

Dear colleagues,

Those of us who were fortunate enough to be in Bilbao last week for the Annual Meeting of AEMI 2010 had a very good meeting, thanks to our hosts, Benan Oregi and his colleagues, to whom we owe a great debt of gratitude. In spite of the national strike in Spain, which unfortunately prevented some from travelling, there was a good attendance, an excellent programme of speakers, discussion, and wonderful hospitality from our Basque hosts.

You may already know that Jens Topholm, our Secretary, was prevented by illness from travelling to Bilbao but I am glad to say that he is recovering well and we send him our best wishes. In the absence of our Secretary, our Treasurer, Eva Meyer, kindly agreed to take the Minutes, and these should be circulated to members shortly.

Briefly, here are some highlights from the meeting (fuller details in the Minutes to follow).

Regarding the AEMI Journal, the latest issue was available in Bilbao, thanks to the hard work of the Editor, Hans Storhaug. The deadline for submission of material for inclusion in the next issue is December 31 2010. Please contact Hans at: hans@emigrationcenter.com.

Regarding the annual subscription, you may be pleased to know that no increase was made this year. If the subscription of your institution is still outstanding, please contact Eva as soon as possible: emi.inst@aland.net.

Regarding old members, it was a pleasure to have Wolfgang Grams with us again after a few years absence and to hear of his ambitious plans for a transatlantic crossing from Hamburg and Southampton to New York in 2012, involving AEMI members – more details to be announced in due course!

Regarding new members, we were delighted to welcome the Centre for Intercultural Studies, Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz, Germany, represented by Heike Sabri, and the Industrial Museum Hannover Colliery, Westphalian Museum of Industrial Heritage and Culture, Germany, represented by Dietmar Osses.

Regarding the venue of next year's meeting, we had two firm offers to host in 2011: from Erik Gustavson and the Swedish American Center, Karlstad, Sweden; and from Jens Topholm and the Danish Emigration Archives, Aalborg, Denmark. In the event, Sweden kindly withdrew in favour of Denmark, and we are grateful once more to Erik Gustavson and his colleagues for their understanding in this matter. So it was decided to accept the invitation of the Danish Emigration Archives, presented by Torben Christensen on behalf of the absent Jens Topholm.

The dates to note in your diaries, please, are: **Wednesday 28 September – Sunday 2 October, 2011.**

Next year AEMI will be 20 years old and it is appropriate that we should celebrate the anniversary in Aalborg, Denmark, where the first informal meeting migration institutions took place in 1989 that resulted in the foundation of AEMI in 1991. I hope as many member institutions as possible may be able to send representatives to Aalborg next year to help mark the anniversary.

Finally, on behalf of the Board and all of us who were present, may I conclude this brief report by thanking once again Benan Oregi, Andoni Martin and all their colleagues in the Basque Country for making us so wonderfully welcome in Bilbao this year.

Yours sincerely,
Brian Lambkin
Chair, AEMI