

REN 98/2

## **IFLA ROUND TABLE ON NEWSPAPERS**

### **Minutes of the meeting held at the IFLA Conference, Copenhagen, 30th August 1997**

Present: Hartmut Walravens (Chair; Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin); Geoff Smith (Secretary / Treasurer) British Library); Majken Bremer-Laamanen (Finland); Else Delaunay (Bibliothèque Nationale de France); Isabelle Rollet (Bibliothèque Nationale de France); Elena Garcia Puente Lillo (Biblioteca Nacional, Madrid); Henry Snyder (University of California, Riverside)

#### **1. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Lars Olsson, Bob Harriman, and Beti Jones.

#### **2. Minutes of Business Meeting, Washington, May 1997**

The minutes had been circulated. They were agreed as an accurate record.

#### **3. Matters arising**

At the Washington meeting it had been agreed that Hartmut Walravens would take over as Chair from Bob Harriman, and that Geoff Smith would continue as Secretary and Treasurer.

#### **4. Membership**

Else Delaunay would be retiring from the Bibliothèque Nationale de France in early 1998. Isabelle Rollet would replace her on the Round Table. The Bibliothèque Nationale de France would send a formal nomination for her membership to Geoff Smith after Else's retirement.

#### **5. Copenhagen programme**

The arrangements for the open meeting on early newspapers were in place. Papers had been received from three of the four speakers and submitted to IFLA. Henry Snyder had completed his, but had not submitted the text.

Else Delaunay outlined the arrangements for the visit to the Danish national newspapers collections at the Statsbiblioteket in Aarhus.

#### **6. Medium Term Programme**

There was detailed discussion of the draft Medium Term Programme and the action plan to accompany the goals. The final version had to be submitted to the Chair of the Division by the end of September. (A copy of the final version of the Programme is attached)

#### **7. Projects**

It was agreed to carry out a revised world-wide survey of national newspaper collections in preparation for production of directory listing of such collections. HW was also interested in developing a methodology for identification and listing of newspaper collections in individual countries.

It was agreed that it was desirable to produce French and Spanish translations of the Round Table's "Guidelines for the preservation microfilming of newspapers" and that a supplement to the Guidelines should be prepared on the best practice for microfilming of newspapers in preparation for possible future digitisation.

## 8. Future conference programmes

The 1998 open meeting in Amsterdam would be on newspapers in Central and Eastern Europe.

There would also be a workshop on newspapers on the Internet and other developments in electronic access to newspapers.

## 9. Future of Round Tables

There was concern that there appeared to be a wish by the IFLA Professional Board that in future Round Tables should either upgrade to full Section status or should become merely special interest discussion groups with a limited life span. All members were opposed to either course of action, believing the existing status and procedures for Round Tables to be appropriate. It was agreed to make this view known at the Serials Sections and Division 5 committee meetings and to lobby in the course of the conference against any change. (These committees subsequently agreed with the Round Table's views. The Serials Section and Round Table on Newspapers then wrote formally to Marjorie Bloss opposing any changes to the status of Round Tables. Marjorie promised to represent these views at the Professional Board).

*Still  
problem for  
RTs  
Working group  
sch. exp. by  
the Professional  
board.*

## 10. Finance

It was confirmed that as secretary and financial officer Geoff Smith should be the signatory for the Round Table's bank accounts.

## 11. Next business meeting

The next business meeting of the Round Table would be held in Berlin in Spring 1998 (now confirmed as 23rd and 24th April). Visits to newspaper collections, the State Library, and the Springer newspaper publishing company would be arranged.