

F.I.D.E.M.
Fédération Internationale de la Médaille d'Art
International Art Medal Federation

Minutes of the Meeting of the Executive and Consultative Committees with Delegates held in the Hirsch Room of the Coin Cabinet, Royal Library, Brussels, on 13th September 2008, 9 am.

Participating EC members: Ilkka Voionmaa (President), Inês Ferreira (Treasurer), Maria Rosa Figueiredo (General Secretary), Marie-Astrid Voisin (Webmaster), Tapio Suominen (co-opted for the EC as organiser of the next FIDEM Congress in 2010)
Absent: Cory Gilliland (Vice President), Ron Dutton (Vice President), Philip Attwood, Carolien Voigtman. The first three informed the meeting of their absence.

Also present: Mikko Timisjärvi (Accounts Auditor).

Participating CC members : Carlos Baptista da Silva and Eniko Szöllösy.

Participating Delegates and Vice Delegates: Willy Faes, Belgium (Delegate), Paul Huybrechts, Belgium (Vice Delegate), Henrik von Achen, Norway (Delegate), Rainer Grund, Germany (Delegate), Christian Wirsén, Sweden (Vice Delegate), Grazyna Lindau, Switzerland (Delegate), Javier Gimeno, Spain (Delegate), Pawel Leski, Poland (Delegate).

Maria Rosa Figueiredo took notes for the minutes, which must be scrutinised by Henrik von Achen (Delegate, Norway) and Christian Wirsén (Vice Delegate, Sweden) before they are sent to EC, CC and Delegates.

The Belgian Delegate, Willy Faes, the organiser of the meeting, welcomed the group and honoured the memory of Mme. Louise Dupont, the past Belgian delegate. He informed the meeting about her valuable contribution to Medallistic Art in Belgium and asked the audience to respect with one minute of silence.

Then he explained that he would substitute her as Delegate for Belgium, while the artist Paul Huybrechts would become Vice Delegate. He spoke about the program of the week-end, of how fortunate he was to get sponsors to offer books and catalogues to the participants, who would receive them in a linen bag, along with a medal specially issued to commemorate the FIDEM interim event. He was also pleased to offer a reduction of a medal with the portrait of his deceased wife Marie-Therèse Devadder. The visits would include the Monetary Museum of the National Bank of Belgium and the Museum of the Belgian Dynasty. After informing about some practicalities of the program he then passed the word to the President, Ilkka Voionmaa, who, after welcoming the participants and introducing them to the meeting, followed the Agenda:

- 1. Summary of the meeting of the Executive and Consultative Committees held on Friday September 12th:** The President assisted by the General Secretary made a summary of the main decisions taken in the previous meeting as follows:

- The FIDEM Statutes were amended and distributed. They can be consulted at the FIDEM site
- FIDEM website: much improved since Colorado Springs. It works as a source of information about FIDEM (see no. 10)
- FIDEM Archives: transferred to Lisbon, Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Lisbon, c/o Prof. João Duarte, Volte-face Project. Kept in a special room they include for the time being the files, books and magazines kept by the former General Secretary, Claude Arthus-Bertrand. They will also include, in the near future, a collection of FIDEM medals left behind. It can be consulted through Prof. João Duarte (see details in FIDEM website).

The CC member, Carlos Baptista da Silva announced that he will donate his archives to join the main core at the Faculty of Fine Arts and suggested that all former presidents should do the same.

Ilkka Voionmaa should send letters of thanks to both the President (Conselho Directivo) of the Fine Arts Faculty, Arq. Miguel Arruda and to Prof. João Duarte for their generosity in finding a space and hosting the FIDEM Archives.

Medailles Magazine: The Editor, Maria Rosa Figueiredo, informed the audience about the support of the Portuguese Mint, which is going to print the magazine free of charge for FIDEM. It will be out by middle of October. The Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation will support mailing charges.

