



International Art Medal Federation
Fédération Internationale de la Médaille d'Art

FIDEM XXXIV CONGRESS 2016

MINUTES FOR THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Saturday 10th September 2016

3pm-5pm

Aula of University Ghent, Voldersstraat 9, Ghent

Participating members: 74 members present

1. Opening by President Philip Attwood

2. Honoring deceased members

Tatjana Bosniak (Serbia) former delegate

Helder Batista (Portugal)

Ramon Ferran (Spain)

Māra Kalniņa (Latvia)

Jan Kulich (Slovakia)

Felicity Powel (Great Britain)

E. Bud Wertheim (USA)

Ralph Prins (The Netherlands)

Kauko Räsänen (Finland)

Irene Chariatis (Greece)

Sylvia Perle (USA)

Inka Klinckhard (The Netherlands)

Madeleine-Pierre Quérolle (France)

Luís António Veiga Leitão (Portugal)

Jason Pollack (USA)

Emma Sz. Egyed (Hungary)

György Kiss (Hungary)

3. Financial report by Ana Pereira, Treasurer

Ana Pereira opened by saying that the finances of FIDEM are looking good, especially thanks to the generous donations from the University Museum of Bergen, the Portuguese Mint and the Gulbenkian Foundation.

The number of members in certain countries has increased in 2015 which is very positive for FIDEM. She hoped this year would be as successful.

She showed a table with revenues and expenses (see enclosed PDF 1). There had been unexpected costs after Sofia because of the damaged and lost medals returned to the artists after the exhibition in 2014. These extra costs were to compensate the artists who had damaged or lost medals.

The treasurer then proposed a new time-bound deposit of 85,000€. She proposed that the students scholarships would be increased to a total of 20,000€ instead of 15,000€, the reason being that the next congress is in Canada, which will mean extra expense when travelling from Europe. She also proposed that entities should be found to advertise in Médailles.

She pointed out that she and the auditor were looking into the possibilities of buying a proper book-keeping program to simplify her work, which would include an invoicing function and be in English if possible.

The President explained that the general secretary/webmaster/editor was currently paid 100 euro per month for her work on the website but nothing for her General Secretary work or for Médailles. During the EC/CC meeting it had been decided during the EC/CC meeting that she would be paid 100 euro per month for the website work, 100€ for the General Secretary work and 2400 euro for each issue of the biennial journal Médailles; this would mean the monthly payment for all three functions would be 300 euro. He also explained that FIDEM has so far paid 600 euro per catalogue for the medal database, but that the work would become more complicated as it progressed, especially with the older catalogues. The EC/CC had decided to increase this to 2000 euro per catalogue, on the understanding that work on each catalogue would need to be okayed by the Treasurer before it was commenced in order that she can budget for the expense. Both proposals were accepted.

4. Report of the accountancy auditor Mr Mikko Timisjärvi (see enclosed PDF 2)

The financial situation is sound and good. To give a comparison, in Paris in 2002 the time-deposit was 35,000€, whereas it is now 85,000€. The auditor emphasized the importance of buying a proper book-keeping program, not only to improve the book-keeping and make it easier to invoice by emailing but also in case of controls.

5. Statutes

The president reminded of the reasons why the proposed changes to the FIDEM statutes are needed. The principle reasons are:

- to remove inconsistencies within the document itself
- to clarify statements that are currently unclear
- to bring the English and French versions into alignment
- to reflect current practice
- to enable FIDEM to function more effectively.

The documents were sent and received by the members of the EC, CC and delegates on 13 June of this year. The delegates then had to forward them to their members. No comments or suggestions have been reported to the president nor the general secretary.

The president summarised the major changes:

- Article III – The changes proposed in sections 1-4 bring the statutes into line with what is said on FIDEM's website. Section 5 allows FIDEM to create Honorary members (which has been done in the past even though the constitution does not allow for them) and Titular members. Honorary members will have made an exceptional contribution to FIDEM. Titular members (a new category) will have made an exceptional contribution to the medal world outside of services to FIDEM. Given the extraordinary nature of these categories, and the even more extraordinary nature of the post of Honorary President, the numbers have been limited very tightly. It is not envisaged that all these places will be filled at any one time.
- Article V – It is proposed that the principal organiser of the next planned congress should be nominated to serve on the Executive Committee; also that s/he should remain on the Committee until the congress following the one s/he has organised. This latter arrangement will allow any lessons learned to be passed on more effectively to the organiser of the ensuing congress. This is a model used successfully by the International Numismatic Council. This proposal replaces the rather imprecise statement at the end of Article VI in the current statutes.

