

Greetings from FIDEM Canada,

The XXXV FIDEM World Congress in Ottawa is now over and yes, it was a success. Thank you to everyone who submitted medals and who attended the Congress and its many events. I am so proud of FIDEM Canada. The core committee of women, in keeping with the theme of “Women and Women in the Natural Sciences” were Susan Taylor, Exhibition Chair and FIDEM Vice Delegate, Canada, Lorraine Wright, Catalogue Chair and MASC President and myself, Lynden Beesley, Congress Chair and FIDEM Delegate, Canada.



By working together and sharing the workload the Congress came together. However, this was not due to us alone and we are grateful to the FIDEM Executive Committee and President Philip Attwood, our medal photographer Douglas Taylor, to our photographer at large, Hannah Jeloneck (Poland), to the Graphic design students from George Brown college as well as our planners DR Dunlop and Associates. We are also mindful and thankful for the generous financial support of our sponsors and donors, FIDEM, The Royal Canadian Mint, The University of Bergen, The Bank of Canada, The Douglas Ferguson History Foundation and the Medallic Art Society of Canada.

In case you had not realized why the theme of Women was chosen and the location for the XXXV Congress and Exhibition, I think it bears mentioning. The theme was chosen because when our committee were looking for an exhibition space it was realised that May 2018 was the 100th anniversary of the 1918 Act to confer the Electoral Franchise upon Women. In 1918 parliament was sitting in the Victoria Building because of a fire in the Parliament buildings themselves.



The Victoria Building is now home to the **Canadian Museum of Nature**. The Medal Exhibition was showcased on the mezzanine level in the very building and the room where the statute was passed. The Canadian Museum of Nature was a wonderful venue for the Congress and Exhibition because there was plenty of space for us to host parallel lecture series, workshops, special events as well as opening and closing ceremonies The RCM also had excellent in-house catering and a restaurant.

The XXXV FIDEM World Congress began on Tuesday afternoon May 29th

with the Executive Committee, Consultative Committee and Delegates meetings in the **Barrick Boardroom** at the Canadian Museum of Nature. President Philip Attwood chaired these meetings together with FIDEM General Secretary and Webmaster, Marie Astrid Pelsdonk and Anna Pereira, FIDEM Treasurer. At these meetings the passing of FIDEM members is recorded New delegates and Vice delegates are announced. The financial report is discussed, the webmasters report is given, the location of the next Congress is discussed. Delegates have an opportunity to ask questions and to notify the executive about their respective countries wishes. These meetings help the FIDEM executive committee plan for the future. Forty people were in attendance.



Tuesday evening the United States Delegation hosted the Delegates Reception.

The reception took place in the beautiful Queens Lantern room at the CMN. It was an elegant affair with canapés and cocktails.



A presentation was made to all the delegates by Jeanne Stevens Sollman, US FIDEM Delegate, of a beautiful softly textured white **flower medal** created by Lindley Briggs. Sir James Malone Beach knighted two new knights to the order of the Chiquita: Polly Purvis and George Cuhaj.

The American delegation broke with tradition by awarding the J.Sanford Saltus award for Outstanding Achievement in the Art of the Medal. The 2018 award was given to the **Dutch medal artist Geer Stein**. The medal was presented by Donald Scarinci, a member of the Citizens Coinage Advisory Committee since 2005, and who serves as a member of several prestigious award committees for coin and medal designs including the J. Sanford Saltus Award and the Krause Coin of the Year Award.



Wednesday morning May 30th. The opening Ceremony for the 35th FIDEM World Congress



was held in the **CMN Theatre**. The ceremony commenced by acknowledging that we were gathered on the traditional unceded lands of the Algonquin Anishinaabe People. Grandmother, Monique Renaud, a Métis of Algonquin and Huron-Wendat ancestry blessed the Congress with a traditional smudging ceremony. The Mayor of the City of Ottawa, His Worship Jim Watson then brought words of welcome from the City of Ottawa.

