.

During the later Joseon dynasty, i.e. latter half of the 19th century, one tax-collecting vessel could transport over 200 tons of grain on average. Data from this period shows that larger ships were built, carrying as much as 300 tons of grain. This proves the high standard of the shipbuilding and navigation techniques of the Joseon dynasty.



Miniature model of the Joseon ship.

At present, the only historical source that enables us to guess the form, size and structure of a Joseon sailing vessel is the painting titled ‘Gak-seon-do-bon 각선도본’. The painting belongs to a series of six sailing vessels, and the series has images of Joseon tax-collecting ships and warships of the same period.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND PRESENTATION

General Assembly



The President presented his reports for 2019–20 to the General Assembly. Also the Treasurer presented his financial reports for 2019–20. All reports were voted and accepted.

Elections of the new Board took place. Treasurer and Secretary: Francis Huijbrechts (BE) was elected for a combined role for both tasks for a year. After 2023 General Assembly onwards, he will work only as the IACM secretary.

For President: Janne Nokki (FI) was elected as successor of Wim van Es.



With many member countries unable to attend the physical conference, there was urgent need for the possibility to attend the General Assembly remotely. Therefore, the meeting was held in a hybrid form – physically in Helsinki and virtually on Microsoft Teams.

The countries physically present were Belgium, Finland, France, Republic of Korea, Lithuania, The Netherlands and Switzerland. Countries attending the General Assembly remotely via Microsoft Teams were Austria, China, Germany, Hungary, Luxembourg and Portugal. IACM Treasurer Francis Huijbrechts (Belgium) attended the General Assembly remotely.



Next conference organizer will be announced later in 2023.

PRESENTATIONS

Eero Salmio, Helsinki City Museum: Writing Collection Management Policies - Working together with Local Museum

Helsinki City Museum

Helsinki City Museum also serves as Regional Museum for the Helsinki Metropolitan area (Central Uusimaa Province). In this area there are about 70 museums - smaller professional museums and volunteer-based local museums.

The Helsinki City Museum's vision is that:

**"Everyone has the
opportunity to fall in love with Helsinki"**

Working with collection management policies is one of their main focal points. Helsinki City Museum helps museums in writing their own collection policies. Helsinki City Museum provides advice to municipalities, associations, foundations and companies in matters related to museum collections and recording traditions.



Photo: Yehia Eweis/ Helsinki City Museum



COLLECTION MISSION - WHY DO WE EXIST?

- What is unique and significant about the museum's collections?
- Does the museum's collection have regional, geographical or thematic criteria?
- What kinds of objects the museum's collections consist of?
- Why certain objects have been selected, and why something has been excluded?
- How does the national and international legislation concerning museums affect the collection mission?
- How would you define your museums collection mission?

PRESENTATIONS

Eero Salmio, Helsinki City Museum: Writing Collection Management Policies - Working together with Local Museum

Collection Management

Helsinki City Museum has created a collection policy template. Template helps the process of writing by guiding museums with headlines, instructions, questions and a few example sentences.

By using the template museums can write a cohesive and short policy. The first template serves as groundwork for the next more detailed collection policy.

The process aims to develop museological thinking within the local museum. What is most important in your collection and which areas to prioritize in your collection work?

The checklist for Museum Collections Management Policy (2014) is a practical tool for professionals:

<https://www.museovirasto.fi/uploads/Arkisto-ja-kokoelmapalvelut/Julkaisut/museum-collections-management-policy.pdf>



Among the newest museums in the region is the Finnish Punk Museum. Photo: Eero Salmio/ Helsinki City Museum



COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT

- Adding an object to the collections
 - Who makes the decisions about what is included in the collections and what is not.
 - Describe the criteria based on which decisions are made (contextual information, condition of the object ect.)
 - How objects end up in the collections.
- Care and storage of the collections
 - Where are the objects stored? Does the museum have a separate storage space for the collections?
 - Is the space adequate and appropriate? If possible, record the square metres and shelf metres of the storage space.
 - Also specify the conditions under which the objects are stored.

