IATM REPORT – COTMA 2004

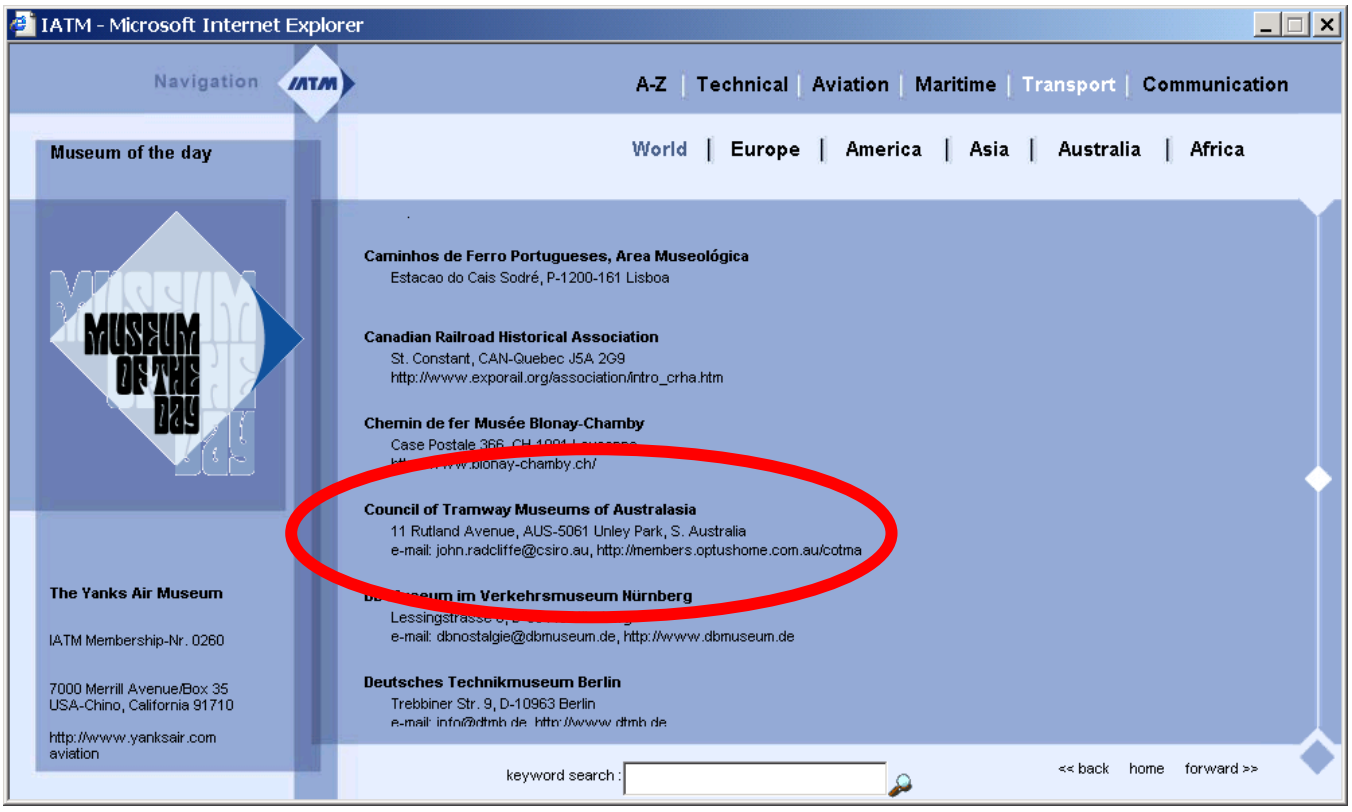
For quite a few years, COTMA has been a member of the International Association of Transport Museums.

IATM is the umbrella organization of international museum an has about 300 members by now. The federation is also affiliated with the International Council of Museums (ICOM).

