INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE HISTORY OF REPRESENTATIVE AND PARLIAMENTARY INSTITUTIONS (ICHRPI). 71st ANNUAL CONFERENCE, ANDORRA, JULY, 2019

President’s Report.

1.- I should like to thank the organizers of the 71st Conference in Andorra, the Vice-President Mikel Urquijo and the local Committee, Dr. Joaquim Albareda, (Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona) Dr. Betlem Castellá (Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona), Albert Villaró (Technical director of the center for historical and political studies) of the Institut d’Estudis Andorrans and Mrs Ester Grau of the Consell General of the Principat d’Andorra or Parliament of Andorra.

2.- I should like to thank all the officers for the extraordinary work that they have developed this year: The General Secretary, M. di Napoli; the Treasurer, Gerald Kohl; the Director of publications, Alastair Man; the Editor of the Journal, John Young; the second secretary and Book Reviews Editor of the Journal, Coleman Dennehy; the President of the Helen M. Cam grants committee, Eva Jedruch; and the representative in the CISH, Maria Sofia Corciulo. Communication and contacts have been continuous. We are in a state of permanent networking. I would also like to thank Coleman Dennehy for managing the communications work on Facebook and Bertrand Augé for the work on Twitter.

The national convener for the USA, Peter J. Aschenbrenner, has promoted the relationship with the American Historical Association (AHA), and in coordination with the Secretary General, M. di Nappoli, they have organized a session for the 134th Annual meeting of the AHA in New York (January 3-6, 2020)

I would like to thank them for – and also promote – this initiative, because joining one of the most important Associations of historians is a new challenge for the Commission.

3.- Networking: Some national conveners have an email list of members in their respective countries, for the purpose of creating research groups on new issues or simply to send information. Drawing up a general list for all the members of the Commission, resulting from adding together the email lists created by the national conveners, should be a new aim for next year, to be managed by the secretaries of the Commission.

4.- In the light of our practical activities, information provided by the Treasurer and the new scientific dimension of the Commission for the 21st century, we cannot delay the foundation of an academic Association to provide legal status for the activities of Commission.

5.- I am continuing to digitalise the books in the Collection, Studies Presented to the ICHRPI 1937-201; the books are available at www.ichrpi.info:

- XC: The Making of Parliaments: 19th and 20th Century, Europe and America, textes réunis par JOSEBA AGIRREAZKUENAGA (Revista Internacional de los Estudios Vascos/ Eusko Ikaskuntzen Nazioarteko Aldizkaria, Cuadernos/ Koadernoak, vol. 6), Donostia. 2010
However, we need more collaboration to improve this digitalisation of the Collection Studies presented to the ICHRPI, and I will set out a plan and the cost for the digitalisation of almost 20 volumes during the coming year.

5.- Guide of the Archives of the Commission. Last year we decided on the first plan to draw up an inventory of the archives of the members of the Commission. The personal archives of two Presidents are deposited at Girton College: “ICHRPI papers of Helen Cam” (1933-1968, 5 boxes) and ICHPRI papers of Helmut Koenigsberger (1950-1984, 7 boxes). The documents are interesting for analysing the period 1933-1985. Moreover, I have visited the History of Parliament Trust in London to see the status of the documents deposited by Valerie Cromwell, Henry Cohn and John Rogister. Valerie's documents are well organized in consecutive folders. The documents of Henry Cohn are digitized and well ordered. However, it would be desirable to carry out an inventory to know and to publish the content. John Rogister’s documents are accumulated in 3 or 4 boxes, and certainly can not be consulted without his permission.

I would like to thank the collaboration and help given by the Vice President Paul Seaward for visiting the archives deposited in London and Cambridge.

The guide to the archives of the President Antonio Marongiu was published by Dario Altobelli in the book Ricordo di Antonio Marongiu (ed. Maria Sofia Corciulo) Vol. XCII of the Studies Presented to the ICHRPI.Roma 2013 and the documents are deposited at the University of the La Sapienza in Rome. The documents of the President Maria Sofia Corciulo : the inventory is being made by Dra Maria Teresa Morelli under the supervision of Mario di Napoli.

The inventory of the archives of the Treasurers Jacek Jedruch and Eva Hoffman Jedruch (1985-2015) has finalised by the Dr. Anton Perez under the supervision of J. Agirreazkuenaga and the documents are deposited at the University of the Basque Country, with the Biography&Parliament Research Group.

Finally, the documents of President E. Lousse are deposited in Brussels and Leuven, and there is documentation in the archives of the CIHS.
6.- In last year’s report I presented a provisional list of the Conferences of ICHRPI since 1972. After revising documents in the archives of the Commission we can conclude that the some of the sessions of the Commission were organised within the Congress of the ICHS-CISH or of the Société Jean Bodin pour l’histoire comparative des Institutions or of the Société d’Histoire du Droit. Later these sessions were included in the list of the Conferences. For instance, E. Lousse established the following list of “Sessions” in the book published about 1969,


Later, V. Cromwell and J. Register re-numbered them as follows:

XX Besançon, 1967
XXI London, 1968

The rest of the list is similar to that presented last year in Vienna, but the Conference in Perpignan is omitted; as a result, the rest of the list is as follows:


But according to Hellen M. Cam “its first session was held at Lausanne in the following June, (1936) on the accession of the annual meeting of the Société d’Histoire du Droit and the paper read there form the first volume of our Etudes “ (Hellen Cam, Studies XXXI vol., XIIe Congrès International des Sciences Historiques. Wien, 1965, avec une préface de H.M. CAM et une postface de H.G. KOENIGSBERGER. Publié sur la recommandation du Conseil International de la Philosophie et des Sciences Humaines, avec le concours financier de l’UNESCO. Louvain-Paris, 1966. p.IX). In conclusion we can start with the number 0 in Lausanne 1936.

On the other hand, the Commission has organized important Conferences that are not on the list, for instance Atlanta (March 26-28, 1981) Den Haag (August 21-24, 1990) …

In the near future we should encourage historiographical analyses of the programs of the Conferences and we can allocate some funds to promote studies about the ICHRPI.

6.- The organizers of the ICHRPI 68th Conference in Palma de Mallorca have published two volumes of the proceedings on paper, totalling 1368 pages. The 2 volumes are in pdf format on our website in the Studies Presented to the ICHRPI Collection.

Prof. Dr. Joseba Agirreazkuenaga
President of the ICHPRI