0 – NAME OF THE SECTION

Section of Records Management and Archival Professional Associations – (ICA/SPA)

Author:
Didier Grange
Geneva City Archivist
Palais Eynard
4 rue de la Croix-Rouge
1211 Genève 3
Switzerland

1 - ADMINISTRATION

1.1 Steering Committee

The Section’s Steering Committee has fourteen representatives of associations. It observed the following changes: for the Association des Archivistes Français, Henri Zuber has been replaced by Chrstine Martinez ; for the Koninklijke Vereniging van Archivarissen in Nederland, Charles Noordam has been replaced by Fred van Kan and for the Bureau of Canadian Archivist, Shelley Sweeney has been replaced by Robert Nahuet. The Steering Committee will propose Christine Martinez as SPA Deputy President instead of Henri Zuber at the General Assembly of Delegates in Quebec.

1.2 Members

During the course of 2006, six associations have joined our ranks:
- Association des Archivistes Francophones de Belgique (AAFB),
- Association pour le Développement des Activités Documentaires au Bénin (ADADB),
- Associação dos Arquivistats do Estado do Rio Grande do Sul,
- Association of Canadian Archivists,
- Association congolaise pour la promotion culturelle et artistique (ACPCA),
- Turkish Librarian’s Association
Unfortunately, and despite numerous reminders, a few associations failed to pay several years of membership fees, as a result they have been removed from the list of members.

As of the 31st of July 2007, our Section has 77 members.

1.3 Statutes and Regulations Review

The section’s regulation review has been mentioned during the meeting in Kyoto. A proposal will be discussed during the General Assembly of Delegates in Quebec.

1.4 Meetings

This year the Steering Committee met twice: the first time in Curaçao during the CITRA 2006 and the second time in Kyoto, May 22 to 25, 2007. Our thanks go to our hosts for their support and hospitality.

Steering Committee members present in Kyoto, had the opportunity during their stay to take part in a meeting with their Japanese’s colleagues about: “The State of the Art of Archival Professional Associations in the World”. We hope that such events will be organized during every SPA Steering Committee session in the future. They enable many professionals of host countries to exchange ideas and discover archival practices and theories in others countries and areas.

The next Steering Committee meetings will take place in March 2008 in Mexico D.F. and in July 2008, in Kuala Lumpur.

The next annual meeting will take place in Kuala Lumpur. We hope that representatives of many associations will be able to participate. At this occasion, we will partially renew the SPA Steering Committee.

2 - PROGRAMME

2.1 Seminars and conferences

The first international conference about professionals associations called « Archivists Associates: challenges and opportunities » will take place in 2007 in Madrid, October 18 to 20. This event is organized by our Section in collaboration with Archivos Estatales Españoles and the Coordination of Spanish Associations. It should gather several of associations’ representatives. This conference would not be able to take place without the support of the Archivos Estatales Españoles to whom our grateful thanks go. We hope that other national archives or associations will suggest organizing such event in the future. It provides a unique opportunity for associations’ members to compare contexts and practices, to exchange ideas about issues and resolutions as well as extend their networks by establishing new links.

Finally, as regards the organization of the next European conference, the search for a partner seems to have succeeded. This event will take place in Geneva in 2010.

2.2 Publications and communications
Web pages
All the documents which we prepared were sent to the ICA secretary so that they can be put on the new website. Reflection on the website continues. There is still the possibility of improving dissemination of information.

Directory of associations
This should be available on SPA web pages. At present it is available on: www.shsb.mb.ca/dbtw-wpd/textbase/cia/spa_rech.htm. During this year, we performed some modifications and additions in relation to the previous list. We needed help from the professional community to complete this directory. Associations are still missing.

Public relations
We approached many associations which are not yet members of SPA inviting them to join. We contacted most associations and obtained some new members and established new contacts. According to the directory, previously quoted, there are associations in 56 countries in the world. Within SPA, our members come from 46 different countries.

Newsletter
The Committee decided to create a newsletter for its members. This document should be sent twice a year, probably by email. The texts should not be too long and should provide information about current works and projects. The content and the graphic presentation of the newsletter could develop in course of time.

2.3 Studies, actions and projects

Archives Solidarity
This working group continued its activities. A website has been created in three languages (Spanish, French and English) where basic information about this project can be found, (http://archives3.concordia.ca/Solidarity/quoi.html). This working tool should be completed with the provision of documents and by access to the database including collaborative projects. The working group also started to investigate possible institutions which may be able to financially support archival solidarity projects. Other standards will be prepared later.

Competencies, Certification and Accreditation
A survey has recently been completed by the SPA Steering Committee of sources relating to archival competencies, certification and accreditation programs in various countries. A copy of this paper is available on the SPA/ICA website. The importance of identifying a set of competencies for the archival profession was recognized at the 2006 Warsaw Conference where a resolution was passed that encouraged “… the European Branch of the ICA and the Section for Professional Associations of ICA (SPA) to carry out a feasibility study for a project to develop a European competency framework for the archival profession”.

A meeting was held with SAE representatives at Curacao in November 2006, to discuss how the two organizations could collaborate on a project to develop a set of archival competencies. It is hoped that a joint committee will soon be established to work on the competency project and to develop guidelines for associations to use to establish certification and accreditation programs.

Ethics
A new list of questions was prepared. The circulation of this list should enable the collection of information about conditions in different parts of the world and expectations of professionals in relation to this subject. The collected equipment will enable us to write a report and to suggest a workshop on this theme in Kuala Lumpur. Afterwards, it will be necessary to see if the present Code must be reviewed or if other documents must be prepared.

Promotional strategies for professional associations
The text translated in Spanish and other languages. It should be available on ICA website as soon as possible.

3 - SUGGESTIONS

3.1 Difficulties and proposed solutions

The weakness of the associations’ resources.
The scale of fees should be reviewed.
Number of members is still too low. Maintain our efforts of promotion.

3.2 Future projects

Preparations during Congress in Kuala Lumpur (2008)

We also mentioned several themes which could be discussed in the future, for example mentoring.

The Section President used the ICA’s archives with a view to writing a short history about SPA.

3.3 Suggestions regarding ICA’s priorities and operations

Many ideas already mentioned last year seem to be still current:
- Consolidate ICA’s financial situation
- Reinforce ICA’s secretary
- Recruit new members
- Enhance communication and information dissemination
- Reinforce ICA’s representation in international organizations
- Expand archival solidarity

3.4 Projects and recommendations for the general assembly in 2007

Didier Grange
SPA President

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