

**Society of American Archivists
Council Meeting
November 14–16, 2016
Chicago, Illinois**

**External Representative Report:
International Council on Archives
Section of Professional Associations (ICA SPA)
(Prepared by Becky Haglund Tousey, CA)**

The International Council on Archives (ICA) Section of Professional Associations (SPA) Bureau met in Seoul, South Korea, in conjunction with the ICA quadrennial Congress held September 4-9, 2016. There were approximately 1,800 attendees from 60 countries at this Congress. I attended as a representative of both the Society of American Archivists and the Academy of Certified Archivists. Social media and new professionals played a much larger role in this Congress than in past years. ICA also launched its new and improved website during the Congress.

SPA BUREAU MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The SPA Bureau business meeting was held on Monday, September 5. This Bureau meeting is the shorter of the two yearly meetings. The longer, spring meeting will be held in April 2017 in Oslo, Norway, hosted by the Norwegian archivists association.

SPA Bureau members present at this meeting in Seoul were from the Netherlands, Germany, Canada, Poland, China, Switzerland, Israel, France, Norway, and Spain (Catalonia). This was the largest turnout of Bureau members in the two years I have served. The Korean association representative did not attend the Bureau meeting but did attend the SPA general membership meeting later in the afternoon. The Korean association president arranged a dinner for the SPA Bureau at which we met with the Korean association leadership.

Most of this Bureau meeting dealt with administrative issues, reports from the chair, and election of the SPA Bureau for the 2016-2020 term.

Report on ICA Programme Commission (PCOM) and Section Chairs Meetings:

Chair Fred van Kan reported on the PCOM meeting held earlier that morning and the Section Chairs meeting held the previous day. (The ICA Executive Board (EB) meeting was the following day, so van Kan was not able to report on that meeting.)

PCOM Meeting:

There is still concern within PCOM about the lack of qualified applications for its program funds. There are too few funding requests and not all of the requests meet the criteria for funding. Project deliverables must address ICA strategic initiatives in some way and cross national borders (i.e. impact more than one country).

Van Kan reported that after SPA added records management wording to the text of the “Basic Principles on the Role of Archivists in Support of Human Rights” earlier this year, PCOM discussed it again at their spring 2016 meeting. PCOM decided to endorse it as a “working document” even though FAN (the national archivists forum) still has concerns about the wording. The document is now called “Basic Principles on the Role of Archivists and Records Managers in Support of Human Rights.” It was not endorsed by the EB but just endorsed as a “guideline” by PCOM.

The new vice-president of PCOM is Normand Charbonneau of the Library and Archives of Canada. His special focus and interest is education and training.

Section Chairs Meeting:

Chairs discussed the budget and how sections are financed. Each section gets a small allocation of funds each year from PCOM. But getting additional funding for section projects and activities has been a challenge. PCOM has €125,000 available each year for programs and yet a large percentage of those funds goes unused. Van Kan hopes things may loosen a bit in the coming years so that sections will be able to get additional operating budget without having to meet the criteria for PCOM funding.

Another topic of discussion was the creation of new sections and groups. There is some concern among the chairs about the number of new governance units being created. As new sections and groups are created there is then more competition for budget from PCOM.

There are currently twelve Sections:

- SAE – Section on Education and Training
- SAFT – Section for Archives of Faith Traditions
- SAN – Section for Notarial Archives
- SAR – Section on Architectural Archives
- SBA – Section on Business Archives
- SIO – Section of International Organizations
- SLA – Literary and Artistic Archives
- SLMT – Section of Local, Municipal and Territorial Archives
- SPO – Section on Sports Archives
- SPP – Section for Archives of Parliaments and Political Parties
- SUV – Section of University Archives

And nine Expert Groups:

- AEG – Expert Group on Advocacy
- DREG – Expert Group on Digital Records

EGA – Expert Group on Appraisal
EGABE – Expert Group on Archive Buildings and Environments
EGAD – Expert Group on Archival Description
EMDP – Expert Group on Emergency Management and Disaster Preparedness
HRWG – Human Rights and Archives Group
PAAG – Photographic & Audiovisual Group
RMEG – Expert Group on Records Management

Three additional Expert Groups were approved at this year’s EB meeting: Legal Matters, Shared Archival Heritage, and Archives Services: Research and Outreach.

Sections are created from below [from the membership] and Expert Groups are created from above (from EB or PCOM). And now PCOM is discussing setting up Interest Groups. An interest group would not be a governance body with a budget, but it is not clear how they would differ from a section or expert group. As of yet, no process has been set up or decided on how the interest groups would be created, approved, or managed.

