



NEWSLETTER

January 2010

<i>Contents</i>	<i>Page</i>
SPA Annual General Meeting and Steering Committee Meeting – November, Malta	2
Universal Declaration on Archives – CITRA decision	2
Archives without Borders Congress, 30-31 August 2010 – Call for papers	3
ICA funding matters	3
Archival Solidarity Project	4
List of Category B member (Professional Associations) publications	4
Merger proposal for professional associations in the UK and Ireland	4
Association Survey	5
Feature article on a SPA member association – the Israel Archives Association by Michal Henkin	5
Forthcoming conferences	7

Welcome to the January 2010 edition of the SPA Newsletter. The purpose of the Newsletter is to keep SPA members up-to-date with news on Section activities and projects and to strengthen international cooperation and collaboration between professional records management and archival associations.

SPA Annual General Meeting – Malta 2009 CITRA

The SPA Annual General Meeting of Category B delegates met in Malta in conjunction with CITRA on 20 November. At the meeting the SPA President, Henri Zuber, summarized achievements of the Section over the preceding 12 months and outlined major projects to be undertaken in 2009/10. Members present were invited to present an overview of the activities of their associations.

The SPA 2008/09 Annual Report is available on the ICA website in English, French and Spanish at:

English <http://www.ica.org/en/node/39504>

French <http://www.ica.org/fr/node/39505>

Spanish <http://www.ica.org/fr/node/39506>



SPA delegates at the Annual General Meeting, 20 November, Malta

Universal Declaration on Archives – CITRA decision

At the 2007 ICA Annual General Meeting held at the Quebec CITRA, SPA was asked to prepare a Universal Declaration on Archives (UDA) citing the Quebec Declaration as a model. Over the last two years SPA, together with a Working Group, developed this document which was accepted by the Executive Board at their October 2008 meeting. The aim of the Declaration is to secure global acceptance and understanding of archives and the essential role they play in supporting human rights, establishing collective memory and underpinning accountable and transparent administrative actions. The Declaration was presented for endorsement at the CITRA General Meeting in Malta. The

meeting accepted the document in principle and it was referred back to the Executive Board for further consultation and review.

Archives without Borders Congress – 30-31 August 2010 The Hague – Call for papers

VVBAD, the Belgium association for archivists, and the KVAN, the Dutch association for archivists is holding an international Congress titled *Archives without Borders* on August 30 and 31, 2010 in the Peace Palace in The Hague, The Netherlands. This Congress commemorates the first international archives conference which took place in Brussels a century ago in 1910. The organising committee is now calling for proposals for papers. The Congress will focus on the importance of archives for good governance in an international context where their significance transcends national boundaries in the globalized information society. Sessions will be organized on the themes 'Archival Solidarity', 'Human Rights and Archives', 'Cross-border Archives', and 'Archives: Formation of the Nation State and National Identity'. Speakers are welcome from all over the world. The Congress is supported by the Section for Professional Associations of the International Council on Archives. For more information visit the Congress website: <http://www.archiveswithoutborders.org>. Proposals for papers on one of the four themes are welcome in English or Spanish and a short abstract should be sent to Klaartje Pompe (klaartje.pompe@noord-hollandsarchief.nl) or Hildo van Engen (hvengen@salha.nl) by 1 February 2010.

ICA funding matters

Revised scale of fees for Category B members

The revised scale of fees for associations proposed by SPA and outlined in previous Newsletters is now in place. Based on annual budgets rather than membership numbers, the new system allows for the possibility of associations with an income of less than 2000 Euros to either pay 50 Euros, or make a non financial contribution by providing a service to the profession. To date three associations have indicated that they wish to substitute a service activity for dues, but no specific proposals have been received.

Proposal to establish an ICA commercial entity

Discussions about the current ICA funding model continued at the AGM in Malta. According to the ICA Treasurer, six national archives contribute 32% of the budget, and the national archives as a whole contribute 81%. Associations provide 2% of the dues. The ICA leadership believes this situation is not sustainable, particularly as many national governments are in financial straits. A consulting group was hired to propose a plan for alternate funding sources and has delivered its first report which it will now elaborate on. The AGM adopted “in principle” a plan to create a commercial entity for ICA to see if additional funds can be generated.

