

Annual Report

International Council of Archives Section of Records Management and Archival Professional Associations

2004 2005

From Vienna to Abu Dhabi...

0 – NAME OF THE SECTION

Section of Records Management and Archival Professional Associations of the International Council of Archives (CIA/SPA)

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1 - ADMINISTRATION

1.1 Steering Committee

The Steering Committee of the Section was widely renewed during the World Congress of Vienna. Only seven people renewed their term in office. We need to point out that some new associations have shown an interest to participate to the Steering Committee. It now includes fifteen representatives, the maximum accepted by the statutes.

Its new structure is composed by:

Didier Grange, Switzerland (President), Henri Zuber, France, (Vice-president), Gilles Lesage, Canada (Secretary until April 2005), Patricia Sleeman, United Kingdom (Secretary since May 2005), Joan Boadas I Raset, Catalonia, Concetta Damiani, Italy, Berndt Frederiksson, Sweden, Michal Henkin, Israel, Peter R. Hermann, United States of America, Trudy Huskamp Peterson, United States of America, Colleen Mc Ewan, Australia, Charles Noordam, The

Netherlands, Chiyoko Ogawa, Japan, Laura Gabriela Salazar, Mexico and Waldemar Chorazyczewski, Poland.

1.2 Members

During the past exercise two associations joined our ranks : The A.B.G.I.D (Association burkinabe des gestionnaires de l'information documentaire) and The ABARQ (Associação brasiliense de arquivologia).

A certain number of associations, that had not paid their fees since a couple of years, despite the reminders that they received, were removed from the list of members.

Our section, at the 20th of August 2005, counts sixty-four members.

1.3 Statutes and Regulations review

Following the ICA Statutes review which took place in Vienna, the section Regulations were corrected in order to make them congruous. Proposals for change were prepared by Charles Noordam. They will be evaluated in 2006 by the ICA secretariat.

1.4 Meetings

The Steering Committee held two meetings during this period: The first one in Vienna during the World Congress and the second in Girona, Catalonia, from the 11th to the 15th of April 2005. We thank our hosts for their wonderful hospitality and support.

The work was carried on in the different projects groups after the meeting at Girona by e-mail, mail and phone.

The next Steering Committee meetings will be held during the month of May 2006 in Poland and in November 2006 in Curaçao. The next delegate's assembly will be held in the same island during the 2006 CITRA.

2 - PROGRAM

2.1 Seminars, Conferences, Symposia

2006 European Conference

As usual the SPA participated in the preparation of the next Archival European Congress which will be held next in May 2006 in Warsaw. The polish association is, of course, really involved in the preparation of this event. The SPA made some suggestions about the themes and the speakers. Joan Boadas I Raset participated to the scientific committee meetings.

2.2 Publications and Communications

WebPages

It seemed timely for the Steering Committee to review the section's webpage. Patricia Sleeman had done a proposal that will be discussed during the meeting in Abu Dhabi.

Association directory

This work has started a couple of years ago. Our colleague Gilles Lesage attempted to collect the references of the most possible number of professional associations. He found out more than two hundreds around the globe. He showed us his work during the meeting at Girona. The Steering Committee's members saw this inventory and completed or corrected it when it was possible to do so. This directory should be held, in the end, at disposal for consultation on the ICA webpages. For now, it is available at the following address: www.shsb.mb.ca/dbtw-wpd/textbase/cia/spa_rech.htm.

Promote the SPA

The SPA tri-lingual promotional brochure made a couple of years ago was printed and distributed.

It seemed essential for us to let people know the projects and activities of the SPA throughout the world and to be able to recruit new members in the future.

We have established contact with numerous associations that are not members of the section yet, in particular in South America.

It is important not to forget our members and to keep them informed of our work progress and of the new projects that arise. Some answers have been evoked

2.3 Studies, Actions and Projects

Archival Solidarity

This project, which began in 2000, keeps going. A workgroup, composed by five people was constituted. Chaired by Nancy Marelli of Concordia University, it is actually made up of Margaret Turner, Mariona Corominas, Benny Haspel and Peter Arfanis. It will be soon completed by colleagues from different Branches of the ICA. Trudy Peterson ensures the connection with the SPA Steering Committee. The operation of the project was defined and an action scheme was defined. Work has already begun. A database with information on more than one hundred and thirty international archival projects had already been completed.

Competencies

For a number of years, archivists have striven for their multi-faceted profession to be recognized in its proper place. This reflection entails drawing up competency models, as well as certification and/or accreditation procedures. The existing models reflect specific national archival cultures, either centred on the public sector, or midway between private and public. SPA recently launched a survey in order to compare approaches among ICA member countries. SPA will work with SAE on this topic.

Certification

The certification should follow the competencies project. For now, the Steering Committee has presented the situation in their respective countries. Some documentation was conjoined. The investigation must continue. In the end, different examples of certifications could be held at disposal.

Deontology

A group was constituted in Vienna in order to keep working on this important subject. It is made, for now, by Margaret Turner, Karen Benedict and Yvonne Bos-Rops. A first project should be able to gather the studies on ethical cases. The result could be to publish these examples and make them available on the web.

Some associations have planned lectures on the problem of deontology for their annual meeting, for example, for the Society of Archivists and the Association des Archivistes Suisses.

Strategy for the promotion of the professional associations

A first text was written. Entitled “Advocacy and Promotion Strategies for Professional associations”, it will be discussed by the Board during the Abu Dhabi meeting.

3 - SUGGESTIONS

3.1 Difficulties encountered, solutions suggested

3.2 Future projects

For now, we focus on current projects. It seems important to us to be able to complete them. We keep an inventory of the potential projects as our work and the suggestions go along.

3.3 Suggestions for ICA’s priorities and functioning

- Get out of the financial crisis
- Recruit new members
- Prepare the replacement
- Improve communication and diffusion of information
- Reinforce its presence at an international authority level
- Develop archival solidarity
- Develop the ability to respond in case of disaster

3.4 Draft recommendations for the 2005 Annual General Meeting

Didier Grange
SPA President

Geneva, the 14th of September 2005