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FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dr Richard Benjamin

Cultural leaders, cultural change

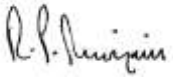
In early March I gave a paper at the ICOM UK Working Internationally Conference at the British Library. The conference considered the role and importance of international networks in supporting cross-border collaborations and partnerships and my session was on Museums and Migration. I spoke about CAM as well as the *Migration:Cities* project and noted how successful both had been in culitvating and sustaining international partnerships and support networks. Other speakers represented the Tate and the Migration Museum in London.

In April I attended an Oxford Cultural Leaders course with people from UK-based cultural organisations and from around the Commonwealth – including Canada, New Zealand and Australia. It gave me an opportunity to reflect on my leadership traits, and gain an insight into other methodologies utilised by an eclectic mix of professionals – from curators to artistic directors – and allowed me an opportunity to espouse the importance of CAM and to boost memberhip. I hope to see several new members sign up these next few months.

Oxford is a fitting place for such a course. Access to marvellous college locations, world-renowned teaching faculty and a wonderful array of museums. We were fortunate to not only have an evening dinner under the dinosaurs at the Museum of Natural History (a first for me personally) and a tour by the Director of the Ashmolean, but we also had sessions at the eccentric and often problematic Pitt Rivers Museum and Oxford Botanic Garden and Arboretum. We had a very interesting city tour by a lcoal historian who made the intersting (but sadly unsurprising point) that Oxford colleges have been deliberatly built inward looking - they do not face outwards, to the city. Yes, there are steps to improve access but they are small steps.

Museum directors gave presentations and provided insight into their own views on cultural leadership. I'm sure you are not surprised to hear that there is no magic formula, everyone's experiences are different and people have different journeys with different stresses and strains. However, one interesting thread was that change, even though it might be clearly needed, often needs time. Time to reflect on previous methodologies and to carry out new ones. This seems to go against the perceived nature of change within our sector, that it should be immediate and impactful.

The most productive change for large and small cultural organisations is often done in a reflective and astute way. For CAM, I think we are on the right track: we are a family of many museums, of a dazzling array of subjects spread across the world with our own duties and dilemmas. We all know how museums can change lives – and that to do this we are in it for the long-haul. There is no magic wand. So let's continue to work together, share advice and support, and reflect on the great work we have done. But recognise we always need to move forward and engage with new audiences in new ways.
Best,



Richard

UPCOMING CAM EVENTS

International Museum Partnerships and Collaborations

2 September 2019, 2:30-6:00 pm

ICOM Triennial General Conference, Kyoto, Japan

Museums as Cultural Hubs: The Future of Tradition

- Introduction to CAM, MAC, PIMA and AFRICOM, their accomplishments and current status.
- Presentations by speakers from each region about their experience with international collaborations that involved several museums internationally
- Roundtable discussion about:
  - Sustainability (purpose/funding)
  - Board engagement (succession planning/voluntarism) and
  - Membership (value/benefits)
- Next steps: how can we collaborate more effectively in the future?

If you are attending the ICOM Conference in Kyoto please let CAM know; we'd like to meet as many members as possible. For information about the ICOM General Conference, go to: www.icom-kyoto-2019.org/index.html

SAVE THE DATE!

Access and Inclusion in South and Southeast Asian Museums

At Mehrangarh Fort, Jodhpur, India

November 29-30, 2019

post-workshop tour to be determined

in collaboration with ICOM ICTOP and ICOM India

CAM and our partners ICTOP, ICOM India, Mehrangarh Museum Trust, Jodhpur, and the Maharaja Sawai Man Singh II Museum Trust in Jaipur are collaborating to organise a follow up to our 2016 workshop and publication on *Access in Museums in South Asia*. Our goal for this workshop is to create an attitudinal shift in the way people think about disability, equality and inclusion. We intend to build upon the 2016 workshop; to analyse progress made in making museums, and the processes used to develop them, physically and intellectually accessible to all; to explore policies and projects that can be looked upon as sources of inspiration; and to address challenges, problems and

solutions towards universal access. The workshop will include presentations, hands-on activities and simulation exercises. ICTOP has received an ICOM special project grant which will support travel costs for participants from Category 3 and 4 countries in the region as well as other workshop costs. You may download the 2016 publication from the CAM website: www.maltwood.uvic.ca/cam/publications/access-museums-south-asia.html

