

AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Committees -
minutes

Minutes of Meeting, Monday, January 21, 1980, 2:00-5:30 p.m., Palmer House Hotel, Room 1351, Chicago, Illinois

Present: Ralph Blasingame, Richard Gardner, Doralyn J. Hickey, E. J. Josey, Allen B. Veaner, Louella Wetherbee, Jean Lowrie, Chair.

Absent: Jane Franck (excused)

Guests: Josephine Fang, T.K.S. Iyengar, Robert Palmer, Russell Shank, Donald Jay, Elisabeth Nebehay, Charles Clement, Jon Noland, Deborah Brown, Robert Wagenknecht, Dorothy Eady Brown, Mina Jane Grothey, Gary Kraske, Charles S. Fineman, G. P. Brown, Ching-chih Chen, Hans E. Panofsky, Ruby Martz, John Landau, Leslie Trainer, Norman Horrocks, Alice D. Ball, Fritz Veit

Staff: Jane Wilson, International Relations Officer

SECOND SESSION

- I. The meeting was called to order by the IRC Chair, Jean Lowrie.
- II. Jane Wilson reported that the proposal for a French-U. S. Library Exchange Program was submitted to the U. S. International Communication Agency on December 27, 1979. Richard Gardner is Chair of the Subcommittee that will implement the program when the project is funded. It was suggested that Robert Murphy, presently Regional USICA Librarian in Paris, be asked to join the Subcommittee when he returns to the U. S. next summer.
- III. Jean Lowrie reported that the IRC did not have a representative at the recent ALA meeting on continuing education. Wilson reported that the First Soviet-American Library Seminar had been listed as a form of continuing education in the documentation for the meeting.
- IV. Lowrie reported briefly on the international aspects of the White House Conference. Seven proposals were developed in the working groups but only three were put forth to the entire Conference:
 1. Resolve that a U. S. Congressional commitment should be made to provide for an exchange program of library and information personnel for educational and professional in-service training and experience.

2. Resolve that the library and information communities of the U. S. support the existing programs of universal availability of publications and the elimination of trade and other barriers to the exchange of library materials of all kinds.
3. Resolve that as federal and state programs for networking are established that consideration for international communication and sharing be included within the framework of the networks which are created. Be it further resolved that funds should be sought for the implementation of international networking and resource sharing through coordination of existing specialized collections as well as through other resources.

As part of the implementation of the resolutions, the National Commission is setting up task forces for each of the five themes. Lowrie has been appointed to the Task Force on International Relations which will be meeting for the first time on February 4.

A discussion ensued on the problems involved in trying to arrange for the exchange of librarians and the need to supply those interested in exchanges with appropriate information. Hickey suggested that a subcommittee be formed to draft a Handbook on the Exchange of Library Personnel. Doralyn Hickey, Ralph Blasingame and Allen Veaner were named to such a Subcommittee. A preliminary report will be presented in June.

consider the possibility of drafting

- V. Gloria Primm Brown, ALA Representative to the United States Mission to the United Nations, presented her report. (Annex I)
- VI. Donald Jay, Chair IRRT, reported on the IRRT program plans for the New York Conference. The Reception for Foreign Librarians will be on Monday, June 30, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. in the Library of the Museum of the Performing Arts at Lincoln Center. The program meeting will be Sunday afternoon on China.
- VII. Allen Veaner, Chair IRC Advisory Committee on Liaison with Japanese Libraries, reported on the status of the proposed 4th Binational Conference on Libraries and Information Science in Higher Education to be held prior to the 1981 San Francisco Annual Conference. The Advisory Committee had hoped to enlist considerable support, including financial support, from the Japanese; however, recent letters from the Japanese counterpart committee were described as "content free". Therefore, the

did not convey any new information

Advisory Committee has decided to draft a letter to the Japanese indicating that the U. S. continues to be interested in holding such a conference on a basis of shared interest and shared responsibility but that the Advisory Committee will take no further efforts at fund raising in this country until a positive response is received.

