

Minutes of the General Assembly

Saturday 14th October 2023 – 2.30pm - 4.00 pm
Grand Hotel Baglioni - Michelangelo Room

Participating members: 61 members present
Taking the minutes: Marie-Astrid Pelsdonk

1. Opening by President Philip Attwood

The president opened the meeting by welcoming everyone present.

2. Honouring deceased members

Ann Shaper Pollack (USA)
Eileen Cuhaj (USA)
Theo van de Vathorst (Netherlands)
Chester Y. Martin (USA)
Annette Koek (Netherlands)
Jane McAdam Freud (Great Britain)
Margareta Landau Nejašmić (Croatia)
Chizuko Nakaji (Japan)
Tommy Gilliland (USA)
Christian Wirsén (Sweden)
Béatrice Schaerli (Switzerland)
Sumio Saito (Japan)
Vendel Bicsár (Hungary)
László Kutas (Hungary)
Manuela Maria Madureira (Portugal)

3. Financial report by the treasurer

(see pp. 277-278)

Ana Pereira opened by saying that there had been more expenses for this congress and that FIDEM's contribution to this congress has been bigger than planned. This is the most expensive congress so far.

The decision proposed by the Secretary General and accepted by the Executive Committee of increasing the exhibition fee for non-member artists from 20 to 30€ had been a very wise decision. As a result the treasurer could note that this meant that many non-member artists chose to become members. But even so, fewer members were attending this time.

FIDEM was able to give ten bursaries for young artists under the age of 30 with financial support FIDEM had received from the University Museum of Bergen. These bursaries are to make it possible for young artists to attend the congress.

FIDEM received the support of the Portuguese Mint for the printing and postage of *Médailles* magazine.

Ana Pereira proposed a new time-bound deposit of 60,000€. She proposed to find an entity to print *Médailles* 2023 as well as finding an entity to do or support the postage of the magazine. Since the money given by the University Museum of Bergen for bursaries for young artists, she also proposed to find an entity to support bursaries for future congresses. Questions about partial donations for bursaries were asked and the answer was that this was an alternative but that FIDEM must be informed of them.

The president asked the meeting to take a vote to accept the proposed financial changes. The vote was unanimous and the four proposed financial changes was accepted.

The president thanked Ana Pereira for her work and the Portuguese Mint for their support with the printing and postage of *Médailles* magazine.

4. Report of the accountancy auditor

(see p. 279)

The auditor, Mikko Timisjärvi, was unable to attend the congress but had sent his report which was read during the General Assembly.

5. Website and *Médailles* magazine reports

Médailles magazine 2020 was published and sent to the FIDEM members during 2023. It is the first time ever that the magazine is complete. All the lectures presented during the online congress in Tokyo have been published. It had been a battle to put this magazine together but the end result is very satisfactory. This time help from Susan Taylor and Javier Gimeno for the editing of all the articles had been invaluable.

For the website, when news is sent in it is placed online but very little is coming in.

Marie-Astrid Voisin Pelsdonk explained that she is currently working on her PhD and unfortunately with the work load from FIDEM it is suffering a lot. She had asked for help during the meetings on Tuesday and some volunteers had come forward to help with the editing of the next magazine. She will also need help with the website.

The president thanked Marie-Astrid Voisin Pelsdonk for her work with the website and the magazine and he also thanked Javier Gimeno and Susan Taylor for their work.

6. Secretary General's Moral Report

(see pp. 280-282)

7. Membership fees

It was agreed that the membership fees would remain the same until 2025.

The fees for 2023 until 2025 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

FIDEM has no new member country.

b. delegates and vice delegates

It has been reported to the EC that the following delegates will be stepping down:

Michael Reed – New Zealand
Masaharu Kakitsubo – Japan
Bogomil Nikolov – Bulgaria
Grazyna Lindau – Switzerland
Jan Pelsdonk – Netherlands
Eduardo Zancada – Spain
Antanas Olbutas – Lithuania
Jeanne Stevens-Sollman – US
Jim Licaretz – US vice

The delegates were thanked for their commitment and work through the years.

New proposals:

Robert Wellington – vice Australia – recently proposed but stepping down
Ventsislav Shishkov – Bulgaria
Emil Bachiyski – Bulgaria vice
Toshiaki Yamada – Japan
Takafumi Oonishi – Japan vice
Nicolas Consiglio – Switzerland
Maya Graber – Switzerland vice
Yvette Schulman – Netherlands
María Jesús Romero – Spain vice
Lina Kalinauskaitė – Lithuania

Due to work reasons and personal reasons, the delegate of France, Béatrice Coullaré, will become the vice-delegate and the vice delegate, Nicolas Salagnac, will become the delegate

Daniel Bultitude – New Zealand vice
George Cuhaj – US

The president asked the GA to take a vote. The vote was unanimous and the new delegates and vice-delegates were welcomed.

c. honorary and titular members

No changes to the honorary and titular members.

9. Election/Re-election members of

a. EC

Toshiaki Yamada, organiser of the XXXVI FIDEM congress in Tokyo, will be stepping down as will Maria Rosa Figueiredo, vice-president. They were both thanked for their work and contribution as members of the EC.