Living Forward, Looking Back: Museum Practice for Postcolonial Futures

at the South African Museum

Cape Town, South Africa

March 9-14, 2020

Commonwealth Association of Museums (CAM) & Iziko Museums of South Africa

The event consists of two, two-day pre-conference workshops, a 3-day conference, and a post-conference tour. There will be separate registration fees for each:

Workshops: 1. *Collections Management and Preventive Conservation of Human Remains and Sacred Belongings;* and 2. *Interpreting Difficult History: Curation and Education*

Conference: The conference will explore issues of difficult histories in post-colonial societies. Themes include:

- Decolonising the Museum
- Legacies of Empire
- Trauma and Memory
- Human Remains and Sacred Artefacts
- Community Engagement; and

- Reconciliation

as well as visits to local museums and heritage sites including the Slave Lodge, Robben Island and District Six Museum.

Post-conference tour: Visit Solms Delta, a progressive wine estate that is empowering its previously disadvantaged worker and resident communities through sharing of land and business equity https://www.solms-delta.co.za/ and museums in the region.

For further information, to receive the Call for Papers or to submit a 250 word proposal/abstract and 100-word biography by June 30, 2019, contact: Rachel Erickson and Wendy Molnar: camtriennial@gmail.com

RECENT CAM ACTIVITIES

Human Remains Management: Extending the Conversation throughout Southern Africa

March 11-12, 2019
University of Botswana
Gaborone, Botswana

More than 50 people from eight countries (Botswana, Canada, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, United Kingdom, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) participated in the the third *Human Remains Management workshop* in Gaborone, Botswana hosted by Dr Morongwa Nancy Mosothwane at the University of Botswana. Following the official greetings from Prof Oatlhokwa Nkomazana, Deputy Vice Chancellor Academic Affairs and keynote by Kgosi Moremi Tawana, MP Ngamiland, CAM Secretary-General Catherine C. Cole provided an overview of the history of the project from its inception, placing it within the context of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the ICOM Code of Ethics, and touched on the current focus on restitution in Europe and reconciliation in Canada.

Dr Viv Golding, Chair, ICOM International Committee for Museums of Ethnography (ICME), UK, facilitated a panel which explored successful repatriations internationally and featured Ms Patricia Allen Curator of World Collections at Glasgow Museums, Scotland; Prof Susan Pfeiffer from the University of Toronto, Canada, Ms Marina de Alarcón, of the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, UK, Dr Geoff Ramsey, an independent researcher in Botswana, Ms Charlene Houston, Deputy Director Museum Services, and Mr Andrew September, Heritage Officer Heritage Western Cape, South Africa.

ICOM Botswana Chair Ms Tsepiso Gabonthone facilitated a panel on the legislation and policy framework for human remains management with presentations about forensic cases in Botswana by Dr Shatani Mugoma, Forensic Pathologist, Botswana Police; Tshū!Kō and !Kai: Namibian Practices and Policy Regarding the Return of Ancestral Remains by Dr Alma Nankela, National Heritage Council of Namibia and Dr Jeremy Silvester, Director, Museums Association of Namibia; Human Remains Management in Zambia by Ms Maggie Katongo, Assistant Keeper of Archaeology, Livingstone Museum, Zambia; and Seychelles Legislation and Policy by Ms Bella Rose, Museum Curator, Seychelles National Museum of History.

The Botswana National Museum hosted a book launch for ICME/Cambridge Scholars Publishing's new release *Museums and Communities: Diversity, Dialogue and Collaboration in an Age of Migrations,* edited by Viv Golding and Jen Walklate that includes a chapter by project partners. Following dinner a local primary school dance troupe performed traditional dances from the region.

