

## **IFLA ROUND TABLE ON NEWSPAPERS**

**Minutes of the 9th Business Meeting held at the Library of Congress, Washington DC, 20th May 1997**

Present: Robert Harriman (Chairman, Library of Congress); Geoff Smith (Secretary, British Library); Majken Bremer-Laamanen (Finland); Else Delaunay (Bibliothèque Nationale de France); Beti Jones (National Library of Wales); Lars Olsson (National Library of Sweden); Henry Snyder (University of California, Riverside); Mary Jane Starr (National Library of Canada); Hartmut Walravens (Staatsbibliothek zu Berlin)

### **1. Introductions**

Bob Harriman welcomed the members of the Round Table to Washington. He outlined the programme for the day, and also for the meeting of the US Newspaper Program to which they had been invited which would take place 21st to 23rd May.

### **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies had been received from Hans Bohrmann, Wilbert Ubbens, Elena Garcia Puente, Dora Secic and Geoffrey Hamilton.

### **3. Approval of agenda**

The draft agenda was approved.

### **4. Minutes of Meetings**

a) 8th Business Meeting, Paris, May 1996

The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.

b) Ad-hoc meetings, Beijing, August 1996.

Else Delaunay had produced a note on the Round Table's meetings and workshop in Berlin. She was thanked for this.

### **5. Report on IFLA Conference, Beijing 1996**

Else Delaunay reported on Round Table's Open Meeting and Workshop in Beijing. 20 people had attended the former, 35 the latter. The paper on the newspaper collection of the National Library of China had been of particular interest and generated a number of questions. Alan Howell had given an excellent talk on digitisation at the Workshop. Both meetings were felt to have been a success. It was felt that there had been general difficulties at the Conference for the 800 Chinese delegates, most of who did not speak English.

### **6. Membership / Election of Officers**

Bob Harriman said that he wished to stand down as Chair of the Round Table when his current term of office expired in August 1997. However he hoped to be able to continue as the Library of Congress representative. IFLA guidelines recommended that where possible both main officers should not stand down at the same time. Geoff Smith confirmed that he

had been given permission to continue as Secretary for a further term, despite his change of post in 1996. Following subsequent discussion it was agreed that Hartmut Walravens would take over as Chair from August 1997.

Else Delaunay would be retiring in early 1998. Her successor as representative of the Bibliothèque Nationale de France would be Isabelle Rollet. A formal nomination should be sent by BNF to IFLA Headquarters.

It was agreed that it was desirable to try to increase the membership of the Round Table. Relevant and interested areas might include Denmark, Eastern Europe, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa.

It was noted that there had been discussion at the IFLA Professional Board about the future of round tables. It was agreed that newspapers were sufficiently important and distinctive to need the continuation of a separate grouping. The link to Serials Section was appropriate as long as this remained part of the Division of Collections and Services. It would be less so if Serials Section were to move to one of the other divisions. It was strongly preferred to remain a Round Table rather than become a section/standing committee with the increased formality and bureaucracy which that would entail. Bob Harriman would write to Marjorie Bloss to inform her of the views of the Round Table.

## **7. Medium Term Programme**

Bob Harriman tabled a draft document. An agreed version had to be submitted to Marjorie Bloss by the end of May 1997. After discussion it was agreed that the goals of the Round Table for the Medium Term Programme would be:

- a) Encourage the development and adoption of international standards in newspaper preservation, microfilming and digitisation programmes
- b) Monitor technological developments arising from and affecting newspaper production, distribution and archiving, and assess the implications for library practice
- c) Explore opportunities for cooperative approaches to the provision of newspapers in libraries and archives
- d) Evaluate existing guidelines for bibliographic control of newspapers and explore complementary and/or alternative means of intellectual access
- e) Explore opportunities for communication and exchange of information with organisations engaged in the production and preservation of newspapers

The action plan would cover the Round Table's programmes at IFLA conferences, the international survey of national newspaper collections, promulgation of the guidelines for microfilming and revision of the guidelines for newspaper cataloguing.

## **8. IFLA Conferences**

- a) **Copenhagen 1997.** There would be a meeting of the Round Table on Saturday 30th August at 3 pm. Hartmut Walravens would take over as Chair at this meeting. The joint open meeting with the Rare Books section would take place on Wednesday 3rd September. Geoff

Smith would chair the session. On the Thursday there would be a visit to the Danish national newspaper collection at Aarhus.

b) **Amsterdam 1998.** The theme of the open meeting would be newspapers in eastern Europe; possible topics would include:

- i) Newspaper holdings - collections, preservation, bibliography, access
- ii) Impact of social and political changes in eastern Europe and their effect on newspaper publishing
- iii) Cooperative microfilming projects in Baltic states

Hartmut Walravens would coordinate the programme for the open meeting. There would also be a workshop on newspapers on the Internet - Geoff Smith would coordinate this.

c) **Bangkok 1999.** If possible it was desirable to arrange a joint programme

Possible topics were: The problems of acquisition of and access to newspapers from areas where this was 'difficult'.

Collection development in Australia of newspapers from the Pacific Rim

Bob Harriman would contact Jan Lyall to find out about the proposed Conservation section programme for Bangkok. If appropriate a joint workshop would be suggested.

d) **Jerusalem 2000.** A possible theme was the research use of newspapers, including developments in methods of intellectual access to newspapers and their contents..

e) Subsequent conferences would be Boston in 2001 and Glasgow in 2002.

## 9. Projects

a) **'Guidelines for newspaper preservation microfilming'**. These had been published as IFLA Professional report no 49. Else Delaunay was thanked for her efforts in preparing them. Copies had been acquired for members of the Round Table and would be sent out by Geoff Smith. Further publicity for and promulgation of the Guidelines was necessary. It should be aimed to produce publicity fliers in the main IFLA languages; a translation of the Guidelines into Russian was also suggested.

b) **Survey of newspaper collection policies and procedures.** Geoff Smith apologised for the lack of significant progress on the survey after the initial data collection and analysis. Since his promotion to a new post in August 1996 it had been difficult for him to devote the necessary time to the project. His view was that there was a need to conduct a further round of surveys to extend the coverage to those who had not replied. In using the information to prepare a paper on bibliographic and physical access to international newspapers he had found that the information received had in many cases not been sufficiently specific (eg from what date had legal deposit of newspapers been in force in the country concerned. It was his view that it was desirable to seek further information from some of those who had replied initially with the aim of producing a listing of national newspaper collections of use to researchers and librarians. He was willing to undertake further work on this. It was agreed this would form part of the Round Table's Medium term Programme.

## **10. Round Table Newsletter**

Three issues had been produced in two years. If possible a further issue should be produced before Copenhagen to be available on the Conference stand. Copy for this should be sent to Beti Jones.

## **11. Communications / IFLANET**

The English text of the brochure on the Round Table had been put up on IFLANET. Suggestions for further material to be made available in this was included the text of the brochure in other IFLA languages, the Round Table's medium term programme and publicity material flier on the microfilming guidelines. Mary Jane Starr would coordinate this activity.

## **12. Financial report**

Geoff Smith tabled the financial statement for 1996. This was approved.

## **13. Next business meeting**

The next business meeting of the Round Table would be held in Berlin in Spring 1998 (possibly the last week of April). Visits to newspaper collections, the State Library, and the Springer newspaper publishing company were likely to be arranged.

On behalf on the National Library of Canada, Mary Jane Starr invited the Round Table to hold its business meeting in Ottawa in 1999.

## **14. Any other business**

The Round Table thanked Bob Harriman for his efforts and achievements as Chair of the group. In reply he thanked members for their support.