VIII. Jean Lowrie, IASL Secretariat, reported on the 1979 Conference of the International Association of School Librarianship which was held in Denmark. The Conference theme was "The School Library and Children's Culture". The proceedings are available from the IASL Office. The next Conference will be held in Venezuela, July 14-18, 1980. At present IASL has more than 500 personal and 17 national school library association members. At the request of WCOTP, the IASL is preparing a position paper on "The Role of the School Library in the Education Program" to be presented to national education associations in all the WCOTP member countries.

IX. Robert Wedgeworth reported on his visit to Australia. (Attached as Annex II, is a copy of his formal report to the ALA Executive Board on his trip.) His general impression was that the Australian library leadership is very knowledgeable about what is going on in the library world, both in the U. S. and Europe; however, they seem to lack that core of middle management, mid-career, well educated librarians that is characteristic of this country, possibly because of the complex way in which one obtains library education in Australia. While in Australia, Wedgeworth discussed possibilities for joint programs between Australia and the U. S. The Australians would like the ALA to encourage U. S. librarians to participate in the forthcoming First Joint Meeting of the Library Associations of Australia and New Zealand. Wedgeworth feels it will be a more significant meeting than the Australians realize and he feels it is important for the ALA to be formally represented at the meeting. He also reported that, as a result of the Australian complaints regarding the availability of ALA publications, he had instituted a review of ALA's international marketing arrangements.

In discussing the forthcoming meeting in Christchurch, Wedgeworth indicated that he felt the Association's response should be two-fold. One on the courtesy level, the IRC should draft a response for the ALA President's signature congratulating the Association on this first meeting and indicating our interest and willingness to try to see that the ALA is well represented at the meeting. On another level, the IRC should consider how it might promote attendance at the meeting.

- X. The Committee discussed the action to be taken regarding the Christchurch meeting. It instructed that a reply be prepared by the Chair which would indicate ALA interest and willingness to encourage attendance at the meeting. At the same time, the reply should request: more details on the program content of the meeting so that it may be publicized among the ALA divisions and other units; information on any arrangements that may have already been made for reduced air fares or special tours. It was agreed that the IRO would prepare a memo to be distributed to the executive secretaries and chairs of divisions, sections etc. notifying them of the meeting and indicating that the IRC would consider the possibility of organizing a tour to Christchurch and Australia if there were sufficient interest in the meeting.

The suggestion was also made that a list of those librarians who have represented ALA abroad be published occasionally in American Libraries. A listing of IFLA representatives at international meetings appears in the IFLA JOURNAL on a regular basis. Such a list would include the name of the person, the conference attended on behalf of ALA, and the availability of a written report on the meeting.

- XI. Alice Ball, Universal Serials and Book Exchange, reported that since 1963 the Exchange has been operating on its own earnings and in recent years, it has been having problems in keeping up with expenses. At its January meeting, the USBE Board moved to almost double the fees charges to libraries from abroad which means that the libraries in the industrialized and OPEC nations will be paying about the same as U. S. libraries now pay for USBE services. Libraries in the developing countries have not used USBE much in the past and the new increase in fees will further cut this use; however, the Board also considered a new program, chaired by Harry Campbell, to enlist libraries and other agencies, e.g. ministries of education and culture, to develop ways of getting USBE materials to libraries in the developing countries. The Board also voted to now consider Mexico, along with Canada, as part of the domestic area. Three mainland Chinese libraries have joined USBE to date. In response to a question, Ball indicated that USBE is revising information on its program which could be supplied to U. S. libraries to send in response to requests received from abroad soliciting library materials. Member libraries have a kit which they distribute in response to such requests.