The next day began with a roundtable discussion about Indigenous perspectives on human remains and repatriation facilitated by Dr Alma Nankela, with translation by Ms. Annelize Kotze. The panel featured Mr Edwin Saleem Saidoo, Chairperson and Mr Nichodimus Cooper, Public Relations Executive, of the Botswana Nama Development Trust, Ms Kileni Fernando, Coordinator for the Namibian San Council, Mr Petrus Vaalbooi, Khoesan elder from the Northern Cape and Isak Kruiper a traditional healer.

CAM Secretary-General Catherine C. Cole moderated a panel on dark histories and lasting effects that included discussion of an exhibition curated by Annelize Kotze at Iziko Museums; a presentation on the *Exhumation of Liberation War remains in Zimbabwe* by Dr Njabulo Chipangura, Department of Anthropology, University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa and Curator of Archaeology, Mutare Museum, Zimbabwe;

Dr. Ciraj Rassool, Department of History, University of Western Cape and Dr. Bianca van Laun, University of Western Cape, South Africa on *Violence and the Dead of Colonialism and Apartheid*; *Stolen Bodies: Case Study in Postcolonial Unethical Removal of Graves at the Anglo-Boer War Site along the Notwane River, by* Dr. Morongwa Mosothwane, Senior Lecturer, University of Botswana and Mr. Vasco Baitseseng, Curator, Botswana National Museum, Botswana; and *The Nama of Botswana and the German Genocide: A reflection*, by Mr. Nichodimus Cooper, Public Relations Executive, Botswana Nama Development Trust, Botswana.

The last session on policy development included a review of the *Iziko Museums Policy and Guidelines* by Rooksana Omar, CEO of Iziko Museums of South Africa, which holds many of the remains in the region that are being discussed in terms of future repatriations. Prof. Shahid Vawda, Director of the School of Anthropology and Linguistics at the University of Cape Town and Dr Jeremy Silvester, Director of the Museums Association of Namibia facilitated a small group discussion addressing four questions:

1. Should there be a Southern African policy to provide a common approach to the return of human remains?
2. Should we develop and extend the regional network and what role should it play?
3. What is the most effective way to identify the relevant communities, without prescribing, for consultation regarding returns and what are the challenges with engagement/consultation?
4. In what ways should communities be involved in returns and reburials?

There was general agreement that each country should establish a working group with representatives from the government, museums, universities and other collecting institutions to establish local guidelines and that a convention or agreement should be established between countries in the region.

Finally, Catherine C. Cole facilitated a session about next steps for the project. Our three year ICOM Special Project funding ends this year. CAM will organise a pre-conference workshop on *Collections Management and Preventive Conservation of Human Remains and Sacred Belongings* in Cape Town next March for curators and collections managers in African museums.
At the end of the workshop participants visited the grave of El Negro, who had been repatriated from Europe where he had been taxidermied and exhibited for more than a century after being robbed from his grave in South Africa. Two of the Indigenous elders laid flowers and offered emotional prayers.

Top: Indigenous panel; Middle: Temporary exhibition at the Botswana National Museum; Bottom: El Negro's gravesite

A number of themes echoed throughout the presentations:

- When you see the skulls you do not see who the people are, we are more connected than we think, we are all the same – yet, at the same time it's important to rehumanise those whose dignity was taken away, to bring closure for descendants
- Ancestral remains are evidence of atrocities, of genocide, they are the legacies of violence; repatriation and reburial is just the first step to

reconciliation, there needs to be a formal apology and reparations before reburial
- This process is essential to the decolonisation of the museum, to transform museums into places for the people today

From a policy perspective, a number of issues emerged:
- Identify whose remains they are wherever possible, but if not possible, it would still be preferable to rebury remains in the region and not keep them in museums in southern Africa or in Europe
- Importance of research being communicated transparently and effectively to communities

The *Human Remains Management* project is a collaboration between CAM, the University of Botswana, The Botswana National Museum, Iziko Museums of South Africa, the Museums Association of Namibia, ICOM ICME (the International Committee for Museums and Collections of Ethnography), and the ICOM National Committees in Botswana, Namibia and South Africa. CAM is grateful for ICOM's continued support of this 3-year project.