- Article VI – It is proposed that all Executive Committee members are elected for 4 years, after which the term is renewable. As the statutes stand at the moment, there is a contradiction between Article VI, where the principle of renewal is announced, and Article X, where a restriction is placed on the renewal of the General Secretary's term.
- Article VII – As FIDEM does not know how many members there are in each of the member corporations and institutions, it seems simplest to standardise their voting rights at 3 votes per corporation/institution.
- The introduction of postal voting for membership of the Executive Committee is also proposed here. Such votes would be added to the votes of FIDEM members attending the General Assembly. With congresses increasingly organised outside Europe, it may sometimes be difficult for longstanding members to attend and we do not want to disenfranchise them for this reason. Also, postal voting will allow members from distant countries to take part in FIDEM's decision-making. We are confident that this will be manageable from an administrative point of view. The process proposed is:
 - At least 16 weeks before a General Assembly, the General Secretary notifies national Delegates of the General Assembly and asks for nominations to the EC; Delegates pass this on to members.
 - At least 12 weeks before, all nominations must have been received by the General Secretary.
 - At least 8 weeks before, the General Secretary sends the names of nominees to Delegates for distribution to members.
 - At least 4 weeks before, postal/email votes must have been received by the General Secretary.
 - This timetable is covered in the sections on Voting rights, Meetings and Nominations.

The GA had no questions nor comments. The GA then proceeded to the voting. All the changes were approved.

6. General Secretary's Moral report by Marie-Astrid Pelsdonk, General Secretary (see enclosed PDF 3)

7. Deciding on the membership fees of FIDEM

Since the FIDEM finances are good it was agreed during the EC/CC meeting that the membership fees until 2018 would remain the same. The fees are as follows: 30€ for students, 50€ for ordinary members and artists, 120€ for museums, libraries, associations and other non-profit organizations, 200€ for mints, foundries, medal-makers, publishers, galleries and other commercial enterprises.

8. New

a. member countries

No new member countries to report. However a possible return of Greece was reported. Contact with an artist, Maria Kalliopoliti, has been made – thanks to the medal database – and it is hoped that she will take the role as delegate for Greece. Austria would need a new delegate since the previous one left in 2015 and no replacement has been made yet.

b. delegates and vice delegates

These are the new names reported to the EC:

- Serbia – delegate: Svetozar Mirkov
- Sweden – vice-delegate: Kerstin Östberg
- Ireland – delegate: Robin Daly
- USA – delegate: Jeanne Stevens-Sollman
- USA – vice-delegate: Jim Licaretz

- Czech Republic – delegate: Kateřina Nora Nováková
- France – delegate: Beatrice Coullaré
- Switzerland – vice delegate: Gilles Perret
- Portugal – vice-delegate: Andreia Pereira
- South Africa – delegate: Christine Roux
- Netherlands – delegate: Jan Pelsdonk
- Netherlands – vice-delegate: Linda Verkaaik

All were approved by the Assembly

c. honorary and titular members

Since the honorary members were not included in the previous statutes the GA was asked to officially vote in Aimo Viitala and Carlos Batista da Silva as honorary members.

The proposal was approved by the Assembly.

The president then proposed that Mr Hanquiao Zhang, now chairman of China Gold Coin Incorporation, would be a candidate to become a titular member. This honour would be in recognition of his support for the art of the medal in China, for bringing China in to contact with FIDEM and for his role in the establishment of the China Medal Art Committee in 2015.

The proposal was approved by the Assembly.

9. Election/re-election members of

a. EC

Javier Gimeno (Spain) was asked during the interim meeting of last year to replace Thomas Kleisner (Czech Republic) who had resigned from his position within the EC.

