

THE ANGLLO-CATALAN SOCIETY

Minutes of the XXIV AGM
University House, Birmingham

September 23rd, 1978

The meeting, which was held in warm sunshine in the garden of University House, was opened by the President, Professor D.W. Lomax at 3.00 pm. Members requested the Secretary to place on record that this was the Society's first al fresco Annual General Meeting.

The meeting unanimously approved the proposal by Professor Pierce, seconded by Dr. Cheyne, that a letter of condolence should be sent in the Society's name to the sister of Dr. Batista i Roca, informing his family that a minute's silence had been observed in his memory and that a moving obituary speech had been made by Sr. Gili at the XXIV Annual Lunch. Copies of the obituary notice which had appeared in The Times were distributed at the meeting.

The meeting then proceeded to deal with the published Agenda.

1. Apologies for Absence. Apologies had been received from Mrs. Llubera, Srs. Ribas, Torres and Duran (Socis Protectoras), Professors Keightley and Pacheco, Mrs. Grant, Dr. Ettinghansen, Mrs. Anderson, Mr. Pring-Mill, Mr. Martin.

Professor Ribbans, who on his move to Brown University, U.S.A. had resigned as President, had sent a telegram of greetings and best wishes.

The Secretary had received a letter from Prof. J. Roca-Pons, President of the North American Catalan Society, expressing fraternal greetings. Dr. F. de Borja Moll, who had unfortunately been unable to accept the Society's invitation to attend as Guest of Honour, had sent cordial greetings and a request for membership.

2. Minutes of the XXIII AGM. These minutes, previously circulated, were approved and signed.

3. President's Report. Professor Lomax explained how, on the resignation of Professor Ribbans, he had accepted the Committee's invitation to serve as Acting President until the elections at the XXIV AGM. He expressed a special welcome to the Society's guests, Prof. and Mrs. Carbonell from Barcelona. The Secretary's Report would cover the Society's business transacted during his brief period of office.

4. Secretary's Report. Dr. Yates reported on the business of a Committee Meeting held at Liverpool University in June 1978. The main items had been: election of Prof. Lomax as Acting President; using a grant of approx. £300 from Omnium Cultural towards a publication of Catalan studies to be linked with the name of Dr. Batista. A sub-committee had been set up to pursue this matter, composed of Prof. Lomax, Drs. Walker and Yates, Mr. Barrass and Sr. Gili (who had kindly agreed to co-opt), and, as a result of a further meeting on 22nd September, the project was going ahead under the coordination of Mr. Barrass.

The Secretary thanked Prof. Lomax for his help in organizing the Conference. The Society was also grateful to the staff of University House for their hospitality and to the Birmingham Arts Faculty for offering a Sherry Reception.

Dr. Yates read the text of a letter of salutation which had been sent to the Generalitat, in accordance with the resolution of the XXIII AGM, and the reply which had been received from President Tarradellas.

The Society's Scholarship of £150 had been awarded to M. Berga i Bagué (Girona) to assist his research on British writers and the Spanish Civil War. Sr. Berga will be studying in England and has undertaken to report to the Society on his progress.

The Society's Prize had not been offered in the 1978 Jocs Florals, but Professor Ribbans had been a Mantenidor. The prize would presumably figure in future cartells.

Correspondence had been conducted in the course of the year with the Associazione Italiana di Studi Catalani and the North-American Catalan Society, both now formally instituted. A telegram of greetings had been sent to the 1^{er} Col.loqui d'Estudis Catalans a Nord-Amèrica, and Prof. Pacheco had formally represented the Society at this meeting. Contact had been maintained with the Institut de Projecció Exterior de la Cultura Catalana, with the Quatre Barres group in Sweden and with the organizers of the Setmanes Catalanes a Berlín.

A notice about Project Catalonia had been received from Prof. Llauradó and had been circulated to members. Contributions and suggestions could be made directly to Prof. Llauradó or channelled through the Committee.

5. Treasurer's Report. Dr. Walker presented the accounts for 1977-8 which he had previously circulated. Cash in hand at 12/9/78 was £1299.28, but in view of the Society's "expenditure cycle" and pending disbursements (Conference, Scholarship) it would be prudent to see this sum as representing a real financial base of around £700. There was some concern about the loss of Socis Protectors.

In reply to a question from Sr. Gili about establishing a "sinking fund" (discussed at previous AGMs), Dr. Walker said that while the Society's budget had not grown as expected there could still be justification for setting up such a fund, and he asked for members' comments. Mr. Langdon-Davies advised that a suitable sum be deposited with a large Building Society, possibly one which offered cheque facilities. After some discussion it was proposed by Sr. Gili and seconded by Prof. Pierce that £500 be deposited with the Nationwide Building Society: this was approved nem. con.

The Treasurer was thanked by the President for scrupulous book-keeping and clear presentation of the Society's accounts.

6. Election of Officers. The Committee's nomination of Sr. J. Gili to succeed Dr. Batista i Roca as President d'Honor was passed by acclaim.

The meeting also approved by acclaim the Committee's nomination for President, Professor P.S.N. Russell-Gebbett. There had been no alternative nominations.

Taking the Chair, Prof. Russell-Gebbett thanked his predecessors, Profs. Ribbons and Lomax, for their services to the Society and expressed his desire to continue their good work.

The Secretary and Treasurer were unanimously re-elected for a further year. Mr. Langdon-Davies proposed and Dr. Cheyne seconded that Mr. Martin, co-opted to the Committee in 1977, be elected for a regular 3-year period. The officers for 1978-79 are therefore: President, Prof. P.S.N. Russell-Gebbett; Secretary, Dr. A. Yates; Treasurer, Dr. G.T. Walker; Committee, Prof. D.W. Lomax (ex officio), Dr. M. Wheeler, Mr. M. Martin, Mr. D. Barrass, Mrs. L. Anderson.

7. Future Activities. Mr. Barrass reported on the planned volume of Catalan studies, the aim being to produce a kind of sister volume to Spain: A Companion.., slanted as an introduction to Catalan history and culture for an English-speaking public, with contributions written as far as possible by members of the Society. The proposed schedule was to interest a publisher (several companies had been suggested) and to have things in motion before the end of 1978. It was reported that Dr. Batista knew before his death of the Society's plan to produce an homenatge.

The Secretary agreed to approach OUP with an inquiry about whether a new (up-dated?) edition of Dr. Trueta's The Spirit of Catalonia could be undertaken.

Plans were proceeding to hold the 1979 Conference in London, possibly at the Institute of Education (to be followed in 1980 with a meeting in Cambridge). The venue for for the XXV Annual Lunch could be one of the hotels in the vicinity of the Institute.

8. Members' Business. The Secretary would write to Sr. M. Martí i Pol to thank him for allowing some of his unpublished work to be read at the Conference in connection with Dr. Turull's paper. Dr. Walker reported that he had been approached by Mrs. Pallejà asking for advice and help with the English-Catalan Dictionary material prepared by her late husband. The Committee had been unable to offer any official help on behalf of the Society, but individual members willing to be involved could see Dr. Walker.

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 4.25 pm.