Following the workshop, CAM Secretary-General Catherine C. Cole met with the directors and senior staff of the National Museum and Monuments of Botswana, Gaogakwe Phorano in Gaborone, and of the Livingstone Museum, George Mudenda in Zambia, to discuss future collaboration between CAM and their museums.

Diorama at the Livingstone Museum which focuses on the transition from 'Our Village' to 'Their Town' and the displacement many Zambians feel as a result.

CAM Secretary-General Catherine C. Cole received the ICOM Canada International Achievement Award during a gala awards ceremony in Toronto on April 17. Board members L-R: Shabnam Inanloo Dailoo, Moira McCaffrey, Catherine C. Cole, Vivienne Gosselin, Marie Lalonde and Anne Chafe.

CAM PROJECTS

Migration:Cities* I *(Im)migration and Arrival Cities

in collaboration with ICOM CAMOC (Collections and Activities of Museums of Cities, and ICOM ICR (International Committee for Regional Museums)

Check out the *Migration:Cities* virtual platform at www.migrationcities.net and think about contributing to the case studies and resources included on the website. It would be great to include more initiatives from throughout the Commonwealth. ICOM funding for this project ended in December and we're seeking funding to continue this important work. CAM recently received a grant from the Edmonton Heritage Council to develop a project with recent immigrants in Edmonton, Canada that will be contributed to this website.

CAM PROGRAMMES

CAM INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

Heather Fraser, Community Engagement Intern, Iziko Museums of South Africa, Cape Town/University of Botswana, Gaborone, reports:

The last few months of working on the Human Remains project have been filled with long days and last minute details. In the end the workshop came together with 50 plus participants from eight different countries and produced meaningful discussions and ideas surrounding the topic. My six months working on this project have been in valuable in both learning and making connections with colleagues around the world. I cannot stress enough that this experience was one that I will carry with me for a long time and the skills that I was able to gain are ones that will benefit me in the career to come. I would like to thank Dr Morongwa

Mosothwane for the warm welcome and the guidance though this process in Botswana.

Kanchan Lal, Culture and Heritage Intern, National Museum of Vanuatu, Port-Vila, reports:

Ending my internship with a bang, I wrapped up my time at the Vanuatu Cultural Centre with the opening of my exhibition, *Women & Weaving.* Having spent the last five months working on this exhibition, I felt a mixture of exhilaration and exhaustion as I ended my welcome speech and the exhibition was officially declared opened. As people began to roam around the gallery, the last few weeks of frantic running around, early mornings and coffee-powered days seemed absolutely worth it. It was thrilling watching people walking about, interested in learning about women's *kastoms* and the art of weaving in Vanuatu, a topic that has become very dear to my heart.

As I ended that evening with a shell of kava, I realised how much I have learned during my stay in Vanuatu and just how much I'm going to miss being here. These last six months have been one of the best experiences of my life and I am forever grateful to CAM for this opportunity. During my internship, I produced an exhibition, wrote and designed an educational book, developed an edu-kit, and these are only just things related to the work experience! While living on this incredible island, I have learned a new language, climbed volcanoes, swam with dugongs, cooked traditional food underneath stones, woven a mat from pandanus leaves, and discovered why people call Vanuatu the happiest place on earth. Truly a remarkable country, Vanuatu is home to the loveliest people and the most stunning natural beauty. It is has

been a rare opportunity to live and work in an environment that is so rich in diversity, tradition and *kastom*, and I am thankful to the Vanuatu Cultural Centre for welcoming me with open arms. It is surreal that my time here has ended as it feels as though I have just arrived, but I look forward to the future and the excitement that awaits!

