

**Report from the meeting of the Board of the Provisional Section on Sport Archives,
International Council on Archives (ICA/SPO)**

Barcelona (Spain) September 27-30, 2006

On invitation of the person in charge of the “Arxiu general Museu Maritim of Barcelona”, the members of the board of ICA/SPO met from the 27th of September until the 30th, 2006.

☞ Were present:

1. Mme Françoise BOSMAN (France)
2. Mme Fina Solà I GASSET (Spain)
3. Mme Isabella OREFICE (Italy)
4. Mme Nora SANTARELLI (Italy)
5. Mr Mbaye THIAM (Senegal)
6. Mr Kenth SJÖBLOM (Finland)
7. Mr Alexander KRAUSS (Greece)

☞ Were absent

1. Mr Abdulla El REYES (United Arab Emirates)
2. Mme Klara Lutti (Sweden)

This meeting had been scheduled since the last meeting of the board held in Abu Dhabi, November 28th 2005.

The agenda of the meeting had been validated before the session through an exchange of e-mails between various members.

The session of Wednesday September 27 started with an opening ceremony at the Department of Culture of the Government of Catalonia. The persons in charge of the institution welcomed the members of ICA/SPO in the name of the Government of Catalonia.

In the name of ICA/SPO, Mrs Françoise BOSMAN thanked the government of Catalonia and the Catalan and Spanish archivist colleagues, in particular Mrs Fina Sola I GASSET for their availability, their reception and their hospitality.

Before the beginning of work, Mrs Isabella OREFICE mentioned the absence of the President of the provisional section, Mr Abdulla EL REYES who addressed a message to the members in this direction and to propose Mr Kenth SJÖBLOM to replace him as chair for the meetings in Barcelona.

The problem of the regular absence of the president since the creation of the section was posed, as well as its possible harmful consequences on the work of the section. It was agreed, that a discussion of the present members on that issue was necessary. After a rich exchange, the members of the board charged Mr Kenth SJÖBLOM to contact Mr El Reyes in order to know about his availability and his intentions regarding the section and inform the section as well as the secretariat of the ICA.

Following that, Mrs Francoise BOSMAN noted that the governing of the secretariat was particularly constrained by failures both on the level of the presidency and of the secretariat which does not give satisfaction. The translations of French into English of proceedings of meetings of the board are not made or are very late to be made for the sake to the remaining members of the board.

According to her, such a tendency is not good for the future of the section. To her considerations, Mr Mbaye THIAM retorted that the problem of the temporary section resides not only and exclusively on personal weaknesses, but rather on the absence of a working programme structured around a vision. Indeed for him, the activities of a section could not be limited, as we do it since two meetings of the board to make report of non-coordinated individual undertakings. It is urgent to conceive a project of planned activities to submit the general assembly of the section during a CITRA or an ICA congress. This authority has to validate the program as well as the programme of the temporary board.

From discussions on these appreciations, appear different points of view. However, Mrs BOSMAN informed the board on her wish to be relieved of her task of secretary at the end of this present session. Work of the board started then with a round table of the members to present their activities and actions in favour of the development of the archives of sport since the last meeting of Turin. In this respect spoke:

Mrs Fina SOLA indicated to have received a delegation of the Organising Committee of the future Olympic Games of London 2012 (the United Kingdom) which wishes to work out contacts with ICA/SPO. She informed about the contacts she had with the IASI (International Association of Sports Information). Finally Mrs SOLA had received a request of the Uruguayan Federation of Football which requests the assistance of Barcelona and ICA/SPO for the reorganization of its archives.

Mrs Françoise BOSMAN informed the board about the current tendencies regarding the archives of sport in France. They are particularly marked by the awareness of all the components of the sport (clubs, the medicine of the sport, media, lawyers of sport etc). A vast network is being set up with increasingly convergent specialities. She mentioned that this tendency brings about the organisation of a scientific activity (conference, congress) each year about the topic of archives of sport. Acts are published which consolidate the information flow which in this domain.

Mrs Isabella OREFICE informed the office of the changes which had occurred on the level of the General Direction of the Italian archives since the sojourn of our Board in Turin. She renewed the contacts with the organizers and the partners of the last winter games in Turin (2006) as well as the members of the Italian Olympic Committee

- ☞ For the purpose she confirmed the organisation of the conference of Turin as fringe of winter games of 2007. She prepared a project of programme and started the contacts with the partners for its accomplishment.

