

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
OFFICIAL FILE

Minutes of Meeting, Monday, January 31, 1977, Washington, D.C.

Present: H. Vail Deale (Chairperson), Mohammed M. Aman, E. J. Josey, Irving Lieberman, Jean Lowrie, Anne Pellowski, Theodore Waller, Theodore Welch, Jane Wilson (Staff Liaison).

Guests: Jim Baugham, F. Laverne Carroll, Nathalie Delougaz, Esther R. Dyer, Jane Franck, Guy Marco, Ruby Martz, Elisabeth Nebehay, William P. O'Brien, Carol Owens, Hans E. Panofsky, Phyllis J. Rasmussen, W. Boyd Rayward, Marietta D. Shepard, Robert C. Sickles, Bob Stevens, Allen B. Veaner, Judy Werdel, Clair D. Wilcoxon, Elizabeth A. Widenmann.

1. Minutes of the IRC Centennial Conference meetings, held July 20 and 21, 1976 were approved.
2. Samuel McKee, Commission on International Relations, International Organizations and Programs, National Academy of Sciences, reported on the 19th General Conference of UNESCO held in Nairobi, October/November 1976. For some time, the ALA has viewed with concern the development within UNESCO of two separate programs in the field of information and library services, NATIS/UNISIST, believing that the two programs complement each other and that both systems are very much dependent upon the operating agencies which will deliver the services of a national information service or those which come from international sources. Before the General Conference, the ALA sent letters to all U. S. delegates and alternate delegates to the Conference endorsing the creation of a unified information program with an international consultative and steering body whose composition is broadly based with a balanced membership representative of the wide subject coverage and the wide variety of institutions with which it will be concerned. Mr. McKee was one of the drafters of the U.S. position paper which supported this concept. He also participated in the drafting of a revised resolution, passed by the Conference, establishing a General Information Program which will cover the activities of UNESCO in the fields of scientific and technological information and of documentation, libraries and archives. Statutes for a single Intergovernmental Council for the General Information Program to be composed of thirty member states, one of which is the United States, were also approved. Since UNESCO is the only intergovernmental organization concerned with information programs, the American community must now determine where the U.S. national focal point should be.
3. Esther Walls, Associate Director of Libraries at SUNY, Stonybrook and ALA Representative to the U.S. National Commission for UNESCO, reported on the Commission's annual meeting.

In this connection, Ms. Walls made various general remarks on UNESCO and the politicization of the organization and shared with the IRC

the Commission's resolution on the restoration of U.S. funding to UNESCO. Prior to leaving office, President Ford certified to the Congress that sufficient progress [that UNESCO "(1) has adopted policies which are fully consistent with its educational, scientific and cultural objectives, and (2) has taken concrete steps to correct its recent actions of a primarily political character."] had been made to justify his recommendation for full restoration of U.S. funding for UNESCO. The Carter Administration also supports this recommendation. The Committee agreed it would be appropriate to propose a resolution for Council approval and E. J. Josey and Jane Wilson were commissioned to draft such a resolution for consideration by the IRC at its next meeting. The Committee also approved the establishment of a subcommittee, to be appointed by the Chairperson of the IRC, to be concerned with and make recommendations regarding the development of UNESCO library and general information programs. Ideally, there should be a substantive position paper on the information programs at every General Conference.

Ms. Walls also reported on her recent trip to Africa, under the auspices of the U.S. Department of State, to attend the Standing Conference of Eastern, Central and Southern African libraries, University of Zambia, Lusaka, October 4-9, 1976. The overall theme of the Conference was "Libraries and Information Services as Instruments of Transition to the 21st Century in Africa." Some 110 representatives attended the meeting including K. C. Harrison, sponsored by the British Council, the only other person from outside the area. In general, the papers which were presented provoked good lively discussion and occasionally penetrating critiques. Following the Conference, Ms. Walls visited both Kenya and Ethiopia where she addressed the library associations in both countries.

4. Donald C. Hausrath, Chief, Library Services Program, U.S.I.A., reported on "USIA Libraries Abroad: Trends and Developments." The real trend lies in adapting to the new situation of this decade, one moving away from the public library image of the 50's and 60's. The model, "demonstration" library of the past is giving way to specialized resources centers which seek to serve a different clientele than the one reached in the post-war and cold-war decades. Circulation has dropped as libraries closed. American staff has been reduced (replaced by competent "locals") but \$15 million is still spent annually to reach "target-audiences": the opinion makers, political leaders and intellectuals of countries who in turn influence the greater population, hopefully in favor of increased understanding of U.S. policies, actions and culture. A review of how USIA libraries alert these audiences with the "U.S. story" was outlined. Use of video-tapes, magazines published in the U.S. specialized bibliographical back-up service from Washington, and faster order-placement turn-around to the field highlight the support activities provided to these libraries. Use of data banks, such as Lockheed,