CAM is currently awaiting news about internship funding for 2019-2020. We are grateful for funding received from the Young Canada Works at Building Careers in Heritage Program of the Department of Canadian Heritage administered by the Canadian Museums Association. With the support of this

programme, CAM has placed more than 30 interns throughout the Commonwealth. If you are interested in hosting an intern at your institution in 2020-2021, please contact the Secretariat for further information. Applications are not due until early next year but it does take some time to develop a strong learning opportunity that will benefit both your institution and the intern's career development.

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CAM DISTANCE LEARNING PROGRAMME

L-R: CAM Secretary-General Catherine C. Cole, DLP tutor Bongani Ndhlovu, graduate Annelize Kotze and her supervisor Rooksana Omar of the Iziko Museums of South Africa. Annelize received her Distance Learning Programme certificate at the Human Remains Management workshop.

The *Introduction to Museum Studies Programme* covers the history and philosophy of museums, and the basic procedures involved in museum operation. It is divided into seven units of study: Introduction to Museum Studies; Organisation and Management; Collections; Conservation; Exhibitions; Education & Programming; and Museums in Society. There are currently 22 students in the programme: 13 in The Bahamas, two in Guyana, six in South Africa, and one in India. The CAM DLP is convenient way to access training while working in your local museum. If you or your staff need museum studies training, please review the information on our website and contact the Secretariat: www.maltwood.uvic.ca/cam/programs/distance_learning.html.

COMMONWEALTH MUSEUMS NEWS

The Official Re-opening of the Seychelles National Museum of History

By Bella Rose, Museum Curator, National Museum of History

Above: President Danny Faure and government officials at the opening; Below: the Stone of Possession

The re-opening of the National Museum of History in Victoria by President Danny Faure took place on 30th November 2018.

Some 276 years of history are on display here: there's the map of the Seychelles islands drawn by Captain Lazare Picault when he came on a second voyage in 1744. There is the Stone of Possession which the French placed on the coast of Victoria on the 1st November 1756 when they took pre-emptive possession of our islands. Few inhabitants of Seychelles are aware of the existence of the Stone despite the fact that it's been on

public display for half a century. Fewer still have ever bothered to see it! There is a magnificent model of the flute 'La Minerve' which brought the French Republican Flag to Mahe in 1791. This exquisite showcase piece was created by Jean-Louis Marcheseau, a Frenchman who is a veritable *connoisseur* of French maritime history and an expert in making maquette ships.

There is the ordinance (no 12 of 1841) that established the name Victoria for our capital town. It was only recently in April that a zealous local historian went to Mauritius to obtain it from the archives of Coromandel. There are 18th century Flintlock pistols from the days of Commandant Jean-Baptiste Queau de Quinssy (1748-1827). There is a diorama of Victoria as it looked in the 1960s constructed by artist Allen Ernesta, a recreation of a traditional kitchen by artist Frances Chang-Him, a slave section artistically conceived by Emmanuel d'Offay, Special Adviser in the Department of Culture, that evokes the horrors of slavery that took place on our shores, a sorcerer's den by Walter and Egbert Marday, a Blacksmith's forge… There's tradition, folklore, culture, HISTORY!

ICOM NEWS

International Museum Day is May 18. This year's theme is Museums as Cultural Hubs: the Future of Tradition. Is your museum planning a special activity? If so, please send us a brief (300 word) report and a photo for the next issue of the *CAM Bulletin* (deadline June 15).

JOIN OR RENEW YOUR CAM MEMBERSHIP!

Please join CAM or renew your CAM membership. As a CAM member you:

- receive the ***CAM Bulletin***
- may participate in the **Distance Learning Programme**
- may host a **Canadian intern** for 6 months
- receive a **discount** on registration for CAM programmes
- are eligible for travel **bursaries**, and
- **have a voice** – and votes – at CAM and ICOM and contribute to Commonwealth deliberations.

Most importantly, your membership fees **support our work**. Everything CAM does we raise project funds to accomplish. We have no core operating funding.

We need your support for all of our upcoming events and programs. CAM operates on a shoestring with no core operational funding. Please complete the membership form and pay via PayPal, electronic bank transfer or bank draft http://www.maltwood.uvic.ca/cam/about/membership_info.html,.

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