Mrs Nora SANTARELLI proceeded to several actions among which the census of the Italian Olympic national committee boards from which information will be accessible on line at the end of the year 2006 and at the latest at the beginning of 2007; she collaborated with the European Committee for Sport History (CESH) which aims to organize a conference each year. CESH and ICA/SPO has written a joint petition for the safeguarding of sports archives, which will be sent to the European Union in Brussels. Lastly, a sensitizing operation on the archives of sport was launched.

Mr Mbaye THIAM informed ICA/SPO about the interesting prospects regarding archives of sport in Africa in general and in Senegal in particular. Indeed since the participation of the Senegalese national team to the World Cup of Football 2002 in Korea and in Japan, the bad mistakes that occurred in the management of the Senegalese participation which ends in courts of justice showed the importance of the archives. Thus, proposals were made to the Senegalese federation of Football, at the Senegalese Olympic national committee to include issues of archives in their management strategy. Positive disposals were raised in this respect. In parallel, research in archives of sport has been initiated at the School of librarians of Dakar. Two master's papers about the issues of sport archives were sustained under the supervision of Mr THIAM. Lastly, Mr THIAM wished to accommodate the next meeting of the board of the section in

Dakar (Senegal), in the framework of a seminar on archives and sport during the year 2007 or 2008. The methods and programmes will be consolidated later on.

- ☞ Mr Alexandros KRAUSS was delighted by the progress noted in various countries and drew attention to the Greek case.

- ☞ Mr Kenth SJÖBLOM made an account of the various undertaken initiatives including his participation in the European congress of history of sport in Seville in November 2005; besides he made presentations on actions and activities of ICA/SPO.

Finally Mr Kenth SJÖBLOM proposed the formalising of ICA/SPO by consolidation of statutes based on models of other sections within ICA. He also proposed a more effective strategy for producing texts to the website of ICA/SPO and other forms of information about the activities of the section.

Tuesday, 28th September 2006.

For this day, the work took place at the Maritime Museum of Barcelona. It started with a communication by Mrs Françoise BOSMAN on what she called the failure of the secretariat of ICA/SPO through the problem of the minutes, lists of contacts, a lack of knowledge of the role of the secretary, like link with the ICA, the stowing of a secretariat with two heads for the French-speaking people and English-speaking ones. She finally proposes to change secretariat by appointing a single secretary of the section. It was agreed to ask Mrs Klara LUTTI, as she returns from maternity leave, if she would be interested to take on the responsibilities. Towards the remarks of Mrs BOSMAN, Mr Mbaye THIAM reacted by saying that more than a problem with the secretariat, the section has rather the lack of a project. According to him, a section is a group of professionals who have a common theoretical or practical focus of interest. Hence they are structured around the board, which proposes a programme of scientific and professional activities and their planning. The board gives an account of its activities to the ICA board. Instead of that, for two years, we have only held meetings of the section board in Vienna, Turin and Abu Dhabi. We did not yet organize a general assembly so as only to validate a work programme or also the temporary Board office or to elect another one. All the participants agreed on the question related to the failures and the difficulties of functioning with two secretaries (for French and for English) and wished improvements in the direction of a better information flow concerning the section towards the ICA. At the end of this exchange Mrs Françoise BOSMAN announced her

resignation of the secretariat as from the end of the session of the board of Barcelona.

The second point was related to the folder/brochure for ICA/SPO. On this point, Mr SJÖBLOM reminded the board of the existence of a website for ICA/SPO on the site of the ICA, which is necessary from now on to consolidate with updating information on our various activities. For him, that is to work out an information strategy by exploiting the opportunity of the ICA website, of ICA Flash and the “email network” of ICA/SPO. He finally wished that an account of this meeting be sent quickly to Mrs Perrine CANAVAGGIO for a publication in Flash and on the ICA/SPO website. Mr THIAME and Mr KRAUSS are in charge of this task. Mr SJÖBLOM proceeded and informed of his forthcoming participation in the ISHPES (International Society for the History of Physical Education and Sport) congress in Copenhagen (Denmark) in July-August 2007; of the decision of the editorial board of COMMA to devote a special publication on the relationships between archives and sport. He recommended to maintain contact with Mrs CANAVAGGIO for the follow-up of this question. Mrs OREFICE insisted on this point that ICA/SPO be ankle worker of this initiative. It is then urgent to prepare a project in this direction with a principal topic. Mr SJÖBLOM promised himself to get in touch once again with Mrs CANAVAGGIO in the name of the section to renew the interest of the section for this special publication. Coming back to the problem of the folder of the section, Mrs BOSMAN, who was in charge of it since the meeting in Abu Dhabi, wishes to have some time to work on it. She wished to receive from each member of the board, a photo and a short text of presentation. The folder will be at least made of four (04) pages, to be drawn in 3000 specimens in the various languages of the ICA. Mr Abdullah EL REYES, president of the section, had committed himself at the moment of the CITRA of Abu Dhabi, to help in financing the publication (special issue of COMMAA) and the translation and printing of the folder/brochure.

