This IPC Newsletter looks back on the 14th International Panorama Conference 'The Quest for Illusion' at the Mesdag Panorama in The Hague, Netherlands, on September 7-10, 2006. It was organized by the Mesdag managing director Marijke de Jong, assisted by Evelyn Onnes and Maria Arts.

The post-conference tour to Belgium on September 10 and 11 included visits to the FotoMuseum, Antwerp (with special focus on the ‘Keizerspanorama’, an automated stereoscopic device seating 25, dating from 1905), the almost forgotten automated stereoscopic device seating 25, focus on the ‘Keizerspanorama’, an automated centring machine. A publication is being prepared by Evelyn Onnes. More information: onnes@euronet.nl.


The conference participants were warmly welcomed by Mr. Wim Deetman, the Mayor of The Hague, at a reception held in the Old Town Hall, dating from 1565. This hall is one of the heritage buildings of The Hague as seat of the Dutch government and international city of peace, justice and security. The reception also honoured the 125th Anniversary of Mesdag Panorama. Marking the end of the conference, Lili van Ginneken, former director of STROOM, received the participants at The Celestial Vault of James Turrell, situated in the Kijkduin sand dunes of The Hague.

The IPC Board wishes to thank everyone involved, including Rob van den Braak and André van Lier, who put themselves in charge of the internationally illustrated 125th anniversary publication and The Panorama Phenomenon exposition. This exposition runs through 26 November 2006 in Panorama Mesdag and is available to travel to other panorama related spaces. Info Rob van den Braak: rvd.braak@wxs.nl.

During the meeting of the IPC Executive Board on September 7th decisions were reaffirmed to formalise the international panorama cooperation and also to contact ICOM on a future relation between IPC and ICOM. More news on these actions will follow in the next Newsletter.

‘New Perspectives on the Panorama’
Morna O’Neill wants to let you know about a forthcoming event at the Yale Center for British Art, New Haven CT (USA) on March 30 and 31, 2007. The program will link up with the issues discussed at the conference in The Hague.

Drawing on provocative new work on panoramas, this conference will re-think the orthodoxies of traditional 360-degree panorama paintings and broader notions of the panoramic through interdisciplinary conversation between scholars and artists working in a wide range of fields, including cultural geography, art history, literary studies, architecture, theatre studies, film, photography, and the fine arts.

The aesthetics of 360-degree painting will be explored from its inception in the 18th century to its resurgence in contemporary practice, its relationship to architecture and film, and social and political contexts.

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The program includes discussion sessions with curators and artists that draw upon the panorama-related material at the Yale Center for British Art and the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library at Yale University. The keynote lecture will be given by renowned British filmmaker Patrick Keiller, whose ‘Robinson in Space’ will be screened in 35mm.

The program includes Denise Oleksijczuk (School for the Contemporary Arts, Simon Fraser University, B.C.), Gretchen Bender (University of Pittsburgh), And. van Luescher (Bowling Green State University), Darcy Grimaldo Grigsby (University of California-Berkeley), Tom Gunning (University of Chicago), and a conversation with London-based painter Timothy Hyman on ‘A Space for the Self’, led by Richard Maxwell (Yale University). The symposium is free and open to IPC members, but advance registration is required. For more information and registration, please email attn. Morna O’Neill at ycba.research@yale.edu.

Bourbaki Panorama 1881-2006

2006 has been a memorable year for panoramas. Of the many panoramas that were opened in 1881 two have survived. On September 22 to 24, a few weeks after the Mesdag Panorama, the Bourbaki Panorama at Lucerne, Switzerland also celebrated its 125th anniversary. Painted in Geneva in 1881 it moved to Lucerne in 1889. Because the panorama painting depicts the flight and disarmament of a part of the French army under the command of Bourbaki to neutral Switzerland, an incident in the Franco-Prussian war of 1870, the theme of the anniversary was a discussion on the humanitarian tradition of this Alpine country. The presentation of a new film about Bourbaki Panorama, a Soirée Française on the 22nd and a oriental buffet on the 23rd concluded the festivities.

150 years’ birthday of Franz Roubaud

The Borodino Battle 


To our deep regret, we have to inform you of the passing of our member Gustav A. Berger from New York, USA. He died on March 5, 2006.

Until December 31st 2007 Rome CCCXII will be on display, the huge panorama created by Yadegar Asisi in the ‘Panometer’ in Leipzig, Germany. Information available: www.asisi-factory.de.

The Bunker Hill Museum Restoration Committee of the Charlestown Historical Society considers a project for a painted 28-foot-diameter reproduction of the original cyclorama of the Battle of Bunker Hill at Charlestown, MA.

New publications on panoramas

- ... Regard me Russian Artist, catalogue of the exhibition to the 150th jubilee of Franz A. Roubaud, in English and Russian, SOREC-polygraphy, Moscow 2006, ISBN 5-86492-053-3.

We try to keep up to date our list of existing panoramas of the world. Please check our website www.panoramapainting.com (-> worldwide) to see whether your panorama is listed correctly and whether you know of other panoramas that should be added to the list.

You’re invited to send information on panorama activities or publications to the Secretary konservator@bourbakipanorama.ch