

### **THE AAC AT THE XV INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON ARCHIVES**

From 23 to 29 August, Vienna played host to the XV International Congress on Archives, organised by the International Council on Archives (CIA/ICA), the general title of which was **Archives, Memory and Knowledge**. Over 2,000 congress delegates from around the world took part at the different events. The scientific programme included 200 seminars and parallel sessions grouped into three main blocks: Archives and Memory, Archives and Knowledge and Archives and Society.

The changes adopted at this XV Congress, at which over 400 congress delegates participated and a wide range of subjects were dealt with, logically involved a very clear risk. First, because sessions coincided in time, it was impossible to attend all the sessions that could have been of interest to delegates. Second, delegates' different origin and levels produced unequal results in the variety of scheduled sessions. Nevertheless, although innovating is always risky, it is also true that this is the only way to progress towards making the CIA/ICA an organisation that is truly representative and one that serves the professional group it represents.

The scientific programme featured four of our associates: Ramon Alberch and Assumpció Colomer presented the International Bibliography on municipal archives, which currently has 1,059 references, from 51 countries, relative to theoretical, methodological and practical texts (excluding description tools) that cover the period from 1847 and 2003 and may be consulted on the website of the Section on Municipal Archives, ICA/SMA. Ramon Alberch also took part in the seminar organised by the Section on Professional Associations (ICA/SPA) entitled Archives of Support, in which the mission and projects performed by the Association of Archivists without Borders (AsF) since its foundation were detailed. Jordi Serchs took part in the Workshop on Archives and Internet and presented the website of the Barcelona Municipal Archive and the portal project for Spanish Municipal Archives on the Internet.

Elsewhere, José Ramón Cruz Mundet spoke at the session *Elaboració d'un nou saber per als arxius: l'evolució de l'ensenyament sobre els arxius i la conservació a l'època digital* (Building New Knowledge for Archivists: Evolving Archival and Recordkeeping Education into the Digital Age) and took part in the Round Table *Implementar criteris de qualitat en els Sistemes Arxivístics del segle XXI* (Implementing Quality Criteria in the Archival Systems of the 21st Century).

Parallel to the scientific programme, on the Monday and the Friday (23 and 27 August) different professional meetings took place to renew the different posts in the branches and sections of the CIA/ICA. AAC members' wish to be involved and the recognition our group has been given for some years now at the International Council on Archives ensured the presence of our associates on the following **executive committees**:

- Joan Boadas, EURBICA (European Branch of the International Council on Archives)
- Mariona Corominas, ICA/SPP (Section for Archives of Parliaments and Political Parties, vice-president)
- J.R. Cruz Mundet, ICA/SAE (Section for Education and Training)
- Joan Boadas, ICA/SPA (Section of Records Managers and Archival Professional Associations)
- Pere Puig, ICA/SAN (Provisional Section on Notarial Records)
- Fina Solà, ICA/SPO (Provisional Section on Sports Archives)
- Ramon Alberch, Working group on Archives and Human Rights.

The long General Assembly, held on the afternoon of Friday 27 and on the morning of Saturday 28 saw, after intense debate, the approval, among other matters dealt with on the agenda, of the budget for 2005 (681,000 USD) and also (very importantly and crucially for the future of the CIA/ICA) the provisional approval of the organisation's new statutes. These feature, for the first time since the Council was created in 1948, the democratic election of a president.

Lastly, the General Assembly approved the adoption of some recommendations, special motions and resolutions ([www.ica.org](http://www.ica.org)) the many features of which include a demand to the appropriate authorities of the United Nations Organisation (UN) for the establishment of an International Archives Day.

The XV Congress closed with an announcement of the forthcoming meetings of CITRA (International Conference of the Round Table on Archives) that will take place in Abu Dhabi (United Arab Emirates) in 2005, in Curaçao in 2006 and in Quebec in 2007. The city of Poznan (Poland) will host the European Conference on Archives (May 2006) while the XVI International Congress on Archives will take place in Kuala Lumpur in 2008.