Little did I think when I became FIDEM delegate 10 years ago that Canada would have the opportunity to host such a such a prestigious gathering. My predecessor, Delegate Del Newbigging, had told me at my first Congress that it was his desire to see the FIDEM World Congress in Canada. It seemed like a great idea then and now FIDEM President Philip Attwood was welcoming the world to the Congress. After 4 years of work the 35th FIDEM Congress was finally underway.

Mr Michael Groves the Director, Development & Applied Technology of the R&D team for the Royal Canadian Mint was introduced and spoke about the Congress medal. Mr Groves leads a team of managers, product engineers and technicians dedicated to the scale up of innovative numismatic products and new technologies. He is also responsible for the Medals branch, a team dedicated to manufacturing a portfolio of highly regarded medals, medallions and tokens. Susan Taylor was the designer of the **XXXV FIDEM Congress Medal**.



This was followed by two Plenary Sessions. The first was delivered by Mr Paul S. Berry, Chief Curator of the Bank of Canada Currency Museum. Mr Berry is the manager of the Collection Services Unit of the Museum which is responsible for the research, development and maintenance of the National Currency Collection. Mr Berry's talk was about **Robert Tait McKenzie**, a Canadian physician, educator, sculptor, athlete, soldier and Scouter. **Plaque shown**. We are also grateful to Mr Berry because through his auspices we were invited to a reception and tour of the new Currency Museum

Ildiko Hencz, Dora De Pedery Hunt's Niece and Emily Hencz-Thornton, Ildiko Hencz' daughter presented the second session. Emily was the speaker. These two women had lived with Dora de Pedery Hunt, Canada's eminent medal artist and the first FIDEM Delegate to Canada. Emily spoke about Dora from a personal perspective and made Dora come alive with some of her priceless anecdotes. They also brought with them a variety of Dora's special medals to for show and tell. Some of these medals were for sale at the medal fair.

In the afternoon, the parallel lecture series commenced in both the Theatre and in the Barrick Rotunda. The first afternoons topics were "**Women as Makers**" and "**Her Story1, Women on Medals**". There were 10 different speakers. Their themed lectures will be published in full in Medaille Magazine 2018.

At 7pm the Opening Reception for the Medal Exhibition took place in the Barrick Rotunda.

Mr Daniel Richer Dit Lafêche, an Abenaki (Algonquin) story teller and Town Crier called the meeting to order using his prestigious talking stick. He explained how holding the talking stick gave him the privilege of speaking.



CMN President, Meg Bechel was welcomed to the podium by the Congress Chair, **President Bechel** acknowledged again that we were meeting on the unceded territories of the Algonquin Anishinaabe peoples. She spoke about the museum's history and how the room we were in was where women got the vote. Only the privileged ones of course! She also said that where the Senate once sat is now the museum's Fossil Gallery! Imagine that! She was thanked and presented with an XXXV FIDEM Congress medal by



Delegate, Lynden Beesley

Susan Taylor, The Exhibition Chair and FIDEM Vice delegate was welcomed to the Podium by the Congress Chair. Susan Taylor was the creator of the FIDEM XXXV Congress Medal. Susan spoke about her Medal. She also spoke about the exhibition and said that there were 753 medals in the Exhibit from 34 countries including 38 from the Elmwood School Project. She was presented with a specially engraved RCM copy of her medal by Delegate Lynden Beesley.



Daniel Richer announced that **the Exhibition was open** by loudly banging his talking stick on the podium. He was thanked by Lynden Beesley. He then visited with the members and posed for pictures in his wonderful regalia. Everyone then made their way up to the Mezzanine floor

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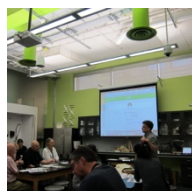


Thursday May 31st was a work day

There were six different lecture topics on Thursday and these were; **Women as makers II, Women as Collectors, Connections: Women/Medals, Innovation, Men making medals, Her-Story II: Women on Medals.** There were twenty-one speakers in this lecture series which took place in both the Theatre and the Barrick Rotunda. One lecture was about Del Newbigging, former FIDEM Delegate by

his daughter **Martha Newbigging.** Again, all lectures will be featured in the Medaille Magazine 2018.

