

Minutes from SBL-meeting in Sydney Febr. 16th 2007.

Present: Hans Naess (chair), Didier Bondue (vicechair), Bruce Smith.
The minutes were written by the chair.

The meeting took place on the premises of New South Wales State Archives in Sydney.

The meeting was held according to summons and agenda distributed before the meeting to the bureau for comments.

1. Minutes previous meeting.

The minutes from the SBL steering committee in Edinburgh Nov. 16th 2006 was acknowledged. The agenda in Sydney in some respects represents a follow up on the issues discussed previously.

2. Information on Business Archives in Australia – international overviews .

Bruce Smith shall update his article on Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific islands in the International overview on Business Archives before May 2007. The committee members have an obligation to follow up on the responsibilities for updating old and presenting new overviews according to the Edinburgh minutes.

A letter to all national archivists has been drafted by Lesley and commented upon as well as agreed upon by the bureau to be sent as soon as possible during spring 2007. SBL will as an important project finance a person to work with the follow up of answers to this letter to speed up the process of having international overviews produced, cfr. Edinburgh minutes.

Action Bruce, Hans and everybody mentioned in the Edinburgh minutes. Hans will send out a reminder.

3. SBL – possible future activities in the Pacific and the East.

Hans Naess referred to contacts with China and shall follow this up. He shall also contact PARBICA in order to see if there can be achieved any kind of cooperation on future cooperation. He shall also discuss possible cooperation with Mr. Mitsuoki Kikuchi, the Japanese archivist as soon as possible, presumably at the Executive Board meeting in Reykjavik March 29.-April 4th 2007. It was considered important to approach China. The chair will contact Ashok Kapoor, other Indian contacts obtained recently and the Indian archivist on the possibilities for activities in India.

Action Hans.

4. New membership.

It is difficult to have an efficient drive until the new revenue system makes for income so that it is possible to convince members that the money shall be used for projects for their benefit. The committee members shall nevertheless present SBL by using the leaflet and by referring to the recently updated website that is more comprehensive than it previously has been, to advise membership. The members meeting in Sydney did on several occasions meet with archivists strongly admonishing membership in ICA and in the section. We were however met with the same reaction as in US and Europe that it was difficult to see the benefits in value of money.

5. Guidelines for records and business archives.

The issue shall come up on the SAA Chicago meeting in late August 2007 where a questionnaire for a Benchmarking shall be discussed in the Business Archives Forum.

In Sydney Hans and Didier met on Thursday February 16th for a whole day meeting with several archivists in the premises of the New State Archives. The meeting was convened by Bruce. The agenda concerned a possible revival of a 2003 initiative for establishing an Australian Business Archives Forum and Business archives related projects. Some of the other nine participants were Sigrid McCausland, Education officer, Australian Society of Archivists (ASA), Clive Smith, Treasurer (ASA), Helen McLaughlin, Principal archivist,

University of Melbourne, Maggie Shapley, University Archivist, The Australian National University (ANU), Melbourne

The result of the meeting were a long list of initiatives with an action plan that shall be taken during the spring. Minutes from this meeting shall come out shortly and shall also be distributed to SBL bureau as information and also substantiating the value of the presence of SBL members to launch the new Australian initiative and influence the issues that shall be focused this being due to the comprehensive experience from the Business Archives situation in other parts of the world vested in SBL officers.

Action Bruce and colleagues

6. C-member fees, cfr. Task force and Curaco decisions.

Hans referred to the work of the Task force on ICA revenue and also of the Curacao meeting (ICA Annual meeting) discussion and to the Curacao Consensus 2007 document. The document is to be found on the web. The action plan that was to be considered a important plan of the document is not found on the web which makes it difficult to form precise opinion on the processes at hand. The minutes from Curacao has not been distributed which also makes it difficult for bureaus to have a clear opinion of the present situation having to rely on oral references by members having been present in Curacao. This situation ought to be changed so that section bureaus have access to (draft) documents even more so for sections and branches not having been present when highly matters were discussed and decisions were being made.

The SBL bureau does not find it recommendable to raise fees in the present situation. This view has been taken by this and other sections previously and has been reported by the Task force during the autumn 2006. There should be developed more obvious advantaged for C-membership before fees are being increased.

7. Future meetings (point 8 on SBL presence in other meetings included)

Aarhus meeting.

Aarhus meeting on business/corporate mergers, acquisitions and buyouts was mentioned at several occasions in Sydney. It is considered an overall important matter to be discussed. Christian Jansen's initiative referred to in the Postscript of the Edinburgh minutes is highly appreciated. Hans shall contact him for more information.

Action Hans, Christian

Genoa meeting – Stavanger meeting – Kuala Lumpur meeting.

SBL meeting in Genoa has been set according to e-mail from Claudia Orlando on behalf of Alessandro Lombardo to Sept. 13.-14. 2007. Suggested items to bring on to the agenda are preparation of Stavanger meeting 2008, Kuala Lumpur meeting 2008, Bench marking project on Business archives and Australian initiative on Business Archives, both follow ups, planning for cooperative meetings with other sections – follow up from decisions presumed to be made by section chairs on Iceland March 29. 2007, discussion on promotion of Business Archives Educational issues as part of agendas of National Archives Associational meetings/conferences (ref. the proposal put forward to SAA 2007) and follow up on 4-year plan and discussions for the formation of a 4-year plan 2008-2012. Due to certainty of low attendance in Kuala Lumpur, the bureau shall convene the annual meeting in Stavanger late spring 2008. Hans will ask for the time most convenient to have a majority of bureau members present. The meeting shall be combined with an open program on records and management issues in the energy sector and visits to the record centres / archives of some major companies. An inquiry about presence in Kuala Lumpur shall be sent out so that if possible SBL shall try to establish a professional program session in Kuala Lumpur.

Other meetings.

Hans shall be present as an introductory speaker at the Business Archivists meeting in Munich May 6-9. 2007.

Hans shall give a lecture on strategies for developing Business archives at course for Business Archivists in Heidelberg on October 23rd 2007.

Didier presumes that the French Business Archivist Forum shall meet during the autumn 2007 and shall return to the bureau with more information.

An open invitation to a meeting in Bogota, Colombia, 23-27. May as part of the cultural program for Bogota being the South American Capital of Culture 2007 has been received by the chair. If Bureau members do want to participate please notify Hans or Becky.

An open call for papers to an archives conference in Trieste in the end of October 2007 has been received. Please notify Hans or Becky if any members of the bureau has the chance to be present. At rpresent Hans is considering the possibility to go to give a paper about ICA/SBL.

Action Hans, Didier and all.

9. International overviews - follow up, see above point 2, including point 10 on the agenda.

11. Other Business.

Activities during meeting week in Sydney:

As part of the APEBH (Asia-Pacific Economic and Business History Conference in Sydney February 12-14. there was a separate session for Business Archives. Hans Naess presented a paper “The International Council on Archives and the work of the Business and Labor Archives Section”. Bruce Smith gave a paper titled “Globalisation of archives” containing Australian examples. Didier

gave a ppt on "The Global Archives of the Saint-Gobain Group – a tool for Good Business Governance".

Hans and Didier also participated in several lectures on Economic and Business development increasing the understanding of the processes in the East being different from economic structures in Europe and North America.

Hans and Didier on Febr. 16th met with the Archives group in the Commonwealth Bank, one of the few major Business archives relatively well staffed at their main offices in Sydney (Liverpool Street). The discussions were open and frank and fruitful. Didier gave his presentation on the Saint-Gobain group archives previously given at the conference for Business Historians.

The Bank Archivist, Chris Hurley, a well-known Australian archivist with many years of experience from the governmental and public as well as the private sector of society was very appreciative of the SBL endeavours. He recommended a listserv be operated directly by SBL as a tool for obtaining continuous cross business archives communication and he and his colleagues also expressed the wish for more comprehensive links to professional activities outside ICA itself be put on the SBL website and also to literature, various reference works as a means to defend the membership fee.

Didier also gave his presentation to the group of archivists discussing a new Australian Business Archives initiative, cfr. point 5 above. The presentation at all three where it was given was considered important and the French solutions seem to have given inspiration to all that participated during the three presentations.