Other decisions taken:

- Deadline for the membership fees: end of June of the current year. Non-payers by this date would not receive the Autumn issues of the magazines and lose rights of mention on the FIDEM website. However the Treasurer will send The Medal magazine to late payers (by December).
- The FIDEM Nordea account in Finland will be kept in parallel with a new account in Lisbon. The timebound deposit account will be renewed.
- ID (Identity) no. for identification of members will be substituted by a Membership no. which will become compulsory for payments through the FIDEM website These will be simplified.
- Members are encouraged to pay a two-year fee to facilitate payments and avoid late payments.
- Fees will be paid in Euros (€) for most countries and in USD (\$) for USA. Fee amounts for each unity will be established at the Congresses to be held every two years.
- Travelling expenses for EC members will only be paid in exceptional (extraordinary) cases, in the only and sole interest of FIDEM, decided by the EC..
- Tapio Suominen, the Finnish delegate and organiser of the next FIDEM Congress in Tampere was co-opted for the Executive Committee of FIDEM.

2. **Financial report** by Inês Ferreira, the treasurer. Inês Ferreira distributed the following documents: Income Statement 2007, Interim Report until August 2008, Budget 2008 and Estimate 2009, Income Statement (2005-2008) and put forward her problems with receipt of member fees, which took to the decision of simplifying the whole process in the FIDEM website. It was also decided to sell past numbers of **Médailles** Magazine through the site, at the price of **€25** (twenty-five Euros).

The Accounts Auditor, Mikko Timisjärvi, read his report on the FIDEM accounts (see attached report).

3. **FIDEM logo:** The webmaster noted that there is a need for a FIDEM logo on the site. Either something more “lettering” as the one created for the FIDEM leaflet or a image of a medal like the traditional Pisanello used in the Médailles magazine. The audience could not reach a final decision and discussion through internet must proceed.

4. **New member countries:** The GS updated the situation in new member countries: Brazil (through their Mint), Uganda (through the Numismatic Museum), Mexico (through a private medal-maker, Laurentius) and Cuba (first through the local Goldsmith’s Guild , then the University). The initial enthusiasm of Cuba due to internal quarrels and lack of funds has been somewhat silenced. They never paid their annual fees. Brazil and Uganda are rather quiet but co-operative. Mexico is most enthusiastic and trying to find individual members to join in. They even offered to organise a FIDEM Congress there.

The audience considered that every time a new country joins FIDEM, they must have some time to organise themselves and elect a Delegate to represent them.

The new countries, as well as the new delegates must have their nomination confirmed at the next General Assembly in Tampere 2010.

5. **Next FIDEM Congress in Tampere (Finland) [15th-19th June 2010]:** Tapio Suominen, who was accepted as a new member of the Executive Committee, the Curator of the Tampere Museum, started his slide show for the meeting. The Congress will take place at the Tampere Hall, a very good Congress Centre with 20 years experience in organising Congresses. Direct flights from most European capitals are available for Tampere. The complimentary Reception will take place at the City Hall. The Tampere Museum is depositary (Life-time deposit) of the Guild of Medallic Art and plays an important role in promoting Medallic Art in Finland. It is the only Finnish institution exhibiting medals on a regular basis. With a staff of 50 people, it houses a collection of 14.000 works of art, being the second largest public collection in Finland. In the room (ground floor) where the exhibition is going to take place (350 square meters) it is possible to show **1500 sides. Medals should have a maximum diameter of 15 cm.** As to the **theme of the Congress**, there were some preliminary ideas (Connecting people; Water & line) but Tapio Suominen will accept later suggestions by e-mail. A parallel exhibition of Finnish sculpture and medals will also be organised by the Guild of Medallic Art. The **Medal Fair** will take place on Saturday morning at the Winter Garden, a “must “ of Tampere.

Important decisions were: Non-members (individual) must pay a fee for exhibiting: €40 (if they want to receive the catalogue), **€20** (without catalogue); (See attached details). **Medals for the exhibition should be in Tampere by November 30th 2009.** No need to have medals photographed, they will do the job in Tampere.