- XII. Peggy Sullivan, ALA President-Elect, discussed the recent American Library delegation visit to China. The delegation determined there was interest in continued relationships with the U. S., most particularly in the exchange of materials and the exchange of personnel, with primary emphasis on the exchange of people to work in the U. S. for a short period of time. Also, the Chinese indicated that they were very interested in having the U. S. send specific people to China, such as Henriette Avram. Sullivan feels there is a need for emphasis on the kinds of librarianship they are just becoming acquainted with, such as public and school librarianship. She also feels there is a lack of coordinating as to what we now provide to the Chinese as a result of the many delegations that have visited China. She indicated there is a need for coordination, not only in the case of materials that are provided, but also in the exchange of persons so that the Chinese have a variety of experiences, e.g. in the case of library educators, they should see many different schools rather than just one. She urged that ALA consider the possibility of trying to become the coordinating agency, as the ideal disinterested professional group, for the library effort and she indicated that she thought the times might be right to obtain funding for this purpose. It was agreed that the IRC would consider Dr. Sullivan's proposal at the summer meetings.
- XIII. Theodore Waller, reported briefly on the recent presentation of the 1979 International Book Award to the President of Senegal. While in Dakar, he also visited the new headquarters of the Ecole de Bibliothecaires, Archivistes et Documentalistes.
- XIV. Doralyn Hickey reported briefly on the 50th anniversary meeting of the Finnish Research Library Association which met in Helsinki following IFLA. Hickey represented the ALA at the meeting and delivered an appropriate ALA letter of congratulations as well as a ~~paper at the meeting~~ *participated in a panel discussion.*
- XV. Lowrie reported that at the meeting of the U. S. library association members of IFLA, there was a great interest in a short tour to Manila to be available for members in all the groups. Lowrie will arrange such a tour. Each association will handle its own publicity.
- XVI. Lowrie discussed the need for the IRC to develop some kind of a formal channel so that the ALA members will know what is going on in all the various units of ALA concerned with international matters. It was suggested that one IRC meeting at Annual Conference be turned into an international relations assembly and

that each unit be asked to send a representative to this session, both to report back to their unit on the Association's international activities, and to present a brief report on their role within their division or roundtable and what they have been doing for the past year. The letter of invitation will be sent to the president or Chair of the unit, with copies to the executive secretary. Copies of the various ALA/IRC policy statements will also be sent with this letter.

XV. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:30 p.m.

Theodore Wilson, reported briefly on the recent presentation of the 1979 International Book Award to the President of Georgia. While in Moscow, he also visited the new headquarters of the State Historical Archives, Archives et Documentalistes.

Leslie Hickey reported briefly on the 50th anniversary meeting of the Russian Research Library Association which met in Helsinki following IFLA. Hickey represented the ALA at the meeting and delivered an appropriate ALA letter of congratulations as well as a paper on the subject of *Foreign Bibliography in a World of Change*.

Leslie reported that at the meeting of the U. S. Library Association members of IFLA, there was a great interest in a report on the status of the ALA. It was suggested that the ALA should be invited to participate in all the various units of IFLA connected with international relations. It was suggested that one IRC meeting at Annual Conference be turned into an international relations assembly and

Leslie discussed the need for the IRC to develop some kind of a formal channel so that the ALA would be kept in touch with international relations. It was suggested that one IRC meeting at Annual Conference be turned into an international relations assembly and

Foreign Bibliography in a World of Change

Carnegie Corporation of New York

437 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10022 • (212) 371-3200

Gloria Primm Brown
Program Associate

TO: ALA International Relations Committee

SUBJECT: Report of the ALA Representative to the U. S. Mission
to the United Nations

Generally, the briefings for members of non-governmental organizations closely reflected the current newspaper headlines. Areas of major interest were Southern Africa, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and disarmament. Discussions on the Middle East dominated several sessions.

In one session, Ambassador Richard Petrie, Alternate United States Representative for Special Political Affairs, described the United States' efforts to project an humanitarian image with respect to Southeast Asia and efforts to promote an Arab decision on Egypt. He revealed that most of the principals, with the exception of President Carter, opposed the Camp David framework. Although the President prevailed, he and others working for accord in the Middle East constantly must work around the fact that there are too many differences of opinion among the Arab states.

At a subsequent session on the Middle East, many of Ambassador Petrie's earlier points were discussed in greater detail. A key factor is nationalism among the Arab states which is a dominating force now and will be for many years to come. This is exemplified in the kind of strong Palestinian consciousness which was almost unthinkable ten years ago and in the Kurdish political and ethnic solidarity in Iran. Tangential to the issue of nationalism is that of the persistent regional conflicts, for example, the Arab-Israeli problem, or the Algeria-Morocco problem or the problem between North and South Yemen. The nation-state concept implemented by each country presents a fundamental weakness which is hard to overcome as the various nations attempt to find forms of government that work well and simultaneously appeal to a "national psyche." Involved in a desperate search for security, the nations' value systems have gone "awry" as, backed by great accumulations of wealth, they have accelerated their clamor for arms. The United States is caught in the middle

of all of this. Since World War II, the U. S. has been engaged in trying to prevent Soviet expansion in this area by responding in a tangible way to these nations' security needs.