Archival Solidarity Project

The Archival Solidarity Committee is delighted to report that a grant application made to the ICA Programme Commission (PCOM) has been successful! We will receive funding early in 2010 to add new entries to the Funding Database that is on the Archival Solidarity website available at: <http://archives3.concordia.ca/solidarity/funding.html>. The database was created to make available current information about funding agencies that might be appropriate sources for funding international archival outreach projects. We will keep you posted but you can look forward to a large increase in the number of entries in the database by the spring of 2010.

Information about the Archival Solidarity Project is available in English, French and Spanish at: <http://archives3.concordia.ca/solidarity/default.html>

Nancy Marrelli
Chair, Archival Solidarity Project

List of Category B member (Professional Associations) publications

A list of publications produced by ICA Category B members has been developed and is available on the website at <http://www.ica.org/en/node/39476>.

Merger proposal for professional associations in the UK and Ireland

In 2008, the Society of Archivists (SoA), the National Council on Archives (NCA) and the Association of Chief Archivists in Local Government (ACALG) commissioned consultants to review the professional association structure of the archives and records management sector in England and Wales to identify ways in which it could be made more effective in presenting its case to the outside world and in supporting the work of the sector.

Following a final meeting with the consultants, SoA, NCA and ACALG have agreed to work to explore the development of a single body to take on the work of the three separate organisations. Each of the three organisations is very differently constituted.

A comprehensive work schedule has been in place now for a little over a year to explore further the implications of the proposed merger. Four priorities have been identified for the new organisation by the Future Strategies and Priorities Group and these are:

- Professional Issues
- Advocacy
- Inclusion
- Governance.

Each of these priorities are viewed as being of equal weight or importance for the new organisation. The Future Strategies and Priorities Group (FS&P) has agreed to these four key areas of work for the merged organisation's first business plan. FS&P are hoping to finalise and agree on the Vision and Mission at their next meeting with this being shared more fully with the members shortly afterwards.

It is clear that if the merger goes ahead, any new organisation would probably need a new name. As the new name should reflect the nature and priorities of the new body, there is a strong case to be made for leaving the decision on a name until virtually the last stage in the merger process. It is anticipated that members will eventually vote on at least two matters including the merger itself and the new name.

Full briefing details and press releases can be found on the SoA website at - <http://www.archives.org.uk/thesociety/archivesectorproposals.html>

Association Survey

In January 2009 a survey was distributed to all Category B members. The aim of the survey is to develop a membership profile, seek feedback from members on the work carried out by SPA and to obtain guidance on useful projects that SPA could undertake to assist member associations. Not all members have responded. If you have not received the survey please contact Fred van Kan at f.vankan@geldersarchieff.nl. Responses received up to 1 February will be taken into account.

Feature article on a SPA member association – the Israel Archives Association by Michal Henkin

The Israel Archives Association (IAA) was founded in 1950 as a result of an invitation to attend the first ICA Congress. The Association became active in 1956. The IAA is a non-profit professional association with about 400 members from various archives: national and business archives, local authorities, small settlements, universities and colleges, health and memorial institutions. The Association consists of members from the Jewish, Moslem, Christian and Druze religions.

At the head of the Association is an elected member who holds the position for 4 years. The IAA is governed by an elected Directorate consisting of 11 volunteer members, including a Secretary and Treasurer. There are a number of appointed committees: the committee for professional and additional studies; the ethics committee; the committee for supply, buildings, preservation and restoration of archival material; the electronic technology (computer) committee; the membership committee; the committee for international relations and the finance committee. In addition there are a number of ad-hoc committees, for example there is a committee for professional terms (vocabulary) and a committee for archival law.

The IAA's budget consists of members' fees, contributions and an allocation from the Ministry of Science, Culture and Sport.

The IAA provides members with an opportunity to participate in professional development activities such as seminars, conferences, courses and workshops. The Association organises six one-day seminars a year and an annual conference (three days long), as well as professional courses, for example, "Legal aspects of archives management", "Digital preservation", and "Development of managerial skills". Each year the Association holds a memorial day to honour Dr. George Herlitz, the founder of the IAA. On this day the Association grants a special prize to an individual or a team for professional excellence and particular achievements and a prize to a non archivist who has contributed to the archival profession.