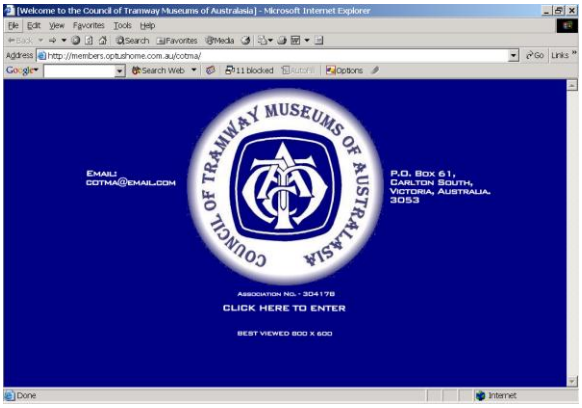
Activities include

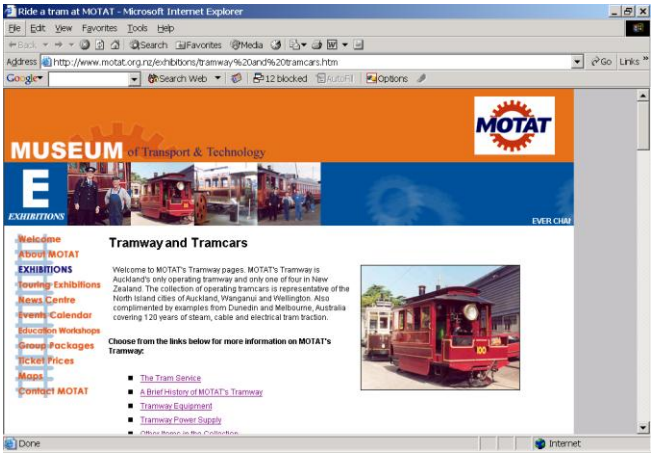
* The IATM network – bringing together colleagues from all over the world
* Affiliation to International Council Of Museums – a voice in international decisions
* Biennial conferences and other meetings
* Special groups for aviation, motor, maritime, PTT and rail museums
* Networking on the Web – directory of members – newsletter – publication of papers
* Sharing the challenges and learning from the success of colleagues in other museums

The IATM website (www.iatm.org) provides a listing of all IATM members, sorted by various categories. COTMA can be brought up by navigating the membership list with the central diamond at right. That in turn links to the COTMA website, and then to individual COTMA museums. Navigation of the site is by left and right mouse clicking and in my view is a little unusual and difficult to use.



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The IATM held its **2003 Biennial Conference** at the US Air Force Museum, Wright-Patterson AFB, USA-45433-7102 Dayton/Ohio, though attendance was disappointing due to international travel security concerns and the then high incidence of SARS.

During the Biennial Conference, a new IATM Board with a strong railway orientation was elected as follows:

Birgitte Wistoft from the Danish PTT Museum was elected President.
First Vice President became **Francine Brousseau** (Musée de Civilisations, Canada), second Vice President **Christian Chaunavel** from the Telecommunication Museum in Pleumeur/France.
The new Secretary is **Robert Sjöö** from the Swedish Railway Museum and the Treasurer is **Poul Thestrup** from the Danish Railway Museum Odense. **Wolfgang Meighoerner** is the old and the new Communications Officer.
Rajesh Agrawal (Rail Museum/India), **Victoria Crespo** (Spanish Postal Museum), **Sam Mullins** (London Transport Museum), **Sven Scheiderbauer** (Swedish Airforce Museum) and **Michael Dünnebier** (Transport Museum Dresden) were elected Board Members without special functions.

The Executive Committee (EC) of the IATM consists of the President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the Communications Officer. The principal contacts are:-

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The **IATM Newsletter**, which has previously been printed once or twice each year in hard copy, and to which details of COTMA Museum activities have been contributed (copies provided to COTMA Executive Officer), is in future to be provided on the IATM website, though no issue has yet been posted.

Internet Domain Name <.mus>: The following details about the internet domain name <.mus> have recently been circulated to IATM members and are reproduced here as they may be of interest to COTMA Museums

Stockholm, Sweden, 30 April 2004 - **The Museum Domain Management Association** (MuseDoma) announced today that it was simplifying procedures for the registration of names in the .museum top-level domain ("dot-museum" - http://about.museum/). The new procedures take effect immediately.

Earlier this year it became possible to register Internationalized Domain Names (IDN - http://about.museum/idn) in .museum and the simplified registration procedures are intended to encourage the broadest possible participation in the continuing internationalization of the domain. The accession of the ten new Member States to the European Union on 1 May provides a particularly rich opportunity for enhancing the cultural and linguistic scope of .museum. The simplified registration procedures are being introduced now in recognition of this event and as a statement of welcome to the museums of the enlarged EU.

It was previously necessary for all applications for names in .museum to be accompanied by a fee to cover the cost of verifying the eligibility of the applicant, and conducting the dialog needed to ensure the correct form and use of subsequently registered names. Applications that can be processed without such discussion are now exempt from the advance fee. When necessary, notification of the fee being due will be issued subsequent to the initial review of the application.

The registration process may be initiated via the forms provided by MuseDoma at https://ens.museum/ . The authorized .museum registrars are currently modifying their own registration forms to reflect the changes. Prospective applicants are also welcome to contact MuseDoma directly by e-mail at register@nic.museum

For more information, please contact:
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John C Radcliffe, IATM COTMA Representative,
18 May 2004