

# NEWSLETTER 2015

## INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR LITERARY and COMPOSERS' MUSEUMS ICLM

Dear colleagues, dear friends,

Best wishes for 2016!

2015 was an exciting and fruitful year. Various cultural and museum events took place in different countries, we tried to cover some of them on our web site and in our Newsletters. But the highlight of the ICLM year was as usual our ICLM Annual Conference. Dedicated to **“Literature, Music, and Cultural Heritage”** it took place in Tbilisi (Georgia) on September 25–30<sup>th</sup>, 2015. As expected it was a great success. The conference included a round table discussion open to all participants of our definition of what constitutes a **“Literary Museum”**. During the Conference, on 29 September the *Book of Proceedings* of the ICLM Conference-2014 “Writer, Composer, and the Environment” was made available to all participants. During the conference in Tbilisi the participants had the opportunity to explore beautiful Tbilisi and its restaurants and Georgia’s wine country Kakhetia.

I personally thank everyone for coming and participating. There were about 100 participants from 14 countries. We had four Conference sessions: *“Literary Museums and Cultural Heritage”*, *“How Literature and Music Cooperate in Our Museums”*, *“Creating a Literary Museum...”*, *“Promoting Cultural Heritage through Various Museum Activities”*, and a round table discussion. Many thanks to our moderators! We had 41 speakers, and there were numerous participants with different questions and commentaries. All the papers and commen-

taries at the conference sessions and at the round table discussion were interesting and highly professional. A special thank you to our Board member Galina Belonovich, Director of the P. I. Chaikovsky Museum in Klin (Russia), for bringing her Museum’s exhibition dedicated to Chaikovsky’s 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary to the National Museum of Georgia to coincide with the first day of the ICLM Conference.

The conference included a rich cultural program with visits to beautiful museums in Tbilisi and in Kakhetia, where we visited the Memorial House/Museum of the 19<sup>th</sup> century Georgian poet Prince Alexander Chavchavadze, a giant in Georgian, Russian and world culture and a special tour of the Wine Museum where ICOM Georgia treated the participants to a magnificent farewell banquet.

Our deepest gratitude goes to ICOM Georgia, its President Inga Karaia, Lana Karaia, and the Ministry of Culture of Georgia for hosting the immensely successful 2015 ICLM Annual Conference and an unforgettable visit to beautiful Tbilisi and Kakhetia.

I am now looking forward to receiving all your papers for our *Book of Proceedings* of the Tbilisi Conference. The deadline was December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015. Many thanks to those authors who have already sent their articles.

I am happy to confirm that our next annual Conference will take place during the **ICOM General Conference “Museums and Cultural Landscapes”** in Milan, Italy on July 3–9, 2016. The ICLM theme is **“Shaping the cultural landscapes: the role of writers’ and composers’ museums”**. The ICLM application deadline for participation is **February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016**.

With my best wishes for the Holidays and the New Year,



Galina Alekseeva, Ph. D.  
ICLM President

# GLIMPSES OF 2015















If you want to see more photographs of the ICLM Conference in Tbilisi, please see this website:  
[www.georgianmuseums.ge](http://www.georgianmuseums.ge)



# About the ICLM Conference in Tbilisi

The week in Georgia in late September was a delight: the sights, the weather, the people and of course the ICLM Conference. Thinking about it I realize that organizing conferences in beautiful places such as Tbilisi and Georgia is challenging as some of the participants do not attend all the sessions and probably sightsee and/or meet with friends instead. I attended every session and heard every speaker and could not help not noticing that the number of listeners in the beautiful auditorium of the National Museum fluctuated widely. I sympathized with those speakers who lectured to a diminished and not a full audience. Some of the highlights of our stay in Tbilisi were the excursion to the top of the mountain on the teleferique with the stunning views, the walk and dinner in the Old City, the visit to the glass bridge and of course the visits to the National Museum, the Art Museum, the Literature Museum and Arts and Theatre Museum Tower. I regret to have missed the Museum of Musical Instruments. It was indeed wonderful to reconnect with those ICLMers whom I met in Irkutsk but disappointing that some could not come. I now understand how Museum people enjoy these reunions with their colleagues from other museums. Tbilisi is a beautiful city with some unique architecture. I must return and be free to get to know it better.