Two **workshops** were offered on Thursday. One was led by **Paul Leathers and Trudy Golley**



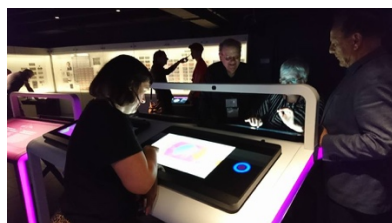
which introduced participants to the principles of bi-directional fabrication, a circular process wherein traditional small-scale metalworking techniques were blended with emergent digital technologies to create novel design opportunities. The second workshop was led by **James MaloneBeach.** This workshop

encouraged people to use their imaginations to create whimsical or serious medals. Small cylindrical bases were supplied and found objects and printed material could be incorporated into the work. The CMN had good workshop facilities which we were able to use.



In the evening at 5.30pm we were invited to a **reception at the Bank of Canada Currency Museum.** We were welcomed by its director **Mr Ken Ross** as well as Mr Paul Berry, the curator. The reception was held in a large atrium and was very well attended. Cocktails and delicious finger food were served. We were able to tour the interactive museum which is a showcase for Canada's currency. Children had a hand in the design and the interactive exhibits proved to be great fun even for the adults. **Jan Pelsdonk,**

Netherlands and **Louise Dentice,** New Zealand can be seen trying their hand at the displays. We also gathered for a **group photo.**



This was followed at 10pm by the Canadian Premiere of the movie **TODESMARSCH** by Otakar Dušek, We were kindly hosted by the Czech Ambassador, Mr Hrnčíř at the Embassy of the Czech Republic in Ottawa. Otakar's movie and his medals address the Nazi forced death marches made by women from the concentration camps just days ahead of liberation by the allies. A special Judaic award was made to Mr Dušek by Mel Wacks for this film project and the **medals Otakar produced** by marching their same horrific journey.



Friday June 1st was a tour day to give our FIDEM visitors a chance to get acquainted with the city of Ottawa and its surroundings. A bus tour went to the Ottawa Valley. On the way we visited the **Diefenbunker, Canada's Cold War Museum**, which was most interesting. This was followed by a picnic and tour of the historic **Mill of Kintail**-home of the Robert, Tait McKenzie Memorial Museum. This was followed by a trip to the town of **Almonte** and although we had a torrential downpour it was short and we had time to walk around the town



In Ottawa free tours were generously offered by the **Royal Canadian Mint** and many people visited with some very interesting photos to show for it. Many also toured the **Parliament Buildings, Centre Block**. We organised tours with the **Hop on Hop Off** bus company as well as **Walking Tours of Ottawa's Historical Highlights**.

At 6pm MASC hosted a Reception and Exhibition at the Ottawa School of Art



MASC Members exhibited their latest and best medals in the front Gallery. There were 3 other exhibits in glass cases. One case was dedicated to the works of Del Newbigging (1934 - 2012), founder of MASC in 2000, past president of MASC and FIDEM Delegate. A second case exhibited the work of Susan Taylor, FIDEM Vice Delegate and MASC member. This was a retrospective of Susan's Work. The third case displayed 13 bronze bells bearing the flower emblems of each province and territory was created for Canada's 150th celebrations by Lynden Beesley, FIDEM Delegate.

The **Del Award**, "Sending 1000 Cranes" by Del Newbigging donated by Mr John Carolan, was presented to **Lorraine Wright** MASC President **by the judges Mr John Carolan and Ms Martha Newbigging. Susan Taylor and myself** were very surprised and honoured to be presented by



Paul Petch on behalf of MASC, with beautiful "Beatrix Potter "medals made by Judith Mills, for our work. I know that the Ottawa School of Art were delighted the number of people in attendance. OSA had their small print exhibition in the gallery which they had graciously



allowed MASC to use for the reception. It was a great party thanks to Lorraine Wright, MASC President, and her helpers.

The Medal-Fair took place on Saturday morning June 2nd in the CMN Rotunda. Members were able to reserve tables but many were able to come and just set up. The event was really well attended and was open to the public. Thirty tables were set up and business was brisk. The atmosphere was congenial and informative with many students exhibiting their work.