6. **The financial role of FIDEM concerning arranging FIDEM Congresses: FIDEM will start to support the Congresses financially** and we must accept this principle: in Tampere **FIDEM will buy 200 copies of the catalogue** (at the production price of 15/20 Euros each) to sell through the site. It will be a contribution of around €4.000 (four thousand Euros).
7. **FIDEM Congresses after 2010:** It was considered that we should have a Congress every two years as before and not three, which happened since Seixal 2004. Three years between Congresses is too long and we lose membership enthusiasm. Interim meetings do not provide a substitute and they interfere with people making plans to attend the scheduled Congress every two years, as the Vice President Cory Gilliland pointed out (by e-mail sent to the President). It was felt that the three year span of these last years didn't work well. Accordingly, since the Congress in Tampere, Finland is being organised for 2010, from then on it was decided to have Congresses, if possible, every two years. As to the offer from Australia to organise in Cairns a next FIDEM Congress in 2013, the Assembly considered that what they have to offer (Cairns Convention Center) is very good but not enough to make sure we have a good FIDEM Congress. A good FIDEM Congress implies also, apart from good Auditoriums and facilities, a good Medal Art exhibition with a good catalogue and for this it is necessary to have a body of people with sufficient expertise and know-how in medallic art and how to organise an exhibition. This means that apart from the Conventions Center we have to make sure that there is also a Museum with medallic collections or a Mint involved in the organisation, also capable of organising thematic Lectures, medal workshops and a medal Fair. This does not mean that we give up a Congress in Cairns sometime in the future, but we must make sure that we have there the support we need and that there is a team up to our standards of quality as far as medal art exhibitions are concerned.

The assembly considered that a place closer by in Central Europe should be looked for the Congress in 2012. Henrik von Achen, the Norwegian delegate, from Norway proposed that countries like his, with money but few medal artists could subsidise countries with less financial resources like Bulgaria, where a lot happens but which do not have the economic means for organising events of this kind. This was considered a very good idea. Vienna or Prague are possible and the German Delegate Rainer Grund was asked to find out about eventual possibilities there.

It was decided to have guidelines for Congress organisers, something that was already discussed before.

8. **Quotas:** In view of the 1500 sides possible to be shown in Tampere, it was decided in the previous EC and CC meeting that quotas should be decided in the next meeting of the EC, CC and Delegates next June (beginning) 2009 in Tampere. However Tapio Suominen considered that it must be decided before that, considering the deadline for sending medals to Tampere (November), a short time to make the selections in each country and sending them to destination. Conclusion: The **decision must be taken through an internet meeting.**

The number of medals per country must relate to the number of FIDEM members per country. A surplus should be given to countries that have already organised a Congress.

9. **Guidelines concerning exhibiting artists at FIDEM exhibitions.** As stated above (see no. 5), it was decided that only individual members are allowed to exhibit for free. All the rest, even the ones that belong to an Association or a Guild and pay their fees to the Guild, **must pay a participation fee.** After this point was discussed it was decided that the future catalogues should include a CD with all the medals on show.

10. **FIDEM website:** The FIDEM webmaster, Marie-Astrid Voisin, showed the assembly her new proposal for the Website. In order to implement this and to show many more pictures, and to allow space enough for many topics related to the Art Medal, she would need to increase the capacity from 30 MB to 300 MB. A decision was made to find out about possible suppliers and prices for this improvement. All the assembly felt fascinated with the wonderful work achieved by the Webmaster and thought this was the way FIDEM should proceed to achieve a larger involvement from artists and all people interested in medals.

11. **International Art Medal Competitions as prepared by Michael Meszaros and Ron Dutton.** The merit of these was considered by the meeting and a decision was made to print the guidelines for distribution to the Mints and other competition organisers. Besides, the General Secretary read and distributed copies of a few proposals sent by Michael Meszaros related with improving competition conditions, by sending letters to the Mints and medal organisations, academics, critics, etc., together with FIDEM Guidelines. Another proposal presented by Michael Meszaros was connected with the problems of displaying medals (see attachments). These proposals were well received by the audience, and they should be implemented by the FIDEM EC.

12. **Additional items:** It was decided that the **FIDEM statutes and the Competition Guidelines** should be sent to all new members.

The President finally asked the Delegates present what they had been doing in their countries to mobilise their members and each one made their own report. From Norway where there are only two people actually working with medals and where it is necessary to establish a tradition through the Academy staff, to other countries where a lot is going on from editing Yearbooks (Finland), organising competitions (Hungary, Finland), exhibitions (Switzerland), medal symposiums (Poland), medal fairs (Belgium), all delegates present

demonstrated that they are trying to do their best to improve Medallic Art in their own countries.

The President closed the meeting at 1 p.m. in time for a quick lunch before the visit to the Monetary Museum of the National Bank of Belgium.