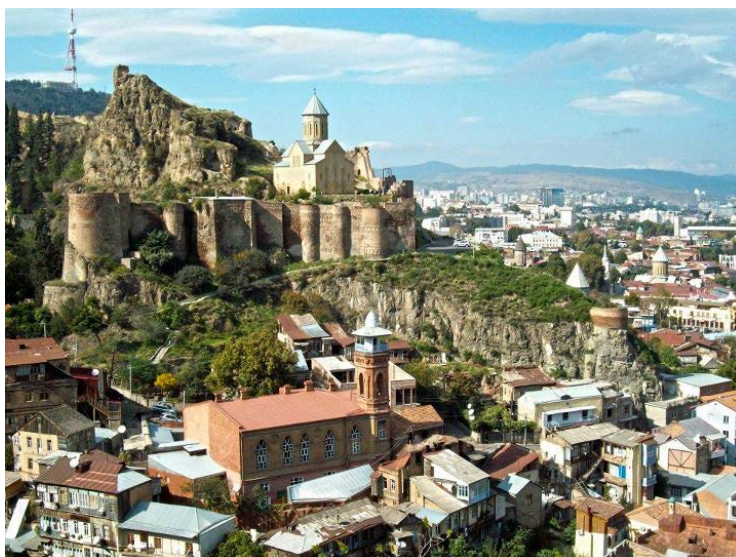
The bus trip to Kakhetia was very rewarding. To see the beautiful countryside, the many vineyards, the towns and the people was not only enjoyable but also triggered the comparison with similar wine producing areas in Europe. It was also nice to visit the art Museum there and see more Pirosmeni art works. The visit to the

Chavchavadze Mansion Museum had a special meaning because of its 19<sup>th</sup> century connection to Russia and because it was the residence of the progenitor of the many Chavchavadzes I knew and know. There were many marriages between Georgi and Russian aristocracy and I was fortunate to know many in emigration due to the Russian revolution. As I visited Georgia I thought of them, especially the late prince Teymouraz Bagration-Muhransky, a close friend of mine. It was also significant that my late wife Daria and my children are direct descendants of the last King of Georgia. I regret not to have visited the famous Monasteries and Cathedrals, especially the one where the Bagratians are buried. I must return.

The Wine tasting, the visit off the Wine Museum and the banquet were memorable in Kakhetia. I am disappointed not have been at any celebration with Georgian singing and dancing of the lesghinka which I participate in in New York at the invitation of the late Prince Sidamon Eristoff (Eristavi).

I hope the Smirnov House in Tbilisi, the repository of artifacts of the splendor of the social and artistic life of 19<sup>th</sup> century St. Petersburg, and the Russian Georgian connection, which was closed and it's future was uncertain, will be opened for the visitors soon. Hope it does not imply that the Ministry of Culture of Georgia is either disinterested or prefers not to focus on that part of its cultural history which reminds them of its ties to Tsarist Russia.

*Andrew Kotchoubey, New York.*



# ICLM cultural events during the ICOM General Conference

3–9 July 2016, Milan, Italy



By tradition, during the General Conferences every Committee organizes at the side of the meetings planned for all ICOM members some cultural events specifically dedicated to its own members.

The theme chosen for the ICOM General Conference 2016 is “Museums and cultural landscapes”. Within this framework, our ICLM Committee will address the theme: “Shaping the cultural landscapes: the role of writers’ and composers’ museums.”

The host city, Milan wishes to welcome us the evening of the opening day, **Sunday, July 3**. We will be received at the Palazzina Liberty ([https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palazzina\\_Liberty](https://it.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palazzina_Liberty) (Milano), a splendid edifice built in 1900 and surrounded by a beautiful park. This event should be particularly enjoyable during the hot Milanese July.

The program comprises a concert devoted to Ferruccio Busoni, the great modern Italian-German composer, whose 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his birth (1866) is celebrated this year. Some of you ICLM colleagues may perhaps remember visiting the Tuscan town of Empoli and his family home during our meeting in Prato and Florence in the summer of 2008.

Two outstanding pianists are going to play: Gregorio Nardi, whom we enjoyed hearing on both our previous Italian meetings, and Marco Vincenzi, the artistic director of Busoni’ house museum in Empoli. The concert is organized in collaboration with the Associazione Case dellamemoria, whose President, Adriano Rigoli, is well known to our ICLM colleagues.