Medal Fair Tables

Tetsuji Seta

Jim Licaretz



Otakar Dusek



Linda Verkaaie



James MaloneBeach



Paul Huybrechts



Beatrice Monika

The General Assembly



The FIDEM General Assembly got underway in the **CMN Theatre** at 2pm. President Philip Attwood, was presiding with Treasurer, Anna Pereira and FIDEM General Secretary and Webmaster Marie-Astrid Pelsdonk in attendance. The treasurers report was read and passed and the FIDEM auditor MikkoTimisjärvi verified it. The webmaster reported on the website and talked about where she had reached updating of the data base. The General Secretary also gave her moral report which was somewhat more sombre.

Then came the special announcement that we had been waiting for, the location of the 36th FIDEM Congress. It will be **Tokyo Japan in 2020.** Mr Masaharu Kakitsubo, the Japanese FIDEM Delegate spoke eloquently about how he was looking forward to hosting the world. Mr Toshi Yamada, the vice delegate, filled in more of the details and assured us tongue in cheek that we would be getting REAL sushi when we attend. I am hoping to be able to learn some Japanese before I go.



Finally, president Philip Attwood presented the scholarship certificates to all of the students who had been lucky enough to obtain FIDEM bursaries. This year there were 8 students. Evgeniya Illkova, Mona Radanova, Natali Ivanova, Bulgaria. Pilar González, Spain. Mercédesz Molnár, Hungary. Albert Kosak, Poland. Ana Catarina Pereira Mendes, Beatriz Mónica, Portugal. Zoë Pearce, UK.



On Saturday the 2nd. The FINAL Gala Reception was held in the Barrick salon.



The dinner commenced with the guests being serenaded by the **Jazz Band, "Sax Appeal"**. The dinner was excellent although I say it myself. It consisted of squash soup and salad, a halibut fish course and a wonderful filet of beef which melted in one's mouth, followed by a chocolate tulip desert. Libations of course were served. The Canadian Museum of Nature's Catering department organised by Kyla Camus really did an excellent job.

After dinner the speeches and awards ceremonies commenced. President Philip Attwood was the master of ceremonies.

The first awards given out were the four awarded by Canada.

1. the Canadian Delegate Award, "Canada Rhapsody" a medal created by Geert Maas was presented to the artist whose medal best represented a woman's strengths. The judges for this award were Geert and Elly Maas. The award was presented to, MASC president, Lorraine Wright for her medal "Reaching Beyond the Stars" by Delegate Lynden Beesley



2. The Canadian Vice Delegate Award, the medal called "Remembrance" awarded by Susan Taylor for outstanding contributions to FIDEM. The medal was awarded to Henrick von Aachen for his invaluable help to FIDEM Canada for the Congress

3. The Dora Award was awarded to the artist whose medal best represented "Women's achievement in the Sciences" The award was a medal by Dora de Pedery-Hunt, donated by Ildiko Hencz + money. The judges for this award were Mr Michael Groves, RCM, Mr Paul Berry CCM and Mr Paul Petch, MASC. The award was presented to Mr Ron Dutton for his medal celebrating "Ada Lovelace" by Delegate Lynden Beesley



4. Two student awards of Olympic mittens and some cash were awarded to Beatrice Monika, *Portugal* and Albert Kozak *Poland*

The FIDEM awards then followed

- Grand Prix = Mashiko
- BAMS struck medal award = Jose Teixeira
- George Cuhaj Award for Distinction = Susan Taylor, Ira Rezak and Donald Scarinci
- The Medallic Sculpture Studio Prize - "One Talent" /for young artists except Bulgarian = Pilar del Puerto Hernandez Gonzalez
- MSSS Honour Causa award = Sebastian Mikołajczak
- Pro Liberalitate Tua – This FIDEM prize is awarded to individuals and institutions that have helped FIDEM financially. = Portuguese Mint
- Paul Huybrechts prize "Art Valley 51" – shared between some artists Magdalena Dobrucka, Hedwig Pauwels, Lorenzo Rafael
- Mel Wacks Judaica Art Medal Prize = Otakar Ducek and an AMSA award = Heidi Wastweet
- Amanullah Haiderzad – HMOMA (Haiderzad Museum of Modern Art) AWARD. It includes 150 dollars, a museum medal and a certificate. This award was given two artists who donated medals to the museum. = Paul Huybrechts and George Cuhaj
- Jason S. Pollack Memorial Award for Innovative Techniques in Medallic Art = Linda Verkaaik
- Fidem at 70 medals = Lynden Beesley, Susan Taylor, Lorraine Wright, Micheal Groves RCM and David Dunlop.
- Congress medal = Paul Berry (Bank of Canada)

