

THE ANGLO-CATALAN SOCIETY

Minutes of the XXII A.G.M.

Earnshaw Hall, Sheffield

September 25th, 1976

The President, Mr. R.D.F. Pring-Mill, took the chair at 3.30 p.m.

1. Minutes of the XXI A.G.M. These minutes, previously circulated, were approved.

2. Matters arising. The meeting approved, nem. con., amendment of the Constitution as proposed by the Committee to incorporate Socis Protectors under the heading of Membership (item 5 of the previous Minutes). It was agreed that the Committee should take the opportunity to review the whole Constitution and, where necessary, to propose revision in line with the Society's practice as it had developed over the years. Submissions were invited from members. The Secretary would circulate, in good time before the next A.G.M., copies of the original Constitution and of the revised version drafted by the Committee.

3. President's Report. The President reported that the Socis Protectors so far registered were pocs però bons. The Treasurer and Dr. Hauf were thanked for their diligence in this matter. Mr. Pring-Mill welcomed the visitors from the Principat attending the Conference and spoke of the encouraging opening-up of the Society's life that their presence represented. Greetings had been sent to the Association of Hispanists on their 21st Anniversary and they were thanked for the hospitality shown to the Society in their celebrations. The Secretary would communicate to Professor Brooks the Society's deepest condolence on his recent bereavement. Because of the particular circumstances, the Society's prize had not been announced in the Cartell of the Jocs Florals held in Caracas. The Society's scholarship of £150 had been awarded, against strong competition, to Imma Tubella and Eduard Vinyamata of Barcelona who had made most satisfactory use of it. The President summarized the report they had submitted on their journey through the British Isles and their contacts with minority cultural movements. They had also published a series of articles in Avui describing their journey. The Secretary would request copies of these for the Society's files in writing to compliment Tubella and Vinyamata on their fruitful project. In conclusion, the President remarked on the changing political situation in the Països Catalans: the Society would be alert to these developing circumstances and watchful of how its own role might need to be modified to best serve Catalan culture in the future.

4. Secretary's Report. The Secretary presented apologies for absence from Drs Cheyne, Hauf and Turull and Srs M. Torres Sr. and Jr. Prof. J. Trueta, unfortunately in London for hospital treatment, had sent a special message of adhesió to the Conference. Dr. Hauf had submitted a report on his efforts to contact possible Socis Protectors. The Torres family had extended an invitation to members of the Society travelling in Spain to visit their bodegues in Vilafranca.

The Officers and Committee had signed a letter supporting Prof. Comas's nomination of Salvador Espriu for the Nobel Prize for Literature. There was no news yet of the award, but the Society's intervention had been appreciated by the poet. All members had been sent a copy of the President's article published in BHS to mark the Society's 21st Anniversary. The remainder of the 250 copies ordered would be used for publicity purposes. Announcements of the Lausanne Jocs

Florals were on display at the Conference. The Society's prize was being offered and it was hoped that some members might attend the Festa. Among several enquiries received during the course of the year, the Secretary had been approached by the Editor of Vida Hispánica about the possibility of collaboration in a special number of the journal devoted to Catalan studies. The meeting expressed support for such a venture and it was agreed that those interested should assemble to discuss plans during the Conference.

5. Treasurer's Report. Dr. Walker presented the accounts which had been previously circulated. Cash in hand at 10/9/1976 was £681.89p., but considerable Conference expenses had still to be met out of this amount. The Socis Protectors registered were so far only ten, but they had contributed the pleasing sum of £330 in subscriptions/donations. Dr. Walker reported two recommendations from the Committee: that the value of the Society's prize at the Jocs Florals should be increased to £50, and that the annual subscription should be raised to £2. He further proposed that he be authorized to set up a sinking fund and to deposit annually a fixed proportion of Cash-in-hand into a special account.

The President thanked Dr. Walker for his meticulous accounts and put to the vote the two recommendations from the Committee, both being approved nem. con. After some discussion, a motion was proposed by Dr. Wheeler, seconded by Sr. Lloveras, that a sinking fund be established and that the Treasurer should propose at each A.G.M. a sum to be paid into it from that year's accounts. The motion was passed nem. con., and Dr. Walker proposed that £150 be set aside from 1975-6. This was approved by the meeting, and it was further agreed that the Committee should investigate the best form of investment for these funds.

6. Future activities. Arrangements were going ahead for the 1977 meeting, to be held in London early in the first term. The possibility of holding the 1978 conference in Birmingham was being investigated. Prof. G. Colon of Basel, President of the ALLC, had been invited as guest of honour to the 1977 meeting. The Secretary would welcome suggestions for guest speakers at future meetings.

7. Election of Officers. Mr. Pring-Mill having completed his term of office, the Committee had nominated Prof. G.W. Ribbans as his successor. This nomination was seconded by Prof. Terry, and, no other nominations having been received, Prof. Ribbans was duly elected President. He took the chair at 4.45 p.m. To applause, the new President warmly thanked Mr. Pring-Mill for all his work on behalf of the Society and affirmed his desire to continue the distinguished tradition established by his predecessors. The Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected for a further year, and Dr. Hauf's co-option was confirmed. For the two vacancies on the Committee, Dr. Wheeler and Mrs Anderson were elected, proposed and seconded by Prof. Terry and Mr. Pring-Mill, Mr. Langdon-Davies and Dr. Wheeler, respectively. The Officers for 1977-8 are therefore: President, Prof. G. Ribbans; Secretary, Dr. A. Yates; Treasurer, Dr. G. Walker; Committee, Mr. R. Pring-Mill (ex officio), Dr. A. Hauf (co-opted), Dr. R. Cardwell, Prof. P. Russell-Gebbett, Dr. M. Wheeler, Mrs Ll. Anderson.

8. Members' Business. Sr. Delgado spoke to the meeting about the Congrés de Cultura Catalana, outlining its objectives and activities, and stressing its essentially cultural mission. Prof. Tate, seconded by Mr. Pring-Mill, proposed that the Committee should contact the Congrés to express the Society's support and to investigate the possibility of closer ties between the two organizations.

It was agreed, at Dr. Sala's suggestion, that the Committee should explore the possibility of inviting a Castilian-speaking scholar to address the Society on an aspect of Catalan culture or on the 'Catalan Question'.

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 5.00 p.m.