

THE ANGLO-CATALAN SOCIETY

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE ANGLO-CATALAN SOCIETY HELD ON SATURDAY, 29TH SEPTEMBER, 1956, IN THE MAJORCA RESTAURANT, BREWER STREET, LONDON W.1., AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE ANNUAL LUNCHEON.

SOME 20 MEMBERS WERE PRESENT AND A NUMBER OF GUESTS: A CONSIDERABLE INCREASE ON THE NUMBERS FOR PREVIOUS YEARS. THE PRESIDENT, PROFESSOR FRANK PIERCE, WAS IN THE CHAIR FOR THE FIRST PART OF THE MEETING, MRS. HELEN GRANT FOR THE DISCUSSION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS.

AN APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE WAS RECEIVED FROM PROFESSOR J. B. TREND.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS. THE MEETING NOTED THAT DR. CARLES RIBA EXPECTED TO BE IN ENGLAND BEFORE CHRISTMAS, ACCOMPANIED BY HIS WIFE. IT WAS RESOLVED THAT THE SOCIETY SHOULD AT ONCE INVITE HIM FORMALLY TO THIS COUNTRY AND ATTEMPT TO ARRANGE A COMPREHENSIVE LECTURE TOUR FOR HIM; TO THIS END, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE BRITISH COUNCIL AND THE HISPANIC COUNCIL SHOULD BE APPROACHED, AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF UNIVERSITIES. THE UNIVERSITIES OF OXFORD AND LIVERPOOL HAD ALREADY EXPRESSED THE DESIRE THAT DR. RIBA SHOULD LECTURE THERE, AND THOSE OF BIRMINGHAM, MANCHESTER AND NOTTINGHAM HAD ALSO EXPRESSED INTEREST. IT WAS PRESUMED THAT DR. RIBA WOULD BE LECTURING EITHER IN FRENCH OR IN SPANISH ON MODERN CATALAN VERSE. IT WAS SUGGESTED THAT DR. RIBA MIGHT ALSO LIKE TO TALK ON HIS TRANSLATION OF THE ODYSSEY OR TO COMMENT UPON HIS OWN VERSE.

RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA. SR. MANYÉ REPORTED TO THE MEETING THAT HE HAD MET THE EDITORS OF LA REVISTA (MÉXICO) AND THAT THEY HAD EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS TO PRINT ANY INFORMATION THE SOCIETY MIGHT WISH TO SEND TO THE REVIEW.

THE SECRETARY'S REPORT WAS THEN READ. A REPORT OF THE CAMBRIDGE CONFERENCE, MAY 1956, TOGETHER WITH SUMMARIES OF THE PAPERS READ THERE, WAS SENT TO ALL MEMBERS, TO ALL HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS OF SPANISH AND TO INTERESTED PERSONS BOTH AT HOME AND ABROAD. THE MEETING WAS INFORMED OF THE POINTS RAISED AND RESOLUTIONS MADE DURING THE COMMITTEE-MEETING HELD IN CAMBRIDGE AND OF THE COMMITTEE'S WORK CONCERNING (A) THE WELCOMING OF DISTINGUISHED VISITORS FROM CATALONIA; (B) THE FOUNDING OF SCHOLARSHIPS IN CATALONIA AND IN GREAT BRITAIN; (C) AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE REASONS FOR THE CESSATION OF THE BBC'S CATALAN-LANGUAGE PROGRAMMES; AND (D) PLANS FOR HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE PENINSULA WISHING TO SPEND A PERIOD OF TIME IN THIS COUNTRY WITH ADVICE ABOUT LODGING, ETC. THE MEETING WAS FURTHER INFORMED THAT THE PREMI ANGLLO-CATALAN SOCIETY, INSTITUTED BY THE SOCIETY FOR THE CAMBRIDGE JOCOS FLORALS WAS WON BY JOSEP CARNER RIBALTA FOR A VERY FINE TRANSLATION OF THE BALLAD OF READING JAIL. FINALLY, IT WAS REPORTED THAT MEMBERSHIP OF THE SOCIETY HAD RISEN FROM 34 TO 47 PAYING MEMBERS (INCLUDING TWO STUDENT-MEMBERS) AND THAT DR. F. BRITAIN OF JESUS COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE, AND SRTA ROSA LEVERONI OF BARCELONA HAD BEEN INVITED TO BECOME HONORARY MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT. THE SOCIETY'S INCOME FROM 47 SUBSCRIPTIONS (INCLUDING TWO AT 5) AMOUNTED TO £23. THIS, TOGETHER WITH A BALANCE OF £8.9.3D. FROM THE PRECEDING YEAR AND A SUM OF £6.9s.3D. COLLECTED IN THE FORM OF DONATIONS FOR THE PREMI ANGLLO-CATALAN SOCIETY, GAVE A TOTAL OF £37.18s.6D. EXPENSES TOTALLED £20.19s.4D.: £10.10s.0D FOR THE PREMI ANGLLO-CATALAN SOCIETY, £8.5s.6D. FOR STATIONERY AND SECRETARIAL EXPENSES, £2.0s.0D. FOR EXPENSES INCURRED DURING THE CAMBRIDGE CONFERENCE AND 3s10D. FOR PAMPHLETS FROM THE BRITISH VIGILANCE SOCIETY. THE BALANCE FOR THE YEAR 1955-56, THEREFORE, WAS £16.19s.2D. THE REPORTS WERE ACCEPTED.