James Baker, Minister-Counsellor, Deputy United States Representative to the Economic and Social Council, in a special session on development, cited the growing concerns among the developing countries about energy. The issue of energy, however, is not on the agenda of the United Nations. This is intentional because the OPEC countries have never let the U.N. discuss it. Planned is a series of meetings among the other developing countries on self sufficiency and energy and what the OPEC countries must be persuaded to do to help them. These will culminate in global negotiations starting in September 1980.

So crucial will be these negotiations that President Carter, or his successor, must be ever mindful of them in formulating the United States foreign policy, according to Ambassador William Van den Heuval. "The time has come for the United Nations to have some organizational integrity," he said, and he warned that the international body's inability to resolve so many crises has begun to erode many American's confidence in the U.N. system. The assessment of this past General Assembly is that it has been a subdued and timid one especially regarding Middle East questions.

Since few NGO representatives know how the United Nations raises funds and how these funds are budgeted, George Saddler of the budget office explained the process. The U.N. functions on a bi-annual budget. Its budget for 1978-79 was \$1 billion; for 1980-81, \$1.2 billion is proposed. This will be reviewed by an expert committee within the U.N. which will then make its recommendations to the U.N. General Assembly. The budget is shared by member states and is based on each states' ability to pay in spite of the one-member one-vote rule. Bangladesh, Canada and Ghana provide the auditors for the U.N. In addition, there is an advisory committee on administration and budgetary questions composed of 16 member states which can examine all programs. Every request for expenditure must be submitted in writing to this committee. Based on the ability to pay, the United States pays 25 percent of the U.N. budget, or \$138-139 million, whereas the Soviet Union pays 13 percent.

As a follow-up to the International Women's Year, a U.N. Commission on the Status of Women was established. Koryne Horbal, the U. S. representative, described a variety of activities in preparation of the upcoming World Conference on the U.N. Decade for Women to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark in 1980. The resolution on the role of women in education has not had smooth sailing and has not been passed by many countries, particularly developing ones. Surprisingly, Iran, before the Shah was deposed, was one of the few developing nations where women had made substantial gains in the past decade. In preparation for the World Conference, a brainstorming meeting was held on January 19 to which the ALA's

NGO representative was invited but was unable to attend because of the ALA midwinter meetings. It is anticipated that there will be other meetings, however, which the representative will be able to attend.

In conclusion, you will note that almost nothing has been mentioned about education, communications and information exchange. This is because there were no delegates who included such information in their briefings and, when queried specifically about such matters, could only respond that these issues have taken a backseat to more pressing concerns in the areas about which there was discussion and that generally there has been little progress. It was suggested that U. S. professionals in these areas continue to seek contact with their counterparts in other countries and to participate in exchange programs where possible.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Primm Brown
Gloria Primm Brown

Delivered 1/21/80

1979 FALL EXECUTIVE BOARD MINUTES
EXHIBIT III

On August 18 through September 8, 1979, I had the extraordinary opportunity of visiting Australia at the invitation of the Library Association of Australia. It was a profitable trip personally and professionally. There was absolutely no question that my presence at the 20th Biennial meeting of the Library Association of Australia was, in the opinion of my hosts, a major statement by the ALA of interests in Australian librarianship.

The specific purpose of the visit was to make the keynote address at the 20th Biennial meeting, and then to have a brief tour of the several branches of the LAA which are their state library associations. The trip took me to Sydney, the capitol city at Canberra where the meeting was held, Melbourne, and Adelaide. Prior to my visit I made a special request to visit as many libraries as I could within my schedule.

In Sydney I visited the LAA Headquarters, as well as the libraries of the University of Sydney, University of New South Wales, the State Library of New South Wales with their Australiana collection in the Mitchell Library, and several school libraries. At an evening meeting, I spoke to the New South Wales Branch of the LAA on the subject of lobbying and public relations for library programs. Following my first week in Sydney, I journeyed to Canberra prior to the meeting where I was invited to sit in on the meeting of the Australian university librarians. It was extremely interesting to note that the topics under discussion were very similar to those being considered by American university librarians. High on the agenda were budget reductions in the university libraries, all of which are federally supported, and all of which are feeling the pinch of reduced funding available to higher education in general. While I was visiting the country, an interesting example of ways in which the government has chosen to adjust the budgets for higher education was the decision to charge tuition to foreign students. Also, there was considerable interest in the development of cooperative storage space for the use of the several university libraries.

The 20th Biennial meeting of the LAA was extremely well organized, and had a record attendance of almost 2000 persons. The site was the campus of the Australian National University, and in addition to my presence other foreign guests included: Dr. Bjorn Tell from Sweden; the Director of Lund University Library which has been recently designated as one of the National Libraries of Sweden; Helen Lyman, lectured on libraries and literacy all over New Zealand and Australia; Audrey Grosch, University of Minnesota who did a preconference on mini-computers and also lectured on mini-computers during the conference; Cynthia Durrance, National Library of Canada, who spoke on the Anglo-American Cataloging Rules, Second Edition; Ian Malley, Reference Specialist, who works for the British Library; and Peter Mann, a sociologist at Sheffield University were also foreign guests.

At the conclusion of the meeting, I met with the Executive Committee of the Library Association, in order to discuss future possibilities for joint programs between Australia and the U.S.A. Among the interests discussed were: the possibility of an American delegation to the first joint conference between the librarians of New Zealand and Australia to be held in January 1981 in Christchurch, New Zealand; the possibility of general librarian exchange programs; exchange of official documents such as the ALA International Relations Policy; the improvement of access to ALA publications that are of interest to Australian librarians; and individual exchanges in the school-media and community college areas. The general tone of the discussion was that Australia was now a full-fledged partner in the international library world. In order to emphasize this, I pointed out that based on data collected in the course of compiling the ALA WORLD ENCYCLOPEDIA OF LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES, it was clear that Australia had the most extensive library resources in the Pacific region with exception of Japan, but the fact that the Australian collections were principally in English would make them more widely useful. With that reference, it was made clear that Australia had a potential role to play in international relations for its region which could not be carried as well by the U.S. or the United Kingdom.

The Australians are very interested in American librarianship, and are very interested in pursuing a closer relationship with the American library community in general and the American Library Association specifically. The nature of that relationship has yet to be determined, but it is important for me to transmit these impressions to the ALA International Relations Committee for further discussion.

My overall impression was that librarianship is in very good condition in Australia. They have outstanding physical facilities, well education library leadership, and an enthusiastic approach to library problems. Unfortunately, Australian librarians still tend to lack confidence in themselves and their abilities, though I believe that it is simply their characteristic modesty. They are inclined to experiment with new organizational patterns as may be illustrated by two exciting institutions that I visited in Melbourne and Adelaide. The first was a public library program established in an immigrant community (their term is migrant community) called the Carringbush Library. This library has a very impressive program for young adults. A major feature is that they have acquired a small house adjacent to the library. This is a community gathering place for teenagers, who are growing up in a new country where the tradition of teenage dating is foreign to their parents. The library has strong youth counseling programs, and does provide structured ways for these youths to project themselves into the mainstream of Australian society through their information and acculturation programs. The program is supported by a well organized physical facility with outstanding equipment including computer terminals. Students can develop their own computer programs or enjoy video capabilities for both receiving off-the-air programs as well as producing their own programs.

Another interesting development in South Australia was a joint school-community public library located within a community center in a lower socio-economic neighborhood of Adelaide, which includes in the complex a high school, public library, a theatre for films, as well as a theatre for performing arts, restaurants, health and welfare services, and five swimming pools. It is an incredibly complex, administrative arrangement which has many problems. Nevertheless, the excitement of being able to develop such a facility, which is still in the final stages of construction, is one illustration of the innovation that is occurring in some parts of Australia. One can easily say that American librarians have as much to learn as to give to Australian librarians.