New York Times, SDC, etc., are coming into the picture, and are utilized in Washington to speed up inquiries not handled in the field; terminals are not yet installed abroad. Host country librarians are trained locally and in the U.S. (a full-time training officer is now on the Washington staff); and often this staff and their facilities are models for the study of state-of-the-art librarianship in the host country. Hausrath looks for the greater consolidation of centralized processing in the future. Selection of USIA books was discussed, and Hausrath pointed out that coverage may appear to be uneven depending on the library's choice of books, etc. "Advocacy propaganda" is still with us, but any book in print can be acquired by any library, although a "discretionary use" category exists to provide U.S. officials abroad some flexibility in exposing sensitive material. The contents of journals is not pre-judged or screened before delivery abroad. Congressional pressure, in part, is responsible for the continuing impression that the selection of books critical of the U.S. is too limited on USIA library shelves.

5. John A. Bannigan, Asia Foundation Washington Representative, read a report entitled "Asia Foundation Book and Library Programs." The Foundation is a non-profit organization in San Francisco established to assist in Asian self-development, deriving its funding from AID, the State Department (CU), and a dozen other foundations as well as American and foreign corporations and individuals. The Foundation's major field of endeavor is education. Focus is on training administrators and faculty, curriculum upgrading, instructional materials, professional guidance services to students, and communications. Library programs are located in this latter category. The Foundation seeks the opportunity to assist some twelve Asian countries in various areas including library development, distribution of books, translation projects, local publishing, language research, and media training. The Books for Asia Program was described in detail and a copy of the 1975 program report has been made available for members wishing further information. Essentially, the Books for Asia Program acquires new or used books through publishers donations, or purchase when necessary. From their warehouse in San Francisco, they are shipped to distribution centers usually attached to field offices in Asia. During the August 1974 - July 1975 FY, 496,961 books and 77,574 journals were shipped to Asia, at an estimated value of approximately \$2,9000,000. Most consisted of publishers donations. Library science materials are a part of the program.
6. Theodore Waller, Co-Chairperson, UNESCO Seminar on Reader Motivation, reported on that body's activities. The Seminar report will soon be out, and distributed to committee members.
7. Theodore Waller also reported on his recent Ford Foundation trip to Jordan as consultant to the Royal Scientific Society, which serves as a bridge between the academic community and the government in that country. Waller felt there may be a need for training in library

and information science. International Relations Committee member, Anne Pellowski was also a consultant to Jordan recently.

8. Jean Lowrie, ALA Representative on the Government Advisory Committee on International Book and Library Programs (GAC), reported on recent GAC meetings. The following have been some of the topics for discussion at these meetings:

- 1) Continuing relations with Egyptian publishers and libraries.
- 2) The development of a possible American Book Development Council.
- 3) Implementation of Basket III of the Helsinki Accord.
- 4) Currency conversion problems and participation in international book fairs.

In this connection, members of the IRC praised the work of John Richardson, former Assistant Secretary for Cultural Affairs. It was agreed a letter would be sent to Mr. Richardson by Mr. Wedgeworth thanking him for his support of libraries during his tenure.

9. IFLA dues, votes, travel costs, etc. The Committee approved the following six recommendations as a package:

- 1) That the Committee for U.S. Member Associations be designated as the U.S. IFLA COMMITTEE; and that one representative from each U.S. Member Association to the U.S. IFLA Committee be designated, such person should be selected so as to provide continuity of representation (and that such person may or may not be the Association's Voting Representative to IFLA).

- 2) That the apportionment of IFLA votes to the seven U.S. Member Associations be as follows:

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|-----|---|------------|---|-----------------|
| ALA | 9 | Medical LA | 1 | |
| SLA | 3 | AALL | 1 | |
| ARL | 4 | Music LA | 1 | |
| | | ARLIS/NA | 1 | TOTAL <u>20</u> |

- 2(b) That the ALA IFLA dues for 1977 will be \$3,000.00.

- 2(c) For transmittal to the IFLA Executive Board and IFLA General Council:

- 1 - That Draft Transition Measure 8.2, "Dues paid by Institutional Members and Affiliates have no effect on the height of the dues to be paid by Association Members in a country as from

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- 1 January 1978," be changed so as to recognize the dues paid by Institutional Members and Affiliates as part of the dues assessment to each country; and
 - 2 - That the total dues assessment per country be no greater than 20% of the total world-wide IFLA dues assessment.
 - 3) That, under normal circumstances, U.S. Member Associations of IFLA will assist an elected U.S. member of the IFLA Executive Board to meet travel expenses according to the need for financial assistance.
10. Library Association Centenary Conference. Jane Wilson reported on the invitation received from the Library Association regarding official ALA representation at the Centenary Meeting of the Association to be held in London on October 3-6, 1977. It was voted that ALA send three official representatives to the meeting; wide publicity should be given to the event; an attendance should be encouraged by interested ALA members.

Respectfully submitted

Theodore Welch
Session Secretary