THE THIRD CONFERENCE. IT WAS RESOLVED THAT THE THIRD CONFERENCE SHOULD BE HELD IN SHEFFIELD FROM TEA-TIME ON FRIDAY, MARCH 29TH, 1957, TO THE MORNING OF MONDAY, APRIL 1ST. IT WAS AGREED THAT ONCE AGAIN A PUBLIC LECTURE SHOULD BE ARRANGED AND TO THIS END THE COMMITTEE WAS INSTRUCTED TO APPROACH MR. B. BEVAN, PROFESSOR N. PEVSNER AND PROFESSOR CHRISTOPHER HAWKES. IT WAS SUGGESTED BY DR. BATISTA THAT, FOR THE THIRD CONFERENCE AND ATTEMPT MIGHT BE MADE TO ESTABLISH A CLOSER CONTACT WITH CATALONIA BY REQUESTING PAPERS FROM MEMBERS OF THE INSTITUT D'ESTUDIS CATALANS, FROM MONTSERRAT AND FROM CATALAN TEACHERS IN UNIVERSITIES ON THE CONTINENT. IT WAS RESOLVED THAT THE COMMITTEE SHOULD APPROACH SR. RAMÓN ARAMÓN I SERRA, P. BATLLORI S.J. AND SGRÍ BERTINI AND CONTINI. THE MEETING EXPRESSED THE FEELING THAT PAPERS SHOULD BE SHORT AND THAT NOT MORE THAN TWO SHOULD BE ACCEPTED FROM ABROAD.

SCHOLARSHIPS. MRS. GRANT REPORTED TO THE MEETING THAT CANNING HOUSE WERE UNABLE OR UNWILLING TO ASSIST THE SOCIETY IN THE FOUNDING OF A SCHOLARSHIP, TENABLE IN THIS COUNTRY, FOR A CATALAN STUDENT. SR. ALCOVERRO AND MRS. GRANT VOLUNTEERED TO PREPARE A LIST OF BUSINESS-HOUSES THAT MIGHT BE WILLING TO ASSIST AND TO APPROACH THEM DIRECTLY. DR. BATISTA VOLUNTEERED TO REPORT UPON THE POSSIBILITY OF THE SOCIETY'S AIDING A CATALAN STUDENT TO ATTEND AN INTERNATIONAL SUMMER SCHOOL AT OXFORD OR CAMBRIDGE. THE FEELING OF THE MEETING, HOWEVER, WAS THAT THE PREMI ANGLO-CATALAN SOCIETY SHOULD BE PERPETUATED AND THAT THE SOCIETY WAS NOT, AT THE MOMENT, WEALTHY ENOUGH TO OFFER EFFECTIVE HELP TO CATALAN STUDENTS WISHING TO ATTEND A SUMMER SCHOOL IN THIS COUNTRY. IT WAS FELT THAT THE SOCIETY'S ATTENTION SHOULD, AFTER THE PREMI, BE DIRECTED TO THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SCHOLARSHIP WITH THE HELP OF BUSINESS-HOUSES HAVING CONTACTS WITH CATALONIA.

THE CESSATION OF THE BBC CATALAN TRANSMISSIONS. THE CORRESPONDENCE BETWEEN THE COMMITTEE AND H. M. SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS WAS CIRCULATED AT THE MEETING AND THE SOCIETY'S FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION DISCUSSED. IT WAS RESOLVED THAT THE SOCIETY SHOULD URGE H. M. SECRETARY OF STATE TO GRANT AN INTERVIEW TO THREE NON-CATALAN PROFESSORS OF SPANISH, AND THEREAFTER SEEK TO HAVE THE MATTER RAISED IN THE HOUSE.

DATE OF ANNUAL LUNCHEON. THE SECRETARY REPORTED THAT, IF PRECEDENT WERE FOLLOWED, THE DATE OF THE 1957 ANNUAL LUNCHEON WOULD BE SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 28TH. IT WAS RESOLVED THAT THE LUNCHEON SHOULD BE HELD ON THAT DATE.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS. TWO RESIGNATIONS, THAT OF THE HON. SECRETARY AND THAT OF SR. COMET, WERE ACCEPTED. FOR THE POST OF SECRETARY, DR. J. CREMONA (CAMBRIDGE) WAS PROPOSED BY PROFESSOR FRANK PIERCE AND THE PROPOSAL WAS SECONDED BY PROFESSOR I.G. LLUBERA; DR. CREMONA WAS ELECTED NEM. CON. IT WAS THEN DECIDED TO APPOINT TWO MORE COMMITTEE-MEMBERS: SR. G.M. ALCOVERRO (LONDON) AND MR. P. RUSSELL-GEBBETT (NOTTINGHAM), THE RETIRING SECRETARY, WERE ELECTED UNANIMOUSLY.

OTHER BUSINESS. DR. BATISTA REPORTED UPON FRANCO-CATALAN CULTURAL RELATIONS AND THE FOUNDING OF THE AMITIÉS FRANCO-CATALANES, AND SUGGESTED THAT THE SOCIETY MIGHT CONSIDER ARRANGING, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FRENCH ORGANIZATION, A COURSE ON CATALAN STUDIES IN SOUTHERN FRANCE. DR. BATISTA FURTHER INFORMED THE MEETING THAT THE JOCS FLORALS OF 1957 WOULD PROBABLY BE HELD AT THE SORBONNE IN MAY. ENCOURAGING NEWS OF A GROWING INTEREST IN CATALAN WITHIN THE PENINSULA WAS GIVEN TO THE SOCIETY AND DR. BATISTA VOLUNTEERED