



International Association of Transport and Communications Museums

## Report of the 40<sup>th</sup> Conference in Porto and Lisbon in June/ July 2015

Under the subject **CHANGING PRIORITIES**, the 40<sup>th</sup> IATM Conference 2016 was organized by the **TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS MUSEUM**, together with the **IATM Board**, and took place in Porto from the 28<sup>th</sup> to the 30<sup>th</sup> June, ending in Lisbon on the 1<sup>st</sup> July.

The Conference involved 40 participants representing museums all over Europe, Canada, United States of America, India and Australia. The programme included four thematic sessions as well as several visits, allowing all participants to get to know the Portuguese most relevant museum and heritage projects on transports and communications.



## 28th June

The “Get together” was scheduled for 6 p.m., at the TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS MUSEUMS (ancient Customs House building) – Porto, Portugal (after the IATM Board meeting).

The programme included an optional “Three Bridges Douro River Tour” with dinner on the boat, which involved a great number of participants. During the tour the participants could understand the urban development of Porto and its ancient connection with the world through trade, special the well-known Porto Wine trade.



## 29th June

Under the subject **MUSEUM SUSTAINABILITY**, the first session opening presentation of the Conference was the responsibility of JOSÉ PORTUGAL (cultural consultant), followed by five paper presentations.

JOACHIM BREUNINGER (Verkehrsmuseum Dresden, Germany), KIMMO ANTILA (Finnish Postal Museum, Finland), BIANCA GENDREAU (Canadian Museum of History, Canada), SAM MULLINS (London Transport Museum, UK) and SUZANA FARO (Transport and Communications Museum, Portugal).

They questioned the implications of the new European directive PSI-Legislation; which objects to collect on contemporary museums; how to identify the relevant objects for the museum; if we collect objects or relationships; how to ensure the museum sustainability; how to promote public knowledge on heritage to guarantee respect and preservation; how to promote prosperous museums; the challenges of creating relationships with new publics and territories.



After the Official Opening Session (that took place at 11:30), with the participation of some institutional representatives, the delegates were invited (at the beginning of the afternoon) to visit the exhibitions of the TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS MUSEUM, accompanied by the educational service: *The Car in Space and Time*, *The Engine of The Republic: Presidential Cars*, and *Communicate*.

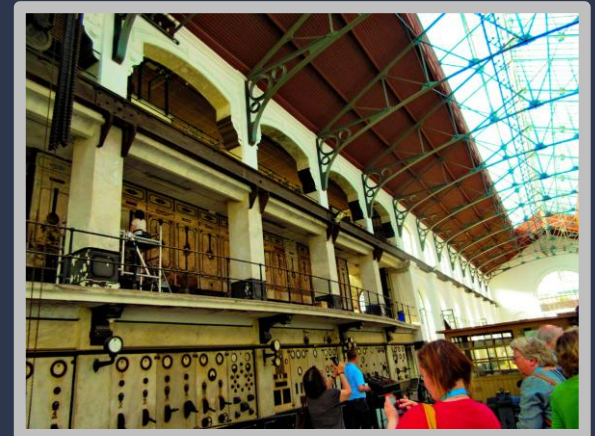
The second session opening presentation of the Conference was the responsibility of JOÃO TEIXEIRA LOPES (sociologist) and dedicated to **MUSEUM PUBLICS**. The following presentations were the responsibility of

ADRIANA ALMEIDA, CECÍLIA AMORIM, ISABEL TAVARES E PAULA MOURA (TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS MUSEUM, PORTUGAL), RAGINI BHAT (HERITAGE TRANSPORT MUSEUM, INDIA), STEPHEN QUICK (CANADIAN AVIATION AND SPACE MUSEUM, CANADA) AND CARLA DIAS (TRAM CAR MUSEUM, PORTUGAL).

Claiming that museums are for people, the session discussed the changing priorities towards museum publics, the museum social function and accessibility, based on several examples of exhibitions and public activities.



The working day ended with an historic tram tour by Douro river and with the visit to the construction of the new Tram Car Museum exhibition (not opened to the public yet).



## 30th June

The day began travelling by train to the Lousado's nucleus of the NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM where the delegates visited the Museum and participated in the third session of the Conference, opened with MARIA VLACHOU's (Access Culture) presentation under the subject **ACCESSIBILITY**, and followed by four other presentations:

MARIA JOSÉ TEIXEIRA (NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM, PORTUGAL), ANDREW MORITZ (THE WORKSHOPS RAIL MUSEUM, AUSTRALIA), AIJA BAUERE (RIGA MOTORMUSEUM, LATVIA) AND STEPHEN QUICK (CANADIAN AVIATION AND SPACE MUSEUM, CANADA).

The presentations focused on physical, social and intellectual barriers, sharing new museum public strategies, partnerships and interactive technological gadgets to make the public visit an unforgettable relevant experience.

The IATM General Assembly took place during the afternoon, discussing several relevant matters for the association and for its museum members, and electing a new IATM Board with STEPHEN QUICK as President.

The day ended with the visit to the Port Wine Cellars and Port Wine tasting.





## 1st July

The last day of IATM Conference took place in Lisbon. After a three hour train travel, the participants arrived in Lisbon where a bus was already there to take the group through the centre of the city to visit the COMMUNICATIONS MUSEUM and the MARINE MUSEUM, both with relevant collections and a very interesting public work.



The fourth session of the Conference took place in the NATIONAL COACH MUSEUM during the afternoon. Under the subject **NETWORKING AND PARTNERSHIPS**, the opening presentation was the responsibility of CLARA FRAYÃO CAMACHO (General Direction of Cultural Heritage, Portugal), followed by

JOÃO CARVALHO DIAS (Fundação Calouste Gulbenkian, Portugal), KILIAN T. ELSASSER (Museumsfabrik and BLS Foundation, Switzerland) AND STEPHEN QUICK (Canadian Aviation and Space Museum, Canada).

The presentations underlined the relevance of partnerships and public support for museums, as well as the development of new projects.

After a visit to the new NATIONAL COACH MUSEUM, the host for the last day of the Conference, the 40th IATM Conference ended with a Conclusions AND **NEW IDEAS** session, where the new elected President, Stephen Quick, challenged all the participants to send their contributing ideas to the IATM Board.

The organization of the 40th IATM Conference was a big challenge for the TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS MUSEUM which was made possible by:

- the partnership with the IATM Board, trusting our Museum for this organization and the special support of the former President ROBERT SJÖÖ AND ROSA GOMES;
- the partnership of the Portuguese museums – the TRAM CAR MUSEUM (Porto) which made it possible the historic tram tour and the visit to the museum; the Lousado's nucleus of the NATIONAL RAILWAY MUSEUM (Lousado), which made the visit available and hosted the third session; the COMMUNICATION MUSEUM and the MARINE MUSEUM (both in Lisbon) which received the group for the visit; the NATIONAL COACH MUSEUM, which made it possible the visit and hosted the fourth and the last sessions of the Conference;
- the partnership with the Port Wine cellars SANDEMAN, which made the visit and wine tasting possible;
- the effort and motivation of the TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS MUSEUM team.

Suzana Faro

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