The evening ended with FIDEM friends bidding each other goodbye until the next Congress,

On Sunday June 3rd there was a post Congress Tour to Kingston. We visited Upper Canada Village, a heritage village depicting the 19th century way of life in Canada. It featured a **horse drawn saw mill, a cobbler and weaving shop** as well as many other wonderful homes and artefacts.



We then drove along the scenic 1000 island parkway lunching in **Rockport** by the water at the pub, smoked salmon and wine or tourtière and beer seemed to hit the spot



After lunch and a short drive, we were able to tour strategic Fort Henry, a UNESCO Heritage site, which overlooks the limestone city of Kingston. It was most interesting especially the way **that cannons** were so placed that the ricocheting cannon balls could go around corners?



Kingston was the original Capital city of the province of Canada. We visited the Agnes Etherington Art Museum and walked through the grounds of Queens University on our brief walking tour looking at the **Victorian houses** and the limestone

buildings. Unfortunately the heavens opened and we had to rush to the restaurant “**Chez Piggy**” to avoid getting soaked to the skin.



Chez Piggy is a delightful bistro which was opened by Zal Yankovsky in 1960, a member of the group “the Lovin Spoonfuls” of “Summer in the City” fame. The lamb shanks and the seafood linguine were lovely. The bus journey home was a speedy one because our trip had taken a little longer than scheduled and the bus driver needed get back by 10pm.

Candid Camera

No Congress would be complete without its special images of members and friends. Here are just a few I thought people would enjoy. If your photo is used I thank you.



New Zealand's Christine Massey 's Celebration of Canada



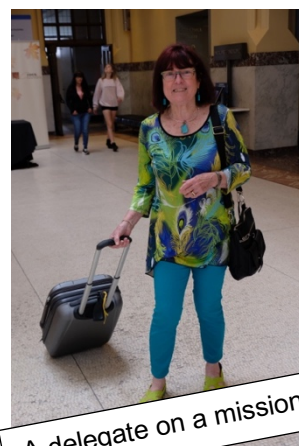
Finland's Illke Voionmaa trying to get his teeth around a gold Bar



FIDEM's youngest recruit



Friends gathering in the evening after the daily program



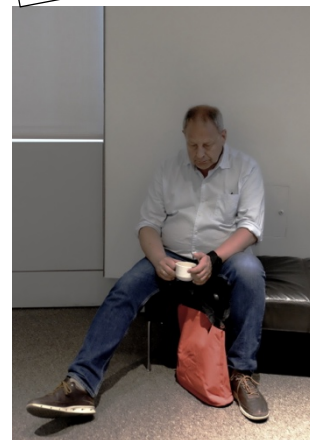
A delegate on a mission



Poland's Hannah Jeloneck, Photographer photographed



President Philip Attwood prepared for the downpour



A welcome cup of coffee at the end of the day.

I urge every FIDEM member to try to get to one of the Congresses. You won't be disappointed. Each congress has its own flavor and special events but it is the people who make it so wonderful. There is a camaraderie amongst the members who attend. The friendships formed continue on long after the Congress'. The sharing of ideas and techniques is invaluable.

Respectfully submitted XXXV Congress Chair and FIDEM Delegate Canada, Lynden Beesley

Images used from Hannah Jeloneck, Doug Taylor, Toshi Yamada, Lynden Beesley, Janine Lindgren, Lorraine Wright , Marie Astrid Pelsdonk and Nicolas Salagnac.