- ❖ The board then focused on the organization of the seminar in Turin 2007, in the fringe of the winter games organized in this city. In Turin, the board had decided to charge Mrs LUTTI and the two vice chairs (SJÖBLOM and KRAUSS) to the follow-up of this question. Mrs OREFICE submitted to the board a project to be discussed. That is to collect contributions and suggestions to improve the programme, to recommend people to be contacted for communications, to explore opportunities of sponsoring of the event. She finally proposed that Mrs BOSMAN makes a communication of presentation of ICA/SPO at the time of the conference. Mr SJÖBLOM made report of discussions he had started with potential lecturers and whom he commits himself to contact again.

Friday, September 29th 2006

This session made it possible to consolidate the thoughts on the seminar in Turin. Mrs OREFICE asked the section to decide to the format of the conference by making a choice of a European or an international conference. After discussion, it was decided to organize a European conference articulated around the winter sports.

Mrs OREFICE promised to finalize the project as soon as possible by proposing dates as from October in particular. The board discussed about the call for communications, about the methods of scientific organization of the conference (round tables, organization of the plenary meetings), the implication of the various mediums of sport of which professionals of the media, academics etc. If because of logistic and financial difficulties the conference couldn't be held in May 2007, she proposes then to postpone it to October 2007. She commits herself to inform the members of the board of the evolution of the dossier and is waiting from each member, initiatives to help her to complete the budget of the conference considering the reluctance of the Italian contacts in this direction. She promises to contact again the members around October 16 to finalize the documents.

PROSPECTS

Before the end, the board made the following prospects:

- ❖ To organize a board meeting of two days in connection with the seminar in Turin 2007;
- ❖ To take the opportunity of the next CITRA of Quebec or the Congress of Kuala Lumpur to hold a general assembly of the members of ICA/SPO. This meeting will enable to account for the activities of the temporary board, to propose a work programme of the section and to conform definitively to the standards of the ICA.
- ❖ To contact Mr Abdulla EL REYES, president of the section to invite him to determine his position towards the section. Mr SJÖBLOM is in charge of this approach

ACTIVITIES

In parallel of the ordinary meeting, the board had the opportunity and especially thanks to the availability of the Catalan colleagues to visit:

- ❖ The Maritime Museum of Barcelona
- ❖ Olympic infrastructures of the town of Barcelona at Montjuic mountain,
- ❖ The deposit of the intermediate archives of the town of Barcelona, especially the material related to the organization of the Olympic Games in Barcelona in 1992
- ❖ Municipal archives of Barcelona,
- ❖ The new deposit of the National Archives of Catalonia.

The board accommodated during one of its meetings, Mrs Lluïsa BERASATEGUI I DOLCET, director of the sports library of Barcelona and secretary of the International Association for Sport Information (IASI). She presented the IASI through its objectives, its mandates and activities. She expressed the availability of the IASI to collaborate with ICA/SPO. In this respect, she invited ICA/SPO to send a member to the next congress of the IASI. The board appreciated favourably her proposals and promised to cooperate with the IASI.

Before the end of the session, the board, unanimously and positively appreciated the commitment of Mrs Fina SOLÀ for the success of this session. She was as available as devoted to the success of the meeting of Barcelona. The board addresses to her, and through her, to the authorities of the Maritime Museum of Barcelona, the municipal archives of Barcelona and the National Archives of Catalonia and the association of Catalan archivists, its thanks and gratefulness.

Finally the board benefited from the hospitality of the Catalan colleagues who invited to several lunches and dinners impressed of cordiality and of availability. A “walk” at sea on “SANTA EULALIA” was organized for the members of the board by the sea Museum of Barcelona.

It is particularly important to mention that the Catalan government entirely took charges of the expenses of accommodations for the members of the board during the three days of meeting.