A new member to the EC was proposed in João Bernardo dos Santos. This proposition was put to the vote and agreed.

b. CC

No changes proposed.

10. Next congresses

The president started by saying that there was a need to address the situation of the current congress. This congress has been a very expensive one, for FIDEM and for the attendees. FIDEM will also have to pay a lot of money to get the medals out of customs. The exact sum is not yet known. ENIC will inform FIDEM of it. The congress medal which was produced at no cost to FIDEM by the Zecca dello Stato had arrived and could be collected at the information desk.

What has been learned from this is that, in the future, FIDEM must not go through a commercial company ever again. In the past, the delegates of the organizing country had been the ones in charge. This time, FIDEM had been approached by ENIC which in the end showed to be very expensive, adding taxes to every single event and booking they made for us and leaving a lot of organizing to FIDEM to do. What had been a very good asset to this congress is Valeria Vettorato who has been a pillar. She has produced the catalogue and made the exhibition.

a. 2025 - München, Germany

The German delegate, Martin Hirsch, was unfortunately ill and could not attend but did send a message to the President to be shared at the different meetings.

“Dear Philip and dear friends of FIDEM,
I send greetings to all of you.

I suggest to organize the next FIDEM Congress from October 15th to October 20th, 2025 in Munich.

We will form an alliance: the State Coin Collection coordinates, the Central Institute for Art History holds the congress and the State Collection of Antiquities presents the medals. Both houses are in downtown Munich near

Königsplatz. (The Central Institute reminds me to take care, that the audience hall is normally used by students on the afternoons of Thursday and Friday)

For the consigning artists I would suggest an optional (not mandatory) theme that fits the Collection of Antiquities. It could go something like this: “Our myths, our roots.”

The cost framework is relatively cheap. The catalogue is financed jointly by the Coin Collection and the Antiquities Collection. The congress building is also free.

For the American Medal Society: I am considering requesting the Amerikahaus, located near Königsplatz, as a pavilion for their traditional meeting.”

b. other proposals

Nothing is yet determined for 2027. There have been several proposals for the XXXVIII congress:

- New Zealand – there is not enough support to make this viable.
- Czech Republic – the delegate has been looking into the possibility of having the congress in the Czech Republic but it looks like it will not be possible. There is no venue for the exhibition.
- USA – It will be 20 years since the last congress in Colorado Springs. The ANS is interested in holding a congress, but they are moving and it would not be possible before 2029. The president will have a zoom meeting with representatives from the ANA, who were the hosts in 2007, and the ANS to see if Colorado Springs could be a possibility.
- Portugal – The Portuguese Mint has been in touch with the president for other reasons but mentioned that Portugal could be a possible host.

11. Interim meeting in 2024

Will be held between 9 and 11 October 2024 in Munich.

12. Prizes

The president reminded the meeting that the FIDEM awards and prizes would be given during the final dinner.

The non-FIDEM prizes are:

- The Mel Wacks Judaica Art Medal Award was given to Hanna Jelonek (Poland)
- The George Cuhaj Prize for young artists under the age of 30 was given to Stancheva Vasilena (Bulgaria)
- The Ann and Jason Pollack Award was given to Lavy Tal (Israel)
- Art Valley 51 prizes by Paul Huybrechts were given to Tong Fang (China), Beni Debacker (Belgium), Eugene Daub (US), Anna Watrobska-Wdowiarska (Poland) and Danius Drulys (Lithuania)
- The Order of Chiquita by James Malone Beach was awarded to Marie-Astrid Voisin Pelsdonk

13. Other items

a. Nadia Roseva suggested that artists and members of FIDEM could do something to keep the bursaries for young artists alive. When paying for the yearly membership one could also donate on a voluntary basis to the bursary with for instance the same amount as the membership.

She also suggested that there should be a discussion platform open for FIDEM members. It would be another way of reaching out and keeping in touch.

She also suggested that at future congresses there would be more time allocated to the medal fair.

b. It was suggested that technology could be used more in the congresses. Teams or Zoom could be platforms to transmit the lectures so that people not being able to attend could do so online. It would be good to encourage the organizers to use the technology in future congresses.

c. The issue of the pictures of the medals from the exhibition was raised. In the past all the medals had been depicted and placed on CD and later USB-sticks. It was suggested that this should be mandatory for future congresses.

d. The issue of workshops was also raised. The lack of workshops had been felt and it was strongly suggested that the organisers of future congresses should include these in the programs. The hope was that already in Munich this would be made possible.

e. Jeffrey Briggs showed his disappointment in the present exhibition. The president said that most reactions had been very positive..

14. Closing the meeting

The president ended by saying that this had been a successful congress, but that changes would be made in the guidelines for congresses. He asked the secretary general to pass the meeting's greetings to Lars O. Lagerqvist and thank him for his kind words to the congress. He finished by thanking the meeting for their participation and closed the meeting at 3.55pm.

14. Closing the meeting

The president thanked the meeting for their participation and closed the meeting at 7.02 pm (Japan time).