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PANORAMA

International Panorama Council

Newsletter no. 32, December 2014

Dear reader,

The board of the International Panorama Council wishes you a very Happy Festive Period and an immersive New Year. We are extremely interested in your upcoming panoramic activities, so please keep us also updated in 2015. When you have tips or are willing to help out with IPC concerning the newsletter or other if you have ideas we would love to hear from you.

Best wishes,

The Executive Board of the International Panorama Council

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CALL FOR PAPERS

Namur, 9th – 12th September 2015

LAYERS OF HISTORY: PANORAMAS FROM CLASSICAL TO DIGITAL AGE

The **deadline of the call for papers is the end of January** please don't hesitate to distribute the call.

The International Panorama Council, the University of Namur and the Luxembourg City History Museum are pleased to announce the 24th International Panorama Panoramas respond to our aspiration to recover lost worlds and revive the important events in history. Although to use them as a "time-machine" can be somewhat confusing. Most of them were made long after the moment in history they depict. The battles they show have been fought many years before the painter decided to fix them on canvas, the places represented have changed since then.

Today, the panoramas in themselves have become historical monuments, reflecting the particular time they were made. In the case of recently painted panoramas, the complexity can even be greater: using in the 21st century a 19th century medium for representing an historical scene. The conference proposes to explore the different layers of history contained in panoramas, revealing their changing meaning. It will highlight how artistic interpretations of battles and historical events often became unquestioned "facts", whether these were done with specific political agendas, for educational purposes or just for entertainment. Large attention will also be given to contemporary art and new media committed to the panoramic experience as a mean to cross time and space.

We cordially invite scholars and specialists to send in a proposal – focused on the theme mentioned above - of max. 250 words for a 20-minute paper to secretary@panoramacouncil.org by 31 January 2015 at the latest. Selected speaker will be contacted in the course of February 2015.

Further information

The conference will be held from 9 till 11 September in Namur (Belgium), with afternoon visits to the diorama of The Battles of the Meuse in Namur and the panorama of the Luxembourg City History Museum in Luxembourg. On 12 September there is a post-conference tour to the panorama of the Battle of Waterloo in Waterloo (Belgium). The registration will open in the course of January 2015. For further questions please send an email to the General Secretary of the International Panorama Council: secretary@panoramacouncil.org.

News from our Institutional Members

Asisi

On the 6th of December the Panorama of ROM312 of Asisi opened in the Gasometer Pforzheim. After the first weekend they already greeted more than 12.000 visitors. For more information and beautiful images please visit the website of the Gasometer Pforzheim www.gasometer-pforzheim.de.

On the 24th of January 2015 a new panorama of Dresden 1945 made by Yadegar Asisi and his team will open at the Panometer Dresden.

News from our Individual Members

Paper Peepshows The Jaqueline & Jonathan Gestetner Collection

The participants of the 23rd Conference in Altötting were already treated by the amazing talk of Ralph Hyde on his Paper Peepshows. His book is now for sale via the Antique Collectors' Club with ISBN 9781851498000. With its 272 pages and 511 color illustrations it is definitely a book that you want to have.

Peepshows were introduced in the mid-eighteenth century by Martin Engelbrecht in Augsburg. They called for a long wooden cabinet designed for purpose incorporating a viewing lens and sometimes a mirror. In the 1820s peepshows made entirely of paper appeared on the scene more or less at the same moment in Vienna, London and Paris. The clumsy cabinet was no longer called for. The new peepshow was equipped with paper bellows so it could be expanded or contracted in a trice. Paper peepshows were light; they were comparatively cheap. They fitted neatly into the pocket. Viewing a Paper Peepshow is

an intimate, individual experience that, in the age of television and hand-held computers, gives a real sense of personal discovery. The viewer engages by peeping through a tiny hole and thereby discovers inside layers of images, like a pocket-sized stage set.

The format lent itself to a wide variety of subjects: to coronations and to state visits and funerals, to pleasure gardens, to trips up rivers and to the ceremonial openings of new railways, to distant views of cities and to tourist landmarks, to military engagements in exotic places, and to the July Revolution and the fall of the Bourbons in France in 1830. The Crystal Palace, erected in Hyde Park 1851 for the Great Exhibition, inspired the production of very large numbers of peepshows, mostly made overseas and imported. Peepshows made possible visits to sites existing in the imagination, to plunge down Alice's rabbit hole, for example, and to wander through the Garden of Eden in Paradise.