Since the proposed changes to the statutes are accepted, it means that Paul Huybrechts (Belgium), current congress organizer and Lynden Beesley (Canada) coming congress organizer are up for election to become members of the EC. This change has been made so that congress organizers are involved in the work of the EC for the two years prior to the congress and the two years after the congress. This means that Paul Huybrechts will be a member of the EC until 2018 and Lynden Beesley until 2020.

The remaining members of the EC elected in 2012, after being asked if they would like to continue their work within the EC, needed to be re-elected.

All the proposals were approved by the Assembly.

b. CC

Sylvie de Turckheim-Pey was asked to become a member of the CC during the interim meeting last year. She has accepted. The Assembly approved the proposal.

10. Next congresses

a. 2018 Ottawa, Canada

Lynden Beesley presented the city of Ottawa and the Canadian Museum on Nature, where the XXXV FIDEM congress will be held between 29 May and 2 June 2018. She emphasized that the theme for the congress was Women and more specifically Women in Science. The medals for the exhibition of 2018 must have the theme of women. A special section in the exhibition will be about Women and Science. An award will be given to the best medal in that category. She pointed out that the medals should arrive in Canada in October 2017. The maximum measurements of the medals are 150x150x150mm and each will count as one medal. The museum can have about 1,000 medals on the exhibition.

She then presented the members of the Canadian congress organizing team, which, like the theme, are all made of women: Susan Taylor, the vice-delegate and chair of the medal exhibition, Lorraine Wright,

chair of the catalogue, Dianne Hammond, event planner, and Dagmar Pearson, treasurer.

The Royal Canadian Mint will produce the official congress medal. The organizing team are working on getting sponsorships and donations.

They welcomed the proposal made by the webmaster to use the FIDEM website as the official congress website.

Detailed information about the medals for the exhibition will be delivered to the general secretary and then forwarded to the members in October-November of this year.

b. 2020

For the 2020 congress, various options have been presented but nothing is yet definite.

c. 2022 and 2024

2022 is very probably going to be held in Budapest and 2024 in Warsaw.

d. Quotas

The President then raised the issue of quotas. Some countries have attracted a large number of new members lately but still have a very small quota. Other countries with hardly any members have a large quota. He presented the 3 possibilities that he previously had presented to the EC/CC and delegates:

1. nothing is being done – which would mean that countries who are increasing the number of members would be unfairly under-represented
2. the quotas are changed immediately to be in balance with the number of members – which might mean that some countries historically important to FIDEM could show very few medals and might lose the few members they have
3. a gradual change is made towards a better balance between the number of members and the quota. At the same time delegates of countries with not many members but big quotas will be made aware of this issue to give them the chance of increasing the number of members before their quotas are gradually lowered.

He explained that the EC/CC and delegates meeting had opted for the third option. The General Assembly agreed on this proposal.

e. 2017 FIDEM Beijing Tour

Sophia Sun, delegate of China, invited all participants to this congress to send their medals to China for an exhibition in Beijing.

The medals will be exhibited at the China Numismatic Museum (CNM) from August through to November 2017 and then at the Beijing International Coin Exposition (BICE), to be held over three days in the first weekend of November 2017. The BICE is held in the China National Convention Center, Beijing, and normally attracts up to 30,000 visitors.

For the exhibition to be realised, a minimum of 300 medals out of the 900 medals shown in Belgium are required. The national delegates should take care of the arrangements. However, if there are countries where this is not possible, then individual artists in those countries may send their medals to Beijing.

Although this is not an exhibition organised by FIDEM, the usual FIDEM exhibition practice will be followed which means that:

- the senders are paying for the outward costs of shipping and insurance
- the organizer is paying for the exhibition costs, the catalogue, the return and the insurance costs

The Chinese organizers will supply information on customs procedures, with ATA carnets the generally preferred method. To make the customs formalities simpler, the medals will not be for sale, but will be returned to the senders.

Information about the artists and the medals can be done by using the same information provided for the Ghent exhibition. In the exhibition a label giving the artist's name and the title of the work will accompany each medal. A publication will accompany the exhibition, which will include information on each artist and medal and the artist's contact details. Artists who are willing to have pictures of themselves published are also welcome to send the picture to the organizer.

