

Report of the working group on

SPORT IN MUSEUMS OF HISTORY AND ARCHEOLOGY

21st of April 2017, Nice

The first working group on museums and sports collections was held in Nice in the National Sport Museum on 21 April 2017 with the participation of;

- **Myriame MOREL-DELEDALLE,**
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- **Marie GRASSE,**
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- **Burçak MADRAN,**
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- **Hélène BARBIERO,**
Responsable of collections at the National Sport Museum
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- **Matteo TASSI,**
Expert in sports museum / Consultant Agency NC Olympique Lyonnais
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- **Florent MOLLE,**
Curator at Mucem / Head of Sport and Health collections, Co-curator of
the exhibition "We are Foot"
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- **Claude BOLI,**
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- **Yves GASTAUT,**
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- **Bernard MOREL,**
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The meeting started with the presentation of Matteo Tassi, who exposed a current vision of existing museums according to their themes and administrations (Olympic museums, club museums, museums of sports associations, sports federations, etc.). The presentation specifically highlighted two issues that are discussed later.

Matteo Tassi has drawn up a kind of atlas on the growing development of sports museums. At the top of the pyramid is the IOC / Olympic Museum in Lausanne, which unites the Olympic Museum Group. International federations also have museums.



The issues identified at the meeting are summarized below:

1. Lack of inclusive organization: There is not an inclusive; nor an exclusive organization, nor a committee in ICOM specific to the sports museums.

2. Classification: The typology of sports museums is not obvious. We need to work on a logical classification and a definition: what is a sports museum?

3. Collections: Collection methodology is an important topic to discuss. Two groups of collections can be identified; Collections directly related to sports and sports objects in different collections. The main question remains to be discussed: What is a sports object? An inventory should be made of what sports and sporting museums are.

In this regard, the work carried out by the MNS team ("Procurement Policy", 2017) will be valuable for our reflections.

4. Museology of sport: To the extent that a methodology for the collection of sports objects is not identified or theorized, curators who are responsible both in sports museums and in different thematic museums with collections on the sport have no clear vision regarding acquisitions, themes, or general collection. The need to develop a museology specific to sporting goods collections has been identified.

5. Typology of visitors: There is a lack of typological identification of visitors in the sports museums. Are these fans, amateurs or others? A communication policy for sport museums remains to be elaborated and discussed.



A result of the discussions on these issues it is clear that more theoretical work is needed on the subject of museums and sports collections. This first working group demonstrated the need and the desire to launch this work in a broader way, with more participation over a long period of time. It was decided to;

- Create a virtual common base on "Google Drive" to share documentation,
- Make a list of people who may be interested in this topic,
- Consult ICOM to find out the institutional and personal members related to sports museums (Burçak Madran) + Olympic Museums Network (Matteo Tassi).
- Contact COMCOL (International Committee for Collections) to develop a joint working group to discuss the issue of sports collections. (Myriame Morel)
- Target one or two actors working on a museum project that could be helped to build and leverage its project (Matteo Tassi)
- Target organizations on sports to get their interests and supports (Create a list as well)
- Organize broader working groups and write project(s) (SAREC) to find grants.

The visit of the MNS of Nice made it possible to ask another question which had not been addressed in the meeting, or in the museum exhibition: that of the practice of the sport of the citizen as leisure.

Indeed, the museum presents sports typologies in their aspect of competition but there is no consideration of the practice of sport in individuals as a leisure activity. However, this is a growing societal phenomenon: if we consider the development of urban walkers and runners, family / friendly sporting weekends (hiking, cycling) and their impact on society: multiplication of sports halls, development of bike paths, incentive (financial) of municipalities to its officials so that they use a bicycle rather than their self (taking into account the ecological question, up to the evolution of sports clothing etc.), we are in a completely different dimension of the appropriation of sport. It would be interesting to check, with the list of sports museums, those who approach the question of sport as a social practice.

