Call for papers

CIPEG & COMCOL Meeting Day
Kyoto, 3 September 2019

“Museums as Hubs for Collecting: The Future of Collecting Tradition”

CIPEG will have a joined meeting day with COMCOL (ICOM International Committee for Collecting) and we embrace the opportunity for fruitful discussions and exchange of ideas with our colleagues from this International ICOM committee that focuses on collecting (http://network.icom.museum/comcol/).

What will the future of collecting look like in a globalized world in the various museums? Museums and their collections have been frequently discussed in media lately. Questions are asked about who should “own” the collections, is it the museum where the objects have been kept for many years – or others? How can we share our collections in the future – and what about repatriation? Media also report on organized activists, that have chosen to take over galleries in London and New York. This raises questions about how museums can engage with communities nearby – communities that demand involvement. And how do we engage and create involvement around collections and communities that are far away in both time and location? What collecting practices will evolve in the future? Together with COMCOL we would like to explore these perspectives and invite papers related to:

Collecting Strategy in Times of Illicit Traffic and Problematic Proveniences

The interest in museum objects has increased globally and so has the trade with antiques. Illicit traffic and problematic proveniences are problems in our global world. Museums also keep collections that may hold objects with a problematic provenience. How can we be more aware and stop the illicit traffic of objects? What do we do with the objects that have problematic proveniences – or perhaps lack proveniences? What collecting strategies should we use? Which strategies do we have in the museum community to solve these issues? What do we need to develop?
Repatriation and Sharing Collections
Repatriation has become more common among museums all over the world. Human remains are reburied and objects are returned to different societies within a country or between countries. Strategies for repatriation are a concern of every museum today. Some countries also share their new archaeological findings with other countries, while other choose to keep them in their own country. How does repatriation and sharing (or non-sharing) of collections influence collaboration, research, collections and in the end the experience for the museum visitor?

Contemporary Collecting in a Globalized World
Museums are part of the cultural landscape and function as cultural hubs in the society. In our globalized world, the museum collecting traditions must be challenged and new best-practices must emerge to adapt to new global perspectives. What do the contemporary collecting practices look like in our world today? How can a local collection get a global interest – and be of importance for all people in the society no matter who you are or how long you have lived there? How can contemporary collecting practices promote global inclusion? And can contemporary collecting and museum collections be agents promoting human rights? How?

Community involvement in Collections from Far Away (in time and location)
From both a global and a local museum perspective on museums, collections evolve through diverse community involvement. Over the years COMCOL’s annual conferences have given a lot of examples of good practices from all over the planet. To work inclusive together with communities in different ways, with a diverse range of perspectives on collecting, is crucial to make a solid contemporary collecting project today. But how can we work with communities and involve people as we look at museum collections which are far – in time and/or location – from the original culture? Like archaeological and ethnographic collections?
If you wish to present a paper at this joined CIPEG and COMCOL session day during the ICOM General Conference in Kyoto, please send the title and an abstract between 250 and 300 words (in English) to the secretary, Tine Bagh: tiba@glyptoteket.dk and cc. to the chair, Gabriele Pieke: g.pieke@gmail.com.

Abstracts should be submitted as Word files and include your name, title, institutional affiliation (if appropriate) and full contact details. Please let us also know about the technical requirements for the presentation!

The deadline for receiving abstracts is 25 February 2019! 18 March 2019!

We hope to see many of you in Japan!