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ICOMAM

The acronym ICOMAM stands for "International Committee of Museums and Collections of Arms of Military History".

Its predecessor IAMAM was established on 25 May 1957. On July 1959 IAMAM was affiliated to the International Council of Museums (ICOM). As defined by ICOM, a museum is a non-profitmaking, permanent institution in the service of society and its development, and open to the public, which acquires, conserves, researches, communicates and exhibits, for purposes of study, education and enjoyment, material evidence of man and his environment. In 2004 IAMAM became ICOMAM and gained the status of Committee of ICOM.

The purposes of ICOMAM are on the one hand to establish and to maintain contact between museums and institutions open to the public and mainly concerned with the conservation of artefacts in the fields of arms and armour, artillery, fortifications, uniforms and flags and on the other hand to foster the study of such artefacts. Thus, it is the only international organisation of its kind dealing comprehensively with this particular subject matter in the field of museology. The official languages are English and French.

ICOMAM achieves its goal by holding triennial congresses and intermediate symposia on relevant topics.

ICOMAM has over 260 members, representing museums in more than 50 countries world-wide, including such famous institutions as the Royal Armouries of Leeds, the French Musee de l'Armee, the Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Musée de l'Armée et d'histoire militaire in Brussels, the Hofjagd- und Rüstkammer of Vienna, the Real Armeria of Madrid, the Topkapi Sarayi Museum in Istanbul, etc. Membership has international increased over the past ten years including a larger share of museums outside of Europe and America. Also some so called Battlefield Museums are member of this international contact group.

ICOMAM is directed by an International ruling body called the Executive Board. The ICOMAM approach to the conservation and study of relevant artefacts is scientific, dispassionate, objective and humanistic. It aims at assessing the importance of weaponry in world history as a major sociological phenomenon touching on all the aspects of politics, economics and social behaviour including its artistic spin-off as its relationship with our cultural heritage and its interpretation in the world today.

To learn more: please contact our Secretary, [Jan Piet Puype](#)