



# **University Museums and Collections Journal**

**Volume 5 – 2012** 

The University Museums and Collections Journal (UMACJ) is a peer-reviewed, on-line journal for the proceedings of the International Committee for University Museums and Collections (UMAC), a Committee of the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

The journal appears at least once a year at: http://edoc.hu-berlin.de/umacj

#### **Editors**

Nathalie Nyst Réseau des Musées de l'ULB Université Libre de Bruxelles – CP 175 Avenue F.D. Roosevelt, 50 1050 Brussels Belgium

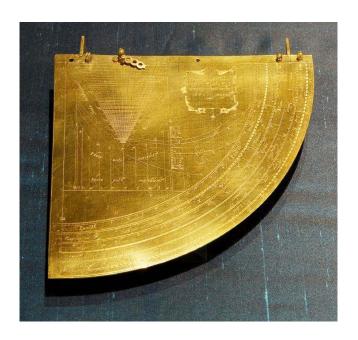
Peter Stanbury
Australian Society of Anaesthetists
Suite 603, Eastpoint Tower
180 Ocean Street
Edgecliff, NSW 2027
Australia

Cornelia Weber Humboldt University of Berlin Hermann von Helmholtz-Zentrum für Kulturtechnik Unter den Linden 6 10099 Berlin Germany

### Copyright

© International ICOM Committee for University Museums and Collections http://umac.icom.museum

ISSN 2071-7229



# University collections and university history and identity

Proceedings of the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of the International Committee of ICOM for University Museums and Collections (UMAC)

Lisbon, Portugal, 21<sup>st</sup>–25<sup>th</sup> September 2011



### Quadrant leremias Arscenius, Leuven (Belgium) 1573, 17 cm University of Lisbon, MCUL1162

Selecting a single object from a collection can be difficult and sometimes quite impossible. The collections of the Museum of Science hold more than 12,000 scientific instruments, of which up to 90% were used for teaching and research in physics, mathematics, chemistry and astronomy at the University of Lisbon for the past 200 years. I could, therefore, have chosen the typical 'university' scientific instrument – either unattractive and cannibalised after decades of intense use or perhaps a beautiful brass antique. Most likely, I would have chosen one of the former type.

However, to illustrate the cover of this issue of *UMACJ*, I have selected a brass antique that is not from the University of Lisbon – it is a long-term loan from a secondary school in Lisbon. It is the oldest in the museum collection and one of the oldest scientific instruments in Portugal. It is a quadrant (an astrolabic quadrant to be more precise) and it also has a Regiomontanus sundial. It was used to measure time through observation of the sun and stars. It was made in Leuven in 1573, thus predating Pope Gregory's calendar reform, at a time when Flandres was Spanish territory. Belgium would not exist before more than 250 years. Its maker is leremias Arscenius and this quadrant is the only known instrument signed by this remarkable craftsman. At the time, Leuven was a vibrant centre for the production and trade of mathematical instruments, maps and globes, with several major craftsmen, such as Gemma Frisius (1508–1555), Gerhardus Mercator (1512–1594), Gualterus Arscenius (ca. 1546-1580) and Erasmus Habermel (ca. 1538–1606), being active there.

However, I did not primarily select this instrument because of its beauty, historical significance, rarity or exquisite craftsmanship, but rather because it was only 'discovered' in the 1990s, in a secondary school in Lisbon. Nobody knew it was there, it was in an unlocked cabinet in a corridor and was found 'by chance'. If it had not been taken to the museum, preserved and studied, this jewel could have been lost forever. I find this example particularly illustrative of how many artefacts of our common heritage of science – ugly and beautiful, old and recent – remain to be 'discovered' in unsuspected places, brought to light and interpreted to broad audiences.

We know little about the biography of this quadrant. We know that it belonged to the Cabinet of Physics of the Portuguese royal family and that it was at the Palace of Ajuda in the early 1940s, when it was transferred to the above mentioned school to be used for teaching. It possibly was ordered in the sixteenth century by the Portuguese King Sebastian, or it could have come from Madrid at a later date, when Portugal was occupied by Spain (1580–1640). It could even have been acquired in the nineteenth century by the royal family as an antiquity. We are still researching its history. It is somewhat frightening to know that several generations of 15-year olds have learned the basics of astronomy by handling this unique quadrant, but at the same time this is touching and wonderful. Lucky kids.

Marta C. Lourenço Researcher, Curator Museums of the University of Lisbon

## **Table of Contents**

### **Panel Sessions**

University collections shaping the history and identity of universities	
The collection of a non-collecting institution: A case study of the Jacob Lawrence Gallery at the University of Washington  KRIS ANDERSON	1
Adding value: Universities and their museums GINA HAMMOND, KARL VAN DYKE & ANDREW SIMPSON	7
University museums as sources for the history of research and teaching	
Intangible histories and the invisible technician  LYDIA WILSON	17
Correlation between instrument collection and archive sources of the Faculty of Physics of the University of Barcelona SANTIAGO VALLMITJANA	23
The 'Ferreira da Silva' Chemistry Laboratory: a valuable asset in a university collection Marisa Monteiro & Luis Bernardo	31
The history of university collections	
Past and current identity of the Zoology Museum of Ghent University  DOMINICK VERSCHELDE & DOMINIQUE ADRIAENS	39
For the public, with the public, by the public: George Wilson and the Edinburgh Industrial University Museum KLAUS STAUBERMANN	47
The historical instruments from Valongo Observatory, Federal University of Rio de Janeiro Maria Alice Ciocca de Oliveira & Marcus Granato	53
University museums advancing the museum field	
University, socio-economic history and identity: The Museum of Foreign Debt, a museum without a collection  MARÍA DEL CARMEN MAZA & GRACIELA WEISINGER CORDERO	65
University collections and object-based pedagogies Andrew Simpson & Gina Hammond	75
Interpreting indigenous art in university collections LINDA TYLER	83
Complutense Art Centre. A new space for the heritage and the contemporary art in the Complutense University of Madrid ALEJANDRA GÓMEZ MARTÍN	89
New surveys, policies and recommendations	
Recent recommendations by the German Council of Science and Humanities on scientific collections as research infrastructures. A report	95

The University of Lisbon's cultural heritage survey (2010–2011)  ANA MEHNERT PASCOAL, CATARINA TEIXEIRA & MARTA C. LOURENÇO	101
Innovative collaborative projects	
A portal to Dutch academic heritage: www.academischecollecties.nl HENRIETTE REERINK	111
Proposed European anatomical collections network ELENA CORRADINI & MAREK BUKOWSKI	119
Poster presentations	
The new communication technologies for sharing and participatory Italian university museums ELENA CORRADINI	133
Making the museum visible: Reinventing a veterinary museum ISABEL GARCÍA FERNÁNDEZ, SONIA DÍAZ JIMÉNEZ & GABRIEL MARTÍNEZ GARCÍA	147
Private donations and the collecting legacy of Luis Simarro to the heritage of Complutense University of Madrid  MARÍA DEL PILAR AGUILAR, IRENE CALVO & MARÍA DE LOS ÁNGELES MÉNDEZ	155
The Polo Museale of Sapienza University of Rome: an opportunity for culture, education and tourism	163
VINCENZA FERRARA & LUIGI CAMPANELLA	
Taking care of identity, memories and heritages: Experiences at the Museum of the Federal University of Alfenas, Minas Gerais, Brazil LUCIANA MENEZES DE CARVALHO	169
The collection of old drawings of the Faculty of Fine Arts of the University of Lisbon Alberto Faria	177