The Association is involved in archival and record management courses in various colleges where students receive an "Archivist Certificate" at the end of their studies.

The IAA has a website located at <http://www.archives.org.il/> . It publishes periodic journals including the important professional journal "Arkhiyyon". This publication is produced annually in Hebrew, although abstracts are in English. Occasionally articles in English are included. The IAA also publishes some articles on its website.

To become a member of the Association a person needs to have worked in the profession for two years. Those not meeting this requirement can join as a "well wishers" and enjoy all the privileges except for voting and being elected to positions in the Association. After two years experience they are eligible for acceptance as a full IAA member.

The Association has been active in ICA for many years with representatives serving on various committees.

There are two other archival associations in Israel dealing with specific areas of interest: The Archive Directors Association of Local Authorities and the Association of Archivists in Small Communities (kibbutzes). Most members of these associations also belong to the IAA.

Current activities

Over the last 12 months the Association has considered the following questions relating to the profession:

- What is the meaning of the term 'new archives and archivist'? [This question relates to the current electronic environment in which archivists and archival institutions now operate].
- What are the training needs of the 'new archivist'?
- How to strengthen communications and information sharing between archivists?
- How can the Association take a more active public role?

Workshops have been held to discuss the issues and questionnaires distributed to seek feedback from members. Results are currently being processed.

The Association is currently cooperating with the State Archives to update Israeli archival legislation that was originally passed in 1955. It is our hope that the amendments will strengthen the profession.

Regular IAA activities include a non business meeting held on the first Friday of each month where different professional subjects are discussed such as archival competencies, archival users and human rights, archivists and web 2.0 etc. Trips and visits to archives around the country are also conducted to strengthen professional relations.

A virtual forum was set up last year to facilitate the exchange of information between members. The forum allows archivist to ask for advice on subjects relating to archives management, computerization, digitization, preservation, user service etc., and get answers from the professional community. The forum has provided a great opportunity for members to broaden their knowledge.

Recently major efforts have been undertaken to renew academic professional studies in Israel. A few years ago the School for Library, Archives and Information Science at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem closed resulting in a generation gap in the profession. This year, with the cooperation of the State Archives and the Ministry of Science, Culture and Sport, a special program of complimentary archival studies for second and third degree students will be initiated in the Information Department of Bar-Ilan University.

Forthcoming conferences

8th European Conference – Geneva, 28-30 April 2010

The 8th European Conference on Digital Archiving will be held in Geneva between 28 and 30 April 2010. The Conference is being organised by the Swiss Federal Archives, EURBICA, the European Branch of the ICA and SPA. For program and registration details see at: <http://www.bar.admin.ch/eca2010/index.html?lang=en>

2nd Associations Conference – Edinburgh, September 2011

The first SPA supported conference for professional associations was held in Madrid in 2007. We are very pleased to announce that the 2nd Conference will be held in Edinburgh in September 2011 and hosted by the Society of Archivists (SoA). The event will be preceded by the SoA annual conference to which SPA members will be able to attend at SoA member rates. The theme “Professional Identity” has been proposed.

SPA Steering Committee Contacts

President:

Henri Zuber
Association des archivistes français
45, rue de Londres
75008 Paris.
France
E: henri.zuber@sncf.fr
T: + 33 1 53 42 93 98
F: + 33 1 53 42 90 65

Vice President:

Fred van Kan
Koninklijke Vereniging van Archivarissen in Nederland
C/o Gelders Archief
Market 1
6811 CG Arnhem
Netherlands
E: f.vankan@geldersarchief.nl
T: + 31 26 352 16 00
F: + 31 26 352 16 99

Joint Secretaries:

Andrew Nicoll
Society of Archivists, UK and Ireland
Scottish Catholic Archives
Columba House
16 Drummond Place
Edinburgh EH3 6PL Scotland
E: andrew.nicoll@scottishcatholicarchives.org.uk
T: + 44 131 556 3661
F: + 44 131 556 3661

Colleen McEwen (Joint Secretary and Newsletter Editor)

Australian Society of Archivists
34 Carr Crescent
Wanniassa ACT 2902 Australia
E: tcmcewen@gmail.com
T: + 61 2 62 316948