The contact person in China is Sophia Sun (e-mail: wondersun921@163.com) and 15th December 2016 is the last day to contact her to let her know which artists would like to participate in the exhibition.

More information and deadlines on when to send medals will be provided at a later date and forwarded to the delegates by the General Secretary.

11. Interim meeting in 2017

will be held in Ottawa and the dates have been set as 10, 11 and 12 August next year.

12. Website - report by Marie-Astrid Pelsdonk, webmaster

After Sofia the website needed more space and the then current ISP provider could not provide us with this. Therefore three companies were asked for a price estimate. The choice went to a Dutch-based company called CardSolutions. The result is that the website now has a LOT of space to evolve.

CardSolutions also helped with the building and coding of an online medal database. Medals from the Colorado Springs exhibition in 2007, Tampere in 2010 and Glasgow in 2012 are now online. The result is 2,740 medals and since the launch in September 2014 we have had more than 4,000 visitors. Delegates were asked to encourage artists who still had not signed the copyright forms to do so, whether they give FIDEM permission to use pictures of their medals or not.

The payment pages have also changed since the Finnish credit card company has been bought by another company. They still did not want to provide help to FIDEM to code our pages. It was therefore decided during the interim meeting last year to ask CardSolutions to build a secure webshop.

FIDEM is placing news flashes on facebook and linkedin, which have shown to be valuable since we reach more people more quickly. The result is quite remarkable; for this congress the news of the official inauguration of the congress and the opening of the exhibition has been seen by more than 900 visitors. A great many pictures from previous congresses have been placed on facebook by US member George Cuhaj, who was thanked for his contribution.

The future plans for the website are to register the medals and artists from the Sofia congress, the present one and of course the congresses prior to 2007. Finding pictures of medals from previous congresses can be a challenge but a promise has been made by the vice-delegate from Switzerland that the pictures of the medals from the Neuchatel congress will be delivered to the webmaster.

Until now congress organizers have set up their own website and FIDEM has just had a link from its own to that website. This has been very confusing for the users who thought that it was just one website. Placing a link instead of having the news directly on the FIDEM website has made it a dead website. The idea which has evolved from this is to propose to congress organizers that they use the FIDEM website rather than creating their own. This would mean that they save money in the building and maintaining of a website which would run for a maximum of six months. They just need to provide the webmaster with the information and pictures they wish to include. Registration for the congress and all the excursions would be placed in the FIDEM webshop. This has been discussed with the Canadian team, who have welcomed the idea and will use it.

13. Médailles Magazine 2014 - report by Marie-Astrid Pelsdonk

The 2014 issue of 270 pages should by now have been received by all FIDEM members and is being sent to any new member joining FIDEM. The issue was dedicated to the memory of our honorary member, Claude Arthus-Bertrand, who passed away in 2014.

The work on the 2016 issue has started. A question was raised in the audience of how long it would take to have this issue out since the previous one took two years. The editor answered that she really hoped to have the 2016 issue out more quickly but that this was not only dependent on her. For the previous issue the deadlines for the lecturers were not always upheld, documents were sent to her in the wrong format, etc. To try to avoid this, she has set up some detailed guidelines to follow, which she has sent out to all the lecturers in the hope that it will help. It also took time to choose the printer and they in their turn had to fit in the printing into their schedule. The editor is working with the aim and hope to have the magazine ready more quickly.

14. Other topics

Linda Verkaaik, vice-delegate from the Netherlands, questioned FIDEM's practice of always displaying medals in cases and suggested that medals exhibited in other ways might be included in FIDEM exhibitions and that medals shown in parallel exhibitions held to coincide with a congress might also be included in the catalogues. The president explained that the exhibition catalogue is for the medals that are chosen by the jury of each country to be exhibited during the official FIDEM exhibition. It had been possible for other medals to be exhibited in separate exhibitions in Sofia, and this had been repeated in Belgium with several parallel exhibitions. However, it would be unfair to impose extra obligatory burdens and expense upon hard-working congress organisers. Further discussion was prevented by time running out. The meeting was reminded that proposals should be sent in writing in advance to the EC, so that everything could be discussed in a proper manner.

15. Closing the meeting

The president thanked the assembly and closed the meeting.