SPA Budget:

The money left in this year’s budget is enough to cover the translations of the minutes of this meeting. All documents posted on the ICA website need to be in English, French and Spanish.

SPA Membership:

The number of member associations grew by two in the past year, going from 74 to 76 members.

SPA Bureau Membership 2016-2020:

The roster for the new Bureau term was announced and will be submitted to PCOM as required. The countries represented on the Bureau for this coming term are: Norway, USA, Switzerland, Netherlands, Poland, Germany, Israel, France, Spain (Catalonia), China, Chile, and Senegal.

Section officers were also elected: Vilde Ronge (Norway) will serve as chair. I agreed to serve as vice-chair. And Cristina Bianchi (Switzerland) will continue to serve as secretary for a second term.

SPA Projects and Strategic Objectives:

Film Festival: Ronge reported on the first ICA SPA Film Festival. This program was launched as part of the section’s focus on advocacy. Earlier this year seventy video entries were submitted from many different countries (predominantly from European countries though, and only a few from the US). Sixty-six of the entries met the qualifications. At the spring 2016 SPA meeting in France, the Bureau selected nine finalists, three in each of three categories:

- Best Film portraying the relevance and importance of Archives
- Best Film portraying the relevance and Importance of Records Management

- Best Film using Humor to Communicate about Archives and/or Records Management

In addition, there was open (global) online voting for the “People’s Award” in the few weeks prior to the ICA Congress. As of the SPA Bureau meeting on Monday there were 1,269 votes. By the close of voting on Thursday 2,379 votes had been cast. The awards ceremony for the Film Festival was held on Friday, during the closing ceremony of the Congress. The winners of the three categories and the People’s Award were announced. Here is a link to the announcement of the winning entries.

<http://www.ica.org/en/spa-film-festival-awards-ceremony-seoul-congress>

And all nine films are available at this website:

[The SPA Film Festival - The films](#)

There was discussion during the Bureau meeting on Monday about whether to continue the Film Festival program. Everyone agreed it is a good project and it should be continued, but holding it every other year rather than annually is more realistic. We would hope to encourage broader participation next time from countries outside of Europe so the geographic representation would be more balanced. Also, the film festival website should become part of the ICA/SPA website instead of being hosted by the Norway Association. Before the next SPA meeting in Oslo the Bureau will assemble a plan for how to proceed.

Directory of Professional Associations:

Bernhard Post (Germany) compiled this list several years ago. It is posted on the SPA website but is outdated. It is the responsibility of SPA to update the directory. It lists all known archival associations around the world and indicates which are ICA members. There was agreement among the Bureau that this is an important document that must be maintained. Bernhard will ask Bettina (the incoming Germany association representative) to take over responsibility for updating the list.

<http://www.ica.org/en/directory-professional-associations-through-world-0>

SPA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

The annual SPA general membership meeting was held immediately following the SPA Bureau meeting on Monday, September 5. These general SPA membership meetings are not well attended. In addition to the Bureau members only a handful of other country association representatives attended.

The proposed SPA Bureau roster for the 2016-2020 term was approved. Ronge reported on the Film Festival. Van Kan, outgoing SPA chair, said he would submit his 4-year-term summary of SPA activities to PCOM in the next few weeks.

Follow-up regarding SAA’s bid for a joint SAA/ICA meeting in 2020: I spoke briefly with ICA Executive Director David Leitch and he expressed again his appreciation to SAA for its proposal. There were clear financial benefits to the United Arab Emirates’ proposal

and that was the main reason ICA leadership decided to go with the UAE bid. There were many things that ICA liked about SAA's proposal, but they felt that ICA was essentially "tacked on" to the SAA annual meeting; ICA would like to see a more "blended" meeting. I told Leitch that we recognized this was the case when we made the proposal.

FUTURE SPA MEETINGS

- 2017 Spring SPA Bureau meeting will be held in April in Oslo, Norway, hosted by the Norway archival association.
- 2017 ICA Annual Meeting will be held October 22-27, 2017, in Mexico City, hosted by the National Archives of Mexico.

FOR SAA COUNCIL: DISCUSSION OR ACTION TOPICS

- Share with SAA membership the winners of the 2016 ICA Film Festival and encourage the submission of videos for the next film festival in 2018. [*I submitted an overview to the SAA staff for publication in appropriate channels.*]
- Publicize to SAA members the availability of ICA Programme Commission (PCOM) funds for archival or records management projects that provide benefit or deliverables across national borders.
- Because of the proximity of the 2017 ICA annual meeting to the US, discuss the possibility of some type of collaborative effort (maybe related to advocacy?) at the next ICA annual meeting in Mexico City.