

THE ANGLO-CATALAN SOCIETY

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Anglo-Catalan Society held on Saturday, 28 September, 1957, in the Majorca Restaurant, Brewer St., London W.1., at the conclusion of the Annual Luncheon.

The President, Professor Frank Pierce, was in the chair; in addition, there were present eighteen members and five guests. Apologies for absence were received from Miss D.J. Collier, Professor E.M. Wilson, and Messrs. J.C.J. Metford, J.M. Ordeig and P. Russell-Gebbett.

The cessation of the BBC Catalan transmissions. The President reported on the position concerning broadcasts in Catalan. Economy being the chief motive behind the BBC's regrettable decision (broadcasts in Portuguese have also been abolished since), there was very little the Society could do beyond making known its opinion at all suitable opportunities: for example, a letter by the President had been published on this subject by the Manchester Guardian. It was felt, moreover, that an atmosphere of greater sympathy was clearly detectable in informed circles. It was suggested by Dr. Batista i Roca that some compensation would be derived by the inclusion of Catalan items in the Third Programme and in programmes directed to Spain: the secretary was to see what could be done in this direction.

Scholarships. The Treasurer reported that a special fund had been opened to assist students from Catalonia to visit this country for the purpose of attending summer courses at English universities. The fund totalled £20.3s.0d., but it was hoped that further donations would be forthcoming and that a sum of £30 would be available to be divided between three young students. The mechanism of selection was then discussed and it was decided to write to Dr. Aramon i Serra, General Secretary of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans at Barcelona, for advice and co-operation.

The Secretary's Report was then read. The meeting was informed that the Report of the Sheffield Conference, March 1957, together with summaries of the papers read there, had been circulated to all members, to all Heads of Departments of Spanish in the United Kingdom, and to a large number of interested persons and institutions (making a total of 130 copies). At the Committee Meeting which took place during the conference, the Secretary was instructed to write a letter to Mr. C.H. Webb, then The Times' correspondent in Barcelona, expressing appreciation for the fullness and objectivity of his despatches; Mr. Webb's reply was read to the meeting. Other business discussed at the Sheffield Committee Meeting required no special comments from the Secretary. The Secretary then warmly thanked Mr. Alcoverro for his invaluable help in the work of duplicating and sending out Reports and Circulars during the year. Finally, the report on the state of membership of the Society showed that there was a total of 56 members, plus one honorary member, an increase of 9 over last year's figure; a substantial number of members, however, had yet to pay their subscriptions for the current year.

The Treasurer's Report. The Society's income from 47 subscriptions amounted to £23.10s.0d. This sum, together with a balance of £16.19s.2d. from the preceding year, a sum of £7.16s.0d. collected as donations for the Premi Anglo-Catalan Society and an estimated interest of 10s. from the Society's Post Office account, gave a total of £48.15s.2d. Expenses totalled £22.18s.0d. and were distributed as follows: Premi Anglo-Catalan Society for the Jocs Florals, Mexico 1957, £10.10s.0d.; assistance to Sr. and Sra. Riba on their visit to Great Britain, £3.15s.0d.; expenses incurred during the Sheffield Conference, £4.9s.7d.; stationery and postal expenses, £4.3s.5d. The balance for the year 1956-57 was, therefore, £25.17s.2d. Both reports were adopted.

Honorary memberships. The Meeting then resolved to invite Mr. Robert Gerhard, the distinguished Catalan composer, and Mr. O. Bonafont, proprietor of the Majorca Restaurant, to become honorary members of the Society.

The Fourth Conference. It was resolved that the Society's Fourth Conference should be held in Belfast on Friday and Saturday, 28-9 March, 1958.

Date of the Annual Luncheon. It was resolved that precedent was to be followed in the fixing of this date and that the Luncheon should be held on Saturday, 27 September, 1958.

Election of Officers. The Meeting then proceeded to the election of Officers. On the resignation of the Committee, Professor A. Sloman, seconded by Professor I. González-Llubera, proposed that Professor Frank Pierce be re-elected President of the Society: the proposal was carried nom. con. The rest of the Committee was then re-elected unanimately on a proposal by Dr. R.B. Tate, seconded by Mr. A. Solé-Leris.

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned.