



**Minutes of the Section of Professional Associations Steering Committee Annual General Meeting
held in Edinburgh 2 September 2011**

Present: Henri Zuber Association des Archivistes Francais; Michal Henkin Israel Association for Archives and Information; Fred van Kan KVAN; Claude Roberto Association de archivistes du Quebec (Bureau of Canadian Archivists); Sigrid McCausland ICA Section on Archival Education and Training; Vilde Ronge Norwegian Society of Records Managers and Archivists; Liv Heidi Siljebraten Norwegian Society of Records Managers and Archivists; Trudy Peterson, Academy of Certified Archivists; Kenth Sjoblom Society of Finnish Archivists; Christine Martinez Association des Archivistes Francais; Agnes Dejob Association des Archivistes Francais; Joan Boadas i Raset Associacio d'Arxivers de Catalunya; Joan Antoni Jimenez Associacio d'Arxivers de Catalunya; Kim Eberhard ICA Section on Archives of Churches and Religious Denominations and Australian Society of Archivists; Margaret Turner ICA; Didier Grange Association des Archivistes Suisses; Cristina Bianchi Association des Archivistes Suisses; Bernhard Post Verband deutscher Archivarinnen und Archivare; Gregor Trinkaus-Randall Society of American Archivists; Andra Sipos Association of Hungarian Archivists; Marco Carassi Associazione Nazionale Archivistica Italiana; Ladislav Dobrica Croatian Archival Society; Meguel Angel Gacho Santamaria ANABAD Federacion Espanola de Asociaciones de Archivos y Bibliotecas; Francisco Javier Escudero Buendia ANABAD Federacion Espanola de Asociaciones de Archivos y Bibliotecas; Eugenio Bustos Ruz Asociacion de Archiveros de Chile; David Leitch, ICA; Andrew Nicoll Archives and Records Association UK & Ireland; Colleen McEwen Australian Society of Archivists.

The meeting was preceded by the following presentations:

Fred van Kan, Vice President of the Section of Professional Associations, spoke about the Archival Solidarity Project.

Colleen McEwen, Joint Secretary of the Section of Professional Associations, introduced the SPA Manual.

1. Adoption of the agenda

The agenda was approved.

2. Adoption of the Minutes of the 2009 General Assembly from Malta

The circulated minutes were approved.

3. SPA 2010/2011 Annual Report

The SPA President, Henri Zuber, began by thanking ARA for their generosity in hosting the 2nd SPA World Conference. He explained that the Annual General Meeting this year was not being held in conjunction with CITRA at Toledo in October but rather at the Edinburgh Conference. This decision had been taken as many associations had decided to send their representatives to Edinburgh rather than Toledo as the two

events were being held so close together. The President then went on to summarize the 2010/2011 SPA annual report which was distributed to members and available on the ICA/SPA website in English and French.

4. Reports from Associations

A number of representatives gave reports on activities of their associations.

Norwegian association: The association will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary at the end of October and will be presenting an award to the best Records Management Program. There are plans to make this an annual event.

Society of American Archivists: The 75th AGM of the SAA has just been held in Chicago. The Society's CPD and Education Program now includes a Digital Archives Specialists Curriculum and Certificate. A task force is looking at how the Society conducts its annual meetings including the possibility of holding virtual meetings.

Catalan association: The association is planning a number of meetings, conferences and workshops including an international meeting with the InterPARES Program; a workshop for local archives; a photographic congress in Girona and the 2014 European Conference also in Girona.

Hungarian association: The association is celebrating its 25th anniversary in 2011. Its main priority at the moment is the development of a new archival Act. Discussions have been held between the association and the government about the return of Communist security files to those people investigated. To date there has been no final decision but the association is grateful to colleagues for their support in this matter.

Chilean association: In September the association will run a training course for Municipal Archivists and in November the 9th Municipal Conference will be held in Paraguay. In April the 4th Latin American Conference will be held in San Diego.

Italian association: The Italian association is experiencing hard times because of the global financial crisis. They are organising workshops and seminars for young archivists.

Spanish association: The ANABAD is the oldest association in Spain. Their activities include several programs conducted with the Ministry of Culture.

5. Report from the Secretary-General of the ICA

David Leitch, the Secretary-General of the ICA, spoke to the meeting and mentioned the following:

- The ICA Secretariat was working to improve communications within the ICA, particularly through the website.
- A review was being conducted by Margaret Crockett of CITRA. It is expected that there will be constitutional changes as a consequence of the review presented for voting on at the Brisbane Congress.
- Membership dues and other revenue raising initiatives are being looked at. Currently the ICA is dependent on a few contributors for income e.g. Category A members contribute

80% of current income most of which comes from the top 10 national archives. There will be problems if a couple of these institutions can no longer continue to support the ICA.

- A MOU had been signed with the National Archives of Australia for the Brisbane 2012 Congress. It was expected that the impact of the recession and the high Australian dollar will impact on the numbers attending. There will shortly be a ramping up of publicity for the Congress.
- Proposals for the 2016 Congress have been received from France and Korea. The final decision will be made in Toledo.
- The Executive Board has allocated 100,000 Euros to PCOM for supporting projects. There are currently 50 projects receiving support, whereas in 2008 there had been virtually none. There has been an audit on PCOM and it has emerged well but there needs to be a discussion about the future role of PCOM.
- With regard to the Forum for National Archivists it was acknowledged that the concept of the Forum is still developing and that it may become a Section. It was suggested that SPA needs to watch how the Forum develops and possibly consider whether a Forum for Associations should also be established.

6. Other business

Principles on the role of Archivists

Trudy Peterson reported that a Working Group was being established to develop a set of *Principles on the Role of Archivists* along similar lines to the UNHCHR Principles on the Role of Lawyers. The group was being formed by SPA and the Human Rights Working Group. Anyone interested in joining was asked to contact Trudy.

Appreciation for the development of the SPA Manual

A vote of appreciation was passed by acclamation to Colleen McEwen for her work in bringing together the SPA Manual. Colleen acknowledged the work of translators and the assistance received from the SPA Steering Committee.

SPA Newsletter

The SPA Newsletter editor Claude Roberto encouraged associations present to contribute news about their activities to the bi-annual publication.