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## Last Call for 18<sup>th</sup> IPC International Panorama Conference

Thanks to the Royal Museum of the Armed Forces and of Military History (KLM-MRA) in Brussels, Belgium, we were able to organise a conference this March in Belgium instead of the one we had to cancel in Australia. The invitations for the conference were distributed in February.

The conference will take place from 29 through 31 March 2009. A post-conference tour to Waterloo Panorama and the remains of Brussels' panorama buildings is scheduled on 1 April.

The conference will focus on the Panorama of the Battle of Yser (painted 1920-21) and will be devoted in particular to the difficulties and chances of restoring and repositioning the panorama canvas. Two other panoramas by Alfred Bastien, Panorama of Congo (1913) and Panorama of the Battle of the Meuse (1936-37) will also be unrolled from storage. This gives the conference a unique possibility to discover new panorama potentials. We are looking forward to welcoming you in March. For further information, please contact the Secretary Patrick Deicher [info@panoramapainting.com](mailto:info@panoramapainting.com).

## Board of IPC asks for funding contributions

With a personal letter and a call for action in newsletter 16, we asked you to contribute to a *Founding Fund* to enable the transition of IPC into a well structured organization. The response to that call was very limited and only few payments were made. We need more help to transform IPC into a professional organization.

Because the IPC has no financial means of support for its group actions, all expenses are being paid privately by some members of its Board. This endangers the role and future of IPC. The IPC, therefore, must formalize itself into a structure which collects dues from members. The General Assembly of the IPC conference in Dresden decided to request a donation of (the equivalent of) € 1000.- from each panorama institution, and a suggested donation of € 100.- from full individual IPC members, and any other amounts deemed possible from other individual, retired, or student members who have received this letter.

To facilitate the IPC formalization, an account has been established with Fortis Bank in The Netherlands. Please specify your payment to

'Founding Fund' and include the account name and number, IBAN and BIC codes stated below. Of course you will get a receipt for your contribution, so also please specify your name and address. Donating to this fund does not necessarily entail any further obligations. IPC Bank Account in the Netherlands:

Fortis Bank Account: 24.89.62.426  
Registered name: 'Storm Reference IPC'  
IBAN: NL20 FTSB 0248 9624 26  
BIC/Swift code: FTSBNL2R

We hope you will participate in the establishment of a sound and decisive organization in the common interest of all panoramas worldwide. We also hope and expect that you'll be happy to continue your relation with IPC in the future. For now we are very grateful for your help in formally establishing the IPC.

## Panorama 'Battle of Mount Isel' lost?

The struggle for the endangered panorama Innsbruck is still going on (see earlier newsletters) but the chance of having the panorama saved as a unity of painting and building is very limited now.

Despite calls from hundreds of citizens and all important organisations for heritage protection politicians in Austria have decided to have the painting transferred to a new museum which is being erected. The future of the original panorama rotunda is not defined yet. At the end of last year, the Federal Office for Heritage Protection of Austria opposed the transfer of the painting. Their negative decision was overruled by the Austrian Minister for Education, Culture and Art in January. She decided that the public interest of the Land of Tyrol would allow the transfer even against the statement of the Federal Office for Heritage Protection of Austria. The main reasons are said to be the public (touristic) interest and the long-term protection of the panorama painting. Austrian politicians never accepted that the panorama was a unity of painting and building. In their arguments they always divided the two parts up and showed by this that they didn't understand what the panorama phenomenon was about. Politicians of smaller political parties as well as a broad private initiative of Innsbruck residents are attempting to avoid the transfer. Their possibilities are very limited. A last chance could be given by the rising cost estimations for the new museum building. IPC is still supporting their activities. The decision of the Austrian Minister for Education, Culture and Art is a catastrophe for heritage protection in Austria. It sends a bad signal to all other projects and will cause problems for other protected goods if economic interest will be able to overrule the expert opinions of the relevant national and international organisations. Austria and Innsbruck are in great danger of losing their status of culturally engaged communities.

## IPC International Panorama Council

[www.panoramapainting.com](http://www.panoramapainting.com)

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### **Panorama Mesdag applies World Heritage**

Panorama Mesdag of the Hague has applied to be placed on the list of built heritage sites in the Netherlands which will be considered for inclusion in the list of World Heritage of UNESCO the ministry of Education, Culture and Science of the Netherlands is preparing. On 25 February 'Mesdag' also received the building permit for its restoration and expansion plans. This expansion is needed for the smooth functioning of Panorama Mesdag in view of quality, safety, education and public services. In spite of the credit crisis, recession and the vaporization of wealth, PM will be working during 2009 and 2010 to activate broad interest and to mobilize sponsors, funds and the general public to help execute this plan, expecting the number of annual visitors to resume growth from the current approximate 130,000 to a minimum of 160,000.