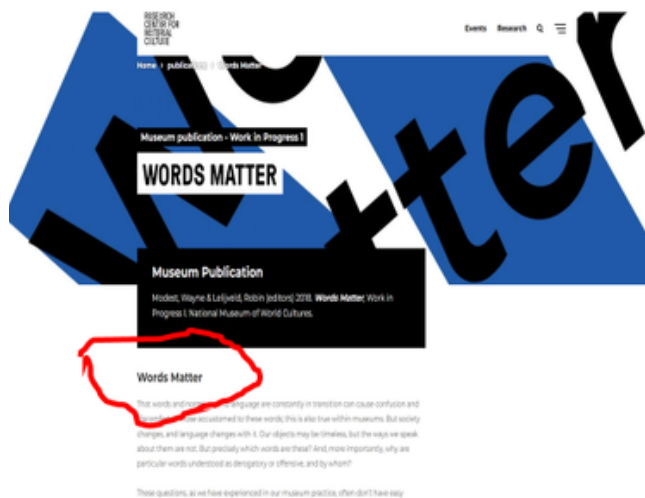
PRESENTATIONS

Anne-Marieke van Schaik, Tax & Customs Museum Rotterdam: Collections Management in the Tax & Customs Museum

During COVID we worked mostly on the registration of our collection. This meant updating the descriptions with measurements, dates and condition.

Diversity & Inclusion

An important focus was on making the descriptions more diverse and inclusive. To be inclusive means checking everything, not only for degrading terms in the black/white discourse, but also for ableisms (disabled). We use the online publications Words Matter.



It is not easy to walk the line between being overly politically correct and being inclusive for every possible visitor in the museum and online. We consider it work in progress.

The Tax & Customs Museum has joined Museums True Colours. This foundation encourages museums to show history from different perspectives. We organised the exhibition Taxed Colonial Past to show our colonial past in its invasive and oppressing character instead of through a romantic lens.

The long preparation time due to COVID gave us the opportunity to research our objects more thoroughly and consult experts. For example the batik of two wooden statuettes turns out to be from Yogyakarta or Solo.



A Javanese tax officer and his wife, balsa wood, 1920-1940.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND PRESENTATION

Anne-Marieke van Schaik, Tax & Customs Museum Rotterdam: Collections Management in the Tax & Customs Museum

Sustainability

Sustainability is another important focus in our collections management. Climate change is one of the big issues of our time and we care. We chose not to have an A-climate in the museum because that is very difficult to realise in an old building. Instead we opted for a B-climate. This means any temperature between 16 and 26 degrees Celsius and a humidity between 40 and 60 are acceptable.

Whenever an object needs a special climate we can put it in a showcase which provides an extra barrier. We also have two climate cases with adjustable temperature and humidity. We bought our first climate case in 2016 and have used it ever since.



The Imperial Armoury in Vienna granted our loan request for the armour of the Duke of Alva on the condition of a very dry interior climate and constant surveillance.

GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND PRESENTATION

Sung Jin Kim, The National Tax Museum of Korea: Metaverse



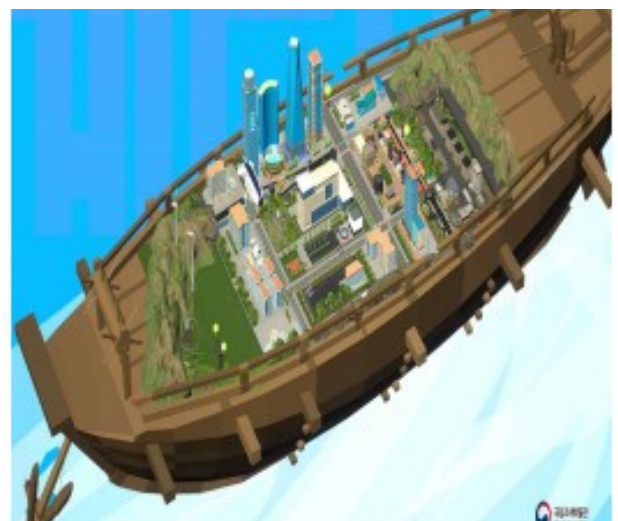
Delegation of Republic of Korea introduced how their Tax Museum had put the latest technology in good use.

In 2022, to honour the 20th anniversary of the South Korean National Tax Museum, a virtual world called the 'Metaverse Tax Museum', was created. In the virtual world anyone can visit and explore the museum from the comfort of their home.



The metaverse introduction video from YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WkqkpgRWniQ&t=46s>



A virtual model of the Joseon vessel in the Metaverse virtual world of the south Korean National Tax Museum.