On **Tuesday, July 5** we shall visit two museums of particular interest to our Committee and located in the center of Milano. The first one is the house where the most prominent Italian author of the XIXth century, Alessandro Manzoni (1785–1873), spent a great part of his life. In this recently renovated museum, you’ll have the opportunity to see objects, books and period furniture as well as a significant collection of paintings portraying his family and friends. You will also find images of Manzoni’s contemporary writers and many views of Milan at the time: <http://www.casadelmanzoni.it>

Quite nearby is the Museum of La Scala, the magnificent opera house in Milan and one of the most famous in the world. Strolling through the exhibitions of the singers’ costumes, scenography sketches, composers’ letters and portraits or photos as well as musical instruments of all age, we will take a long and fascinating walk through the history of music.

<http://www.teatroallascala.org/it/museo-teatrale/il-museo-teatrale.html>

On **Thursday, July 7** we shall visit Bergamo (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bergamo>), one of the most captivating towns in Lombardy. Its architecture and art treasures as well as its attractive landscapes are unique. The great composer Gaetano Donizetti (1797–1848) was born and spent most of his life here. Bergamo has dedicated two museums to him. The first is located in the house of his birth. A separate structure exhibits musical instruments, scores and other relics that belonged to him: [http://fondazione.bergamoestoria.it/donizetti\\_breve\\_storia.aspx?lang=eng](http://fondazione.bergamoestoria.it/donizetti_breve_storia.aspx?lang=eng)

Given the literary vocation of our Committee, we shall also visit the very important historical library named after Angelo Mai. It hosts a precious treasure of manuscripts, incunabula, and ancient books. We shall do this while walking along charming streets and following Donizetti's footsteps.

On **Sunday, July 10**, the first day after the Conference, ICLM colleagues will have the opportunity to prolong their stay and choose to take part in an excursion to the house museum of the poet Antonio Fogazzaro (1842–1911) on the Italian shore of Lugano's Lake. It is a place of great natural beauty in the north of Lombardy. We are thankful for the conservation of this jewel – a magnificent example of a “cultural landscape” – that is in the able hands of our colleagues of FAI (FondoAmbienteItaliano). They are looking forward to welcoming us: <http://www.visitfai.it/villafogazzaroroi/>

Finally, together with the Associazione Case dell'Emilia-Romagna, we are trying to organize a two days' trip through the many literary and composers' museums of Emilia-Romagna. The visits include the house museums of the composer Giuseppe Verdi, of the conductor Arturo Toscanini, the tenor Luciano Pavarotti, the poets Gio-

suè Carducci and Giovanni Pascoli... as well as the art treasures of Parma, Bologna, and Cesena.

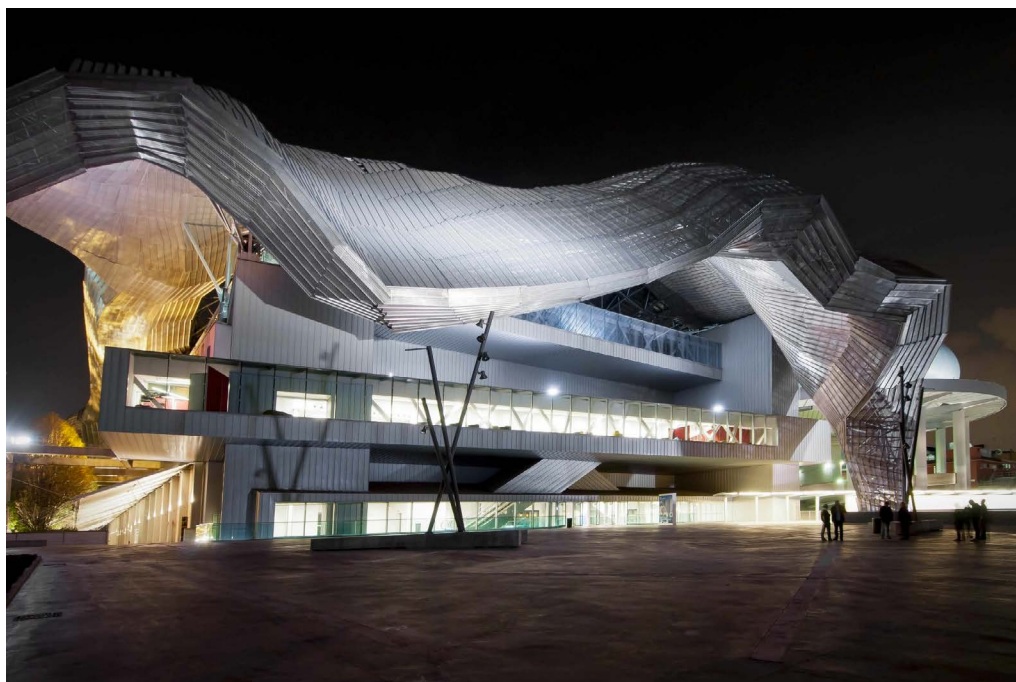
In Cesena, we should visit one of the most beautiful ancient libraries in Europe: the Biblioteca Malatestiana. Built around 1450 and perfectly preserved, it is the first European public library: since its inception, it belonged to the Comune, rather than the Church, and was open to the public. It is also a site that is part of the UNESCO-MoW Project:

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malatestiana\\_Library](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Malatestiana_Library)

At the end of this pleasant journey through a charming landscape, we shall reach the Adriatic shores. Some of us might enjoy, after so many exhausting meetings and visits, to dive into the sea – or even stay for a short holiday.

On a personal note: I am looking forward to welcoming and assisting you during the whole Conference on all matters pertaining to the many aspects of Italian culture. For you all, it should be an unforgettable event!

*Maria Gregorio*  
ICLM Board member, Milan





# INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM DAY 2016



Each year's International Museum Day theme is proposed by ICOM's network and aims to promote museum issues within society.

In 2016, the event will celebrate the theme: **Museums and Cultural Landscapes**.

The theme **Museums and Cultural Landscapes** makes museums responsible for their landscapes, asking them to contribute knowledge and expertise and take an active role in their management and upkeep. The primary mission of museums is to oversee heritage, whether it

be inside or outside their walls. Their natural vocation is to expand their mission and implement their own activities in the open field of cultural landscape and heritage that surrounds them and for which they can assume varying degrees of responsibility.

Highlighting the link between museums and cultural heritage enhances the idea of museums as territorial centres involved in actively protecting the cultural landscape.

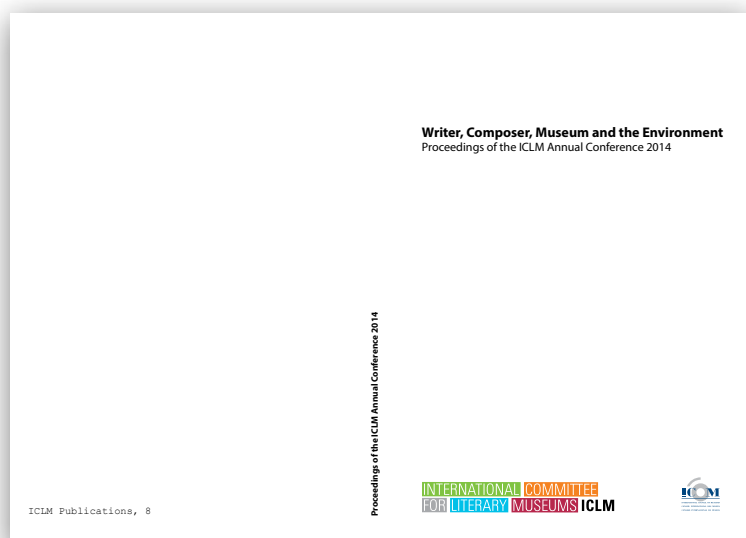
Would you like to know more? Check the International Museum Day website <http://imd.icom.museum>



# ICLM PUBLICATIONS

Our new issue of the **Book of Conference Proceedings** was published last September: **Writer, Composer, and the Environment: Proceedings of the ICLM Annual Conference 2014** / Edited by the Board of ICLM. ICOM, Paris. Yasnaya Polyana Publishing House, 2015. 127, [6] p.

The Books of Proceedings will be available in Milan on July 3–9<sup>th</sup>, 2016.



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