The main center of peepshow manufacture in the nineteenth century was toy-making Nuremburg. Briefly in the 1950s it was Britain. Nowadays it is the United States. Paper peepshows are no longer intended essentially for children but for bibliophiles and art-appreciating adults.

This stunning book charts the history of these charming collectables. The illustrated catalogue section includes the following data where known: country of origin, publisher, date, method of printing (eg chromolithograph), shape and dimensions, and number of scenes. As well as a full description of each piece, the author gives fascinating historical and cultural context for these items - ranging from depictions of the July Revolution (Paris, 1830), or the

opening of the Thames Tunnel to the nursery tale of 'Puss in Boots'.

Contents: Foreword by Erkki Huhtamo (Prof. in the dept of Design Media Arts, University of California; Preface by Julius Bryant, Keeper of Word and Image, V&A; The Story of paper Peepshows; What we peep with; Austria; Canada; China; Denmark; France; Germany; Great Britain; Italy; Russia; The Netherlands; United States of America; Unknown Origin; Peepshow view boxes; Table-top Tableaux.

- See more at:

<http://www.antiquecollectorsclub.com/us/store/pv/9781851498000/paper-peepshows/ralph-hyde#sthash.nT7ur4jN.dpuf>

Panorama de Vries reopens in 2015

The Panorama de Vries a 30m long and 2,10m high panorama of the city of Turnhout and its surroundings will reopen in 2015. From 19 April until the end of 2016 you can visit this panorama in Turnhout on working days and occasionally on weekend days. The Panorama de Vries team will be happy to give all the IPC members a personal tour. If you wish to visit the Panorama de Vries please send the secretary of IPC an email.

Visit their website for more information http://www.spandoek2012.be/Panorama_de_Vries/Welkom.html

Christopher Lennox-Boyd's collection finds a home

In February 2013 the IPC got a request about the future of the Christopher Lennox-Boyd's collection of material relating to nineteenth century panorama exhibitions. By the help of our board members, IPC was able to propose a few solutions to keep the whole collection together. We are happy to announce that the English government will accept the panoramas in lieu of tax payable on the estate, and allocate them to the University of Kent. For more information about this collection you can read more in the next newsletter.

Other news

Anniversary

On the 30th of November 2014 the Military Artists Studio named after M.B. Grekov had its 80th anniversary. The IPC congratulates the Grekov Studios.

Dissertation on panoramas

A new dissertation on the history of the Diorama art form in Russia and former Soviet Union has been finished recently by Moscow based researcher Alexey Druzhinin. The immense work of about 1'200 pages has been accepted by the dissertation council on 18 December 2014.

The complete work can be downloaded on <http://sias.ru/research/dissovets/>

The IPC congratulates Alexey Druzhinin with this amazing study.

Erkki Huhtamo's collection

<http://newsroom.ucla.edu/stories/scholar-revives-antiquated-media-machines-for-digital-age-audiences>

New books

Дружинин А.А. История создания первой панорамы Сталинградской битвы // Миротворческий потенциал историко-культурного наследия Второй мировой войны и Сталинградская битва. Волгоград: ПринТерра-Дизайн, 2013. С. 91–99. (Druzhinin, , Alexey, The history of the first panorama Battle of Stalingrad // Peacebuilding potential of historical and cultural heritage of the Second World War and the Battle of Stalingrad. Volgograd: PrinTerra-Design, 2013. Pp. 91-99.)

Upcoming:

Jessica Skwire Routhier, Kevin J. Avery, Thomas Hardiman jr. *The Painters' Panorama: Narrative, Art, and Faith in the Moving Panorama of Pilgrim's Progress*. University Press of New England, May 2015. ISBN: 978-1-61168-663-0 <http://www.upne.com/1611686630.html>

33rd Newsletter

The next newsletter will be published in April 2015. Please send your news input to secretary@panoramacouncil.org **before 15 March 2015.**