In order to be placed on the UNESCO list strict requirements must be met, such as exceptional and universal value, authenticity and integrity. Another condition for Dutch nominations is that they have to fit in 'the story of the Netherlands' and the cabinet is reluctant regarding new applications due to the over-representation of European heritage on the UNESCO list.

Panorama Mesdag is the oldest complete and authentic panorama in the world. In addition, it is an icon in the panorama world because it appears to inspire many to paint panoramas and to develop art projects in 360°, 3D and virtual reality. Panorama Mesdag is the biggest canvas in the Netherlands, it is a favourite masterpiece of the Hague School and it has recently been honoured by 'the Netherlands live with water' to illustrate 'water as inspiration of expression in the visual arts, prose, poetry and film'. Vincent van Gogh, J.C. Bloem, Jan Wolkers, Paul Verhoeven and many others, including multitudes of school-children, have been influenced and inspired by this panorama. Because of the current policy of dynamic coastal defence, Mesdag's Panorama of Scheveningen also fits in the theme the Netherlands-Waterlands, which is one of your selection criteria for World Heritage status proposals.

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### **Serial nomination to be considered?**

In addition to Mesdag (as oldest, 1881) and Waterloo (the most recent, 1912), other panoramas in Ste.-Anne-de-Beaupré (Canada, 1895), Prague (Czech Republic, 1898) and Altötting (Germany, 1903) could also be considered for recognition as World Heritage sites. The same could have been relevant for the Innsbruck (Austria, 1896) panorama, if the Austrian government would not have decided the way they did. Thanks to the initiative of Wallonia, the inclusion of the Panorama of the Battle of Waterloo in the provisional list of Belgium was agreed upon during the July 2008 convention of UNESCO in Quebec.

The International Committee on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) has reported that 'Filling the Gaps' makes sense and the IPC proposes that the 'panorama phenomenon' is exactly such a gap on the list of UNESCO. Not only does this apply to the value of panoramas as building monuments (the premises and the canvas of Panorama Mesdag have been a State Monument since 1967) as well as cultural-historic phenomena between the art of painting and film, between exclusive and mass tourism and between spatial illusion and reality. It is also valid for panoramas as sources of inspiration for the development of communication culture in the arts, the media, the internet and the game industry.

Because of all those reasons the few, still existing, authentic panoramas deserve recognition as World Heritage. They represent a short but vehement period of development which flourished world-wide around the turn of the nineteenth century, and the height of a visual phenomenon the invention of which has contributed the word 'panorama' to all world languages.

The creation of illusions in space and time, in which the

panorama painters excelled, is in tumultuous development again and a revival of the panorama phenomenon is seen worldwide in a great diversity of traditional and innovative expressions.

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### **Piglhein Panorama 'Jerusalem and the Crucifixion of Christ' (1886)**

Our member Mark Pedro is looking for high-resolution scans or even originals of pictures or etchings of Piglhein's Munich Panorama 'Jerusalem and the Crucifixion of Christ' (1886). Mark plans to have the panorama repainted in a smaller version and needs the pictures as basis for his work. If you can help, please contact Mark Pedro:

[Marknoel@msn.com](mailto:Marknoel@msn.com)

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### **Panorama studies and fragments**

The Military-historical museum of the German Bundeswehr (armed forces) in Dresden is establishing a new permanent exhibition. As a part of the new exhibition they are looking for acquiring at least a fragment or a preliminary study of a panoramic picture with military-historical subject. As an alternative they are looking for a permanent loan. The important role of the panoramas as mass media cannot be illustrated with the present collection resources. Please send all information on panorama fragments in museums, private collections or in auctions to the Secretariat of IPC [info@panoramapainting.com](mailto:info@panoramapainting.com). Patrick Deicher will collect the information and forward it to the appropriate person.

Information on the museum: [www.militaerhistorisches-museum.bundeswehr.de](http://www.militaerhistorisches-museum.bundeswehr.de)

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### **Amazonia opens in Panometer Leipzig**

From 28 March on the new Amazonia Panorama will be open to the public in the Asisi Panometer in Leipzig. From the 6 m. high platform the visitor will be part of the rain-forest ecosystem. Changing lighting and sound effects composed by Eric Babak will be part of the experience, dedicated to Humboldt in his 150<sup>th</sup> year of death, as the great German Nature researcher Alexander von Humboldt wished to show nature in its lush vegetation and abundant life. Re:

[www.asisi.de/de/Panometer/Amazonien/Panoramaprojekt](http://www.asisi.de/de/Panometer/Amazonien/Panoramaprojekt).

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### **Call for information on panoramas etc.**

Please check our website [www.panoramapainting.com](http://www.panoramapainting.com) and send any new information on panoramas and panorama activities and publications to the IPC Secretary:

[info@panoramapainting.com](mailto:info@panoramapainting.com).