

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CSIG, ATHENS, NOVEMBER 19, 2011

An informal meeting of the Coroplastic Studies Interest Group was held at the École française d'Athènes (EfA), on Friday, November 19, 2010, at 7 :30, as an extension of the round table *Artémis à Dyrrhachion. Une mise en perspective*. Twenty were present comprising both members and those possibly interested in becoming members. Arthur Muller hosted the meeting and extended Jaimee Uhlenbrock's regrets, who was not able to attend the meeting. Conforming to the order of the day the following points were addressed :

1. Presentation of the CSIG

After a brief presentation of the birth of the CSIG during the course of the Izmir conference *Terracotta Figurines in the Greek and Roman Eastern Mediterranean* in June 2007, with the assistance of a web site created for the group, Arthur Muller explained the objectives of the CSIG and showed the information and resources available on the site (announcements, the newsletter, annual bibliographies, new publications). These make the CSIG an appreciable source of information and knowledge for a large and growing community.

Stéphanie Huysecom-Haxhi demonstrated the bibliographic data base with its search engine that has been developed at Lille. It is hosted on the site of the research center of the Université de Lille¹ and is accessible from a link on the CSIG website.

2. Operation of the CSIG

- a. Governance structure : Since its creation, the operation of the CSIG has been the responsibility of one person Jaimee Uhlenbrock, chair of the group, aided by volunteers for the newsletter. It now is recognized that the CSIG can only survive with a more developed and participatory governance. Many models exist, such as the associations for the study of ancient mosaics, of wall painting, and of ancient glass. The model of *Instrumentum*, the European working group for the study of manufactured products in antiquity,² could perhaps be transposable. Its officers comprise a president, a treasurer, a secretary, and vice presidents for European countries. For the CSIG, there could also be a vice-president for groups of countries, if the idea of a geographic division were to be instituted.
- b. Dues, or membership fees : Modest dues could help the central functioning of the CSIG in the maintenance of its website and in the publication of the newsletter, otherwise reliant on volunteers. But the very existence of dues would require the CSIG to have a treasurer. Dues could also support activities, such as colloquia, prizes, or research grants, although even in these cases the question of the need for a selection committee arises. If the governance structure were to include vice-presidents for countries or groups of countries, this committee could be composed of these vice presidents. These geographical sub-sections also could be used to organize activities for a given country, or groups of countries.
- c. Solicitation of information : For the diffusion of information the present practice of posting announcements on the CSIG website could be further developed, on the condition that there is a webmaster. That presupposes the creation of an address dedicated to this to which could be sent all announcements (colloquia, calls for papers, notices of conferences, exhibitions, varia). However, that also presupposes the active participation of members on a regular basis by posting information at their disposal. The Announcements tab of the CSIG website could be subdivided into several categories.

¹ http://base-halma-ipel.univ-lille3.fr/fmi/iwp/res/iwp_auth.html

² Terracotta figurines are also the domain of Instrumentum www.instrumentum-europe.org/, and a link should probably be added to the Links page of the CSIG website.

3. An e-journal for coroplastic research :

The realization of an electronic journal could be a relatively important goal, but one that should be reserved for the time when the CSIG could have a webmaster. However, one could ask if such a specialized journal would not confine coroplastic research to a ghetto, even though it is inseparable from the history of art, the history of technology, of the study of exchange, of iconography, of the history of religion, and of cultural anthropology in general.

4. Proposal for Athenian activities of the Group in 2011

The members of the CSIG present in Greece would be interested in having visits and exchanges concerning objects and ensembles of objects in the course of study. That could be done in small groups, but it poses the problem of permission for access to the storerooms of museums. The easiest visit to organize for the moment might be to the terracotta galleries of the National Museum in Athens that were opened a little more than a year ago but unfortunately are often closed for lack of guards.

5. Concerning the publication of the *Actes* of the Izmir Conference.

Following the Izmir conference *Terracotta Figurines in the Greek and Roman Eastern Mediterranean* in June 2007, 93 participants submitted their written contributions that stemmed from delivered papers or posters. The volume of the *Actes* comprises approximately 1000 pages, including illustrations, the maximum for a volume in the collection of the Suppléments of the *Bulletin de Correspondance hellénique*. It goes without saying that the editorial work that was required for so many papers was a time-consuming enterprise, the more so since many authors neglected to follow the norms for publication, especially in regard to the bibliography. The systematic checking and correction that this necessitated cost valuable time. Stéphanie Huysecom-Haxhi assisted Arthur Muller and Ergün Laflı in this work over the last year, a collaboration that was indispensable in view of Arthur's new responsibilities at the EfA in Athens.

Of the 93 papers that have been received, 52 have already been edited and sent to the authors. These comprise 12 contributions in German, 6 in Italian of the 8 received, 18 in French of the 26 received, and 16 in English of the 47 received. Forty-one papers still are to be edited, of which two are in Italian, 8 are in French, and 31 are in English. Twenty-five more are in the process of being edited. Ergün is checking them for language, and Stéphanie is standardizing their form and bibliography according to the publication guidelines. Arthur has yet to provide a final check of the in-text references relative to the cumulative bibliography at the end of the volume and the page footnotes. For the final 16 papers, everything remains to be done. Progress is intermittent and the authors will receive their papers for review when they are ready. The three editors intend to have all material at the publications department of the EfA at the end of 2011, for publication in 2012. It goes without saying that the time spent at this stage of the project will be used by reviewers of the publishing service of the EfA, where the work will proceed more quickly.

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