



Workshop - 1

SPORTS IN THE MUSEUMS OF HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

National Sports Museum, Nice, France
April, 21th 2017
10am-4pm



Groupe de travail - 1

LE SPORT DANS LES MUSEES D'HISTOIRE ET D'ARCHEOLOGIE

Musée National du Sport, Nice France
le 21 Avril 2017
10h30 à 16h00

contact icmahsecretary@gmail.com information <http://network.icom.museum/icmah/>



FOREWORD

The history of sports extends as far as the people's training for military purposes, for getting fit and useful in the work and for the competing purpose in the community life. From Neolithic periods to modern times, the different forms of representations of sports and games as well as tools used for the purpose got place in the archaeology and history collections.

The sports and their evolution constitute a way of understanding the social history and the communities' life styles of living together. However, if it is not directly related on the subject, relatively limited material evidence on sports makes this subject neglected in the museums.

ICMAH being inclusive of the largest theme in museums will try to gather this highly few discussed subject all around the world and open a way of communicating about sports in the history and archaeology museums and collections.

For this purpose, a first working group will be organized in Nice, France by kind welcome of the National Sport Museum on April 21, 2017 from 10:30 am to 4:00 pm.

We do believe that this opportunity will open a new perspective for museology of sports and we are very pleased of your participation.

Myriame Morel-Deledalle
Chair of ICMAH

Themes:

1. Commenting on historical sports by different forms of representations
2. Sports in archaeological collections
3. Sports materials in history collections
4. Sports museums and their collections
5. Challenges in collecting sports material

AVANT-PROPOS

L'histoire du sport s'étend à la formation à des fins militaires, à la mise en forme et à l'utilité dans le travail de l'homme et à l'objectif concurrentiel dans la vie communautaire. De la période néolithique à l'époque moderne, les différentes formes de représentations des sports et des jeux ainsi que les outils utilisés à cette fin ont pris place dans les collections d'archéologie et d'histoire.

Le sport et son évolution constituent une manière de comprendre l'histoire sociale et le mode de vie des communautés de vivre ensemble. Toutefois, si elle n'est pas directement liée à ce sujet, les données matérielles relativement limitées sur le sport rendent ce sujet assez négligé dans les musées.

ICMAH étant inclusif du thème le plus important dans les musées tentera de rassembler ce thème très peu discuté partout dans le monde et ouvrir une façon de communiquer sur le sport dans l'histoire et l'archéologie des musées et des collections.

Pour cet objectif, un premier groupe de travail sera organisé à Nice par aimable accueil du Musée National du Sport au 21 Avril 2017 du 10h30 à 16h00.

Nous croyons que cette opportunité ouvrira une nouvelle perspective pour la muséologie du sport et nous sommes très heureux de votre participation.

Myriame Morel-Deledalle
Présidente de l'ICMAH

Les thèmes :

1. Commenter les sports historiques par différentes formes de représentations
2. Le sport dans les collections archéologiques
3. Le matériel de sport dans les collections d'histoire
4. Musées sportifs et leurs collections
5. Les défis pour relever le matériel sportif

The first workshop on sports museums and collections was held in Nice, at the French National Museum of Sports with the participation of :

- **Myriame Morel**, Chair of ICMAH
- **Marie Grasse**, Director of the National Museum of Sports and Vice-president of ICMAH (marie.grasse@museedusport.fr)
- **Burçak Madran**, Museologist, scenographer and general secretary of ICMAH (burcakmadran@gmail.com) (icmahsecretary@gmail.com)
- **Hélène Barbiero**, Collection manager at the Musée National du Sport (helene.barbiero@museedusport.fr)
- **Matteo Tassi**, Sport expert, NC Olympic Lyonnais consultant (matteo.tassi@gmail.com)
- **Florent Molle**, Curator at the MUCEM and head of the « Sports and Health » department (florent.molle@mucem.org)
- **Claude Boli**, Scientific curator at the Musée National du Sport (claud.boli@museedusport.fr)
- **Yvan Gastaut**, Historian at Université Côte d'Azur and member of the CO of the Musée National du sport(gastaut@unice.fr)
- **Bernard Morel**, Economy professor at the Aix-Marseille University (bd.morel@hotmail.fr)

Report on

SPORTS IN THE MUSEUMS OF HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

Avril 21st 2017, Nice



The meeting began with Matteo Tassi's presentation, in which he provided a current overview of existing museums based on their themes and administrations (Olympic museums, club museums, sports association museums, sports federation museums, etc.). The presentation specifically emphasized two issues that would be discussed later. Matteo Tassi created a sort of atlas of sports museum landscapes, noting the growing development of sports museums. At the top of the pyramid is the IOC/Olympic Museum in Lausanne, which brings together the group of Olympic museums. International federations are also establishing their own museums.



The issues identified during the meeting are summarized as follows:

Lack of inclusive organization: There is no overarching organization for sports museums, neither an exclusive organization nor a committee within ICOM.

Classification: The typology of sports museums is not clear. Work needs to be done on establishing a logical classification and definition: what constitutes a sports museum?

Collections: The methodology for collecting sports-related items is a broad topic for discussion. Two groups of collections can be identified: collections directly related to sports and sports objects within diverse collections. The main question to address is: What qualifies as a sports object? An inventory of sports museums and sports objects should be compiled. In this regard, the work done by the MNS team ("Acquisition Policy," 2017) will be valuable for our reflections.

Sports museology: Since there is no identified or theorized methodology for collecting sports objects, curators responsible for both sports museums and other museums with sports collections lack a clear vision regarding acquisitions, themes, or general collection practices. There is a need to develop a specific museology for collections of sports objects.

Visitor typology: There is a lack of typological identification of visitors to sports museums. Are they supporters, enthusiasts, or others? A communication policy for sports museums needs to be developed and discussed.

Following the discussions on the identified issues, it is evident that further theoretical work is needed on the subject of sports museums and collections. This initial working group has demonstrated the need and desire to launch this work on a broader scale, with increased participation over an extended period. It is decided to:

- Create a virtual shared platform on "Google Drive" to exchange documentation.
- Compile a list of individuals who may be interested in this subject.
- Consult ICOM to identify institutional and individual members associated with sports museums (Burçak Madran) and the network of Olympic museums (Matteo Tassi).
- Reach out to COMCOL (International Committee for Collections) to develop a joint working group to discuss the issues surrounding sports collections (Myriame Morel).
- Identify one or two stakeholders who are working on a museum project that we could assist in developing and use as a leverage (Matteo Tassi).
- Target sports organizations to gain their interest and support (also create

a list).

- Organize larger working groups and write a project proposal (or proposals) (SAREC) to seek funding.

The visit to the MNS in Nice raised a question that had not been addressed in the meeting or the exhibition: the practice of sports by citizens as leisure activities.

Indeed, the museum presents typologies of sports in their competitive aspect, but it does not take into account the practice of sports by individuals as leisure activities. However, this is a societal phenomenon that is growing: considering the rise of urban walkers and runners, family/friendly sports weekends (hiking, cycling), and their impact on society (such as the increase in fitness centers, development of bike lanes, and municipalities providing financial incentives for their employees to use bicycles instead of cars to address ecological concerns), we are in a completely different dimension of sports appropriation. It would be interesting to verify, with the list of sports museums, those that address the question of sports as a societal practice.