

## UNIVERSEUM Network

### Report of meeting in Tartu 1-3 July 2005

At the kind invitation of the University of Tartu (Tartu Ülikool), the Universeum Network met in Tartu on 1-3 July 2004. The Universeum Network is grateful to the University of Tartu for their organisational skill and hospitality, which made our meeting such a success and a pleasure.

There were five working sessions spread over two days. The opening session addressed 'The Public(s) of University Museums: Innovative Approaches'. Two working sessions were devoted to case studies from individual institutions. The final sessions were devoted to issues devoted to advocacy for university collections and academic heritage and future paths for the Universeum network.

Twenty-seven participants, representing the following universities were present:

- Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin (Germany), Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg (Germany), Tartu Ülikool (Estonia), Helsinki University (Finland), the Helsinki University of Technology (Finland), Universidade de Lisboa (Portugal), Université Louis Pasteur Strasbourg (France), the University Museums of the Netherlands, Università di Padua (Italy), University of Cambridge,
- In addition to those representing university collections, individuals with the CNAM (Le Conservatoire des arts et métiers, Paris), Service régional de l'Inventaire (Alsace, France), the Italian National Research Centre, Science Centre AHHA (Estonia).

The Universeum network was especially pleased to welcome participants from two new participating universities: Helsinki University and the Helsinki University of Technology.

Regrets were received from a number of previous participants, and we look forward to see the colleagues from Amsterdam, Bologna, Copenhagen, Groningen, Krakow, Oxford, Lyon, Pavia, the Royal College of Surgeons (England), Toulouse and Uppsala at the next meeting.

Université Louis Pasteur Strasbourg (France) graciously extended an invitation to the Universeum Network to hold the next annual meeting in Strasbourg, tentatively scheduled for 23-25 June 2005; the invitation was warmly received by participants, who look forward to meet in Strasbourg. The meeting date will be confirmed.

During the final session, devoted to discussing future paths for the Universeum network, the following points were discussed and accepted with group support for action:

1. In May 2006 Universeum participants will, on the most appropriate day for their own institution to coordinate with ICOM museums day, organise an event, e.g. special opening, poster, exhibit, etc., to mark participating in Universeum as an international presence
2. The network will continue to rely on the participation of individuals, their institutions, shared experiences, motivation, etc. as the driving force which powers the network

3. The network will encourage participation of institutions in European countries who are not currently involved
4. The network will encourage the involvement and inclusion of younger people, particularly at meetings
5. During the coming year, participants will be alert to possible new projects that might be taken up by the network or its participants. These will be discussed at the 2006 meeting.
6. The network will serve as a gadfly to UMAC, to remind the organisation of opportunities in and responsibilities to European university museums and collections
7. Martin Luther University Halle Wittenberg has generously agreed continue to serve as the first contact point for the network
8. Martin Luther University Halle Wittenberg has graciously offered to administer the network webpage and mailing list.
9. Strasbourg has extended an invitation to host the next meeting 23 to 25 June 2005 (see above).
10. We agreed to coordinate related exhibits in our own institutions to coincide during 2007, probably in May. We will discuss ideas for the exhibit theme and the precise time for the exhibit and any related activities at the Strasbourg meeting.
11. Participants will communicate calendar events to the calendar coordinator, Cornelia Weber.
12. We will be alert to possible funding opportunities useful to the network.