EXCURSIONS

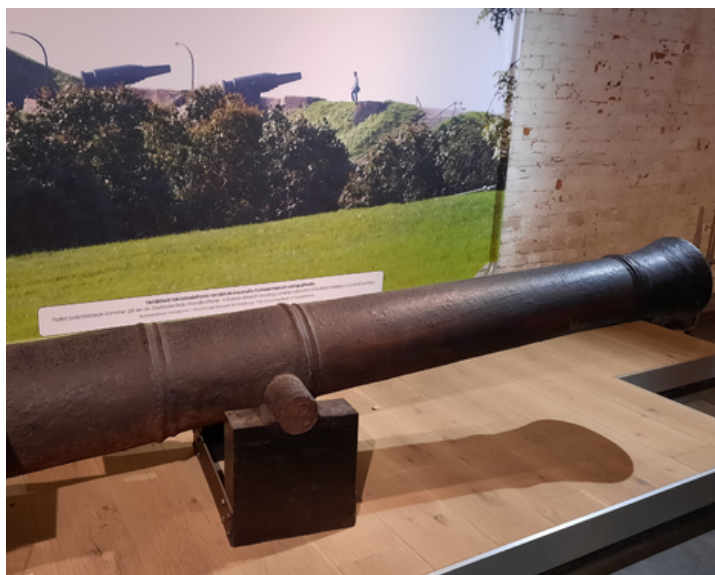
Multimedia experience in Suomenlinna

On Wednesday 21st September 2022 Conference participants were welcomed at Hotel Grand Marina. After this, the participants experienced a boat tour around Suomenlinna Sea Fortress. Once ashore, the participants visited the Suomenlinna Centre and the Finnish Customs Museum.

In the Suomenlinna Centre, the participants were introduced to the history of Suomenlinna via Multimedia experience. Afterwards curator Janne Nokki guided the participants through the Finnish Customs Museum.

After the museum tour, there was a welcoming dinner in the Suomenlinna Myllysali, where Communications Director of the Finnish Customs Mika Parkkonen welcomed all participants.

IACM President Wim van Es thanked the Finnish Customs and host Mr. Janne Nokki for preparing this conference.



The participants also got to see the historical sites of Suomenlinna from the sea.



Finnish Submarine Vesikko was launched in 1933. Today it is a popular attraction of the Finnish Military Museum which is also located in Suomenlinna.

The former curator of the Finnish Customs Museum, Mr. Seppo Malkki also welcomed the participants to Helsinki and remembered the history of IACM. He is one of the founding fathers of the association.

EXCURSIONS

Tullimuseo, Customs museum



The Customs Museum is located in the Hamilton-Polhem curtain on Susisaari island in Suomenlinna.

The building has an exceptionally dark history. Since the 1700s, the curtain housed the Suomenlinna fortress prison and military barracks. In 1918 the building was part of the Suomenlinna prison camp set up after the Finnish Civil War. Then the building operated long as an army supply warehouse until in the early 1990s when the facilities were renovated.

The Customs Museum is entrusted with the task of conveying information on the long history of Customs in Finland.

The Finnish Customs Museum has three exhibition rooms displaying the development of customs clearance methods and prevention of smuggling from the Swedish reign to the present. The current thematic exhibition is about the history of tobacco and Customs.



EXCURSIONS

The Finnish Heritage Agency's Collections and Conservation Centre

On Thursday 22nd September, the participants were introduced to The Finnish Heritage Agency's Collections and Conservation Centre in Vantaa. The Centre is the most modern, most versatile and largest of such facilities in Finland.

In the Collections and Conservation Centre items and archives of different museums and archives are stored and managed in the best possible way under carefully regulated conditions suitable for various materials. The centre offers a wide range of services to museums and anyone who wants to ensure the preservation and good care of their valuable collections.



The Collections and Conservation Centre has a wide range of special equipment and technology not found anywhere else in Finland, tailored specifically for conservation needs. Almost anything from a small coffee cup in a dollhouse to an entire horse-drawn carriage can be conserved in the center.



The Collections and Conservation Centre offers also collection management and storage services. Its wide range of services includes different storage conditions and shelving systems, logistics services, conservation, condition inspections, photography and various working spaces (e.g. exploration and photography).

EXCURSIONS

A walking Tour in Customs History of the Katajanokka Quarter

On the last day of the conference, 23rd of September, the host Mr. Janne Nokki led a guided walking tour in customs history of the nearby Helsinki Katajanokka quarter.



The waiting hall for declaring clients is protected by Finnish Heritage Agency. The image is from early 20th century.

In the late 19th century, port facilities of Helsinki were largely concentrated in the maritime quarter of Katajanokka. It became the most important port for whole Finland. One of the most imposing buildings of this old port area is the old main Customs House of Helsinki (1901). It is built in Neo-Renaissance style. This extraordinary building was used by the Helsinki Customs until the early 1990s.

The quarter is dominated by old warehouse buildings that were all used as bonded warehouses, as was the hotel where the participants were accommodated. From the early 20th century until the 1970s the Katajanokka quarter had altogether four different customs offices.



The participants had a quick tour around these buildings and were also acquainted with the old railway line to the port which no longer exists. Today, the old port of Katajanokka is still used by large passenger ferries.



EXCURSIONS

A walking Tour in Customs History of the Katajanokka Quarter



The old main Customs House of Helsinki



The first course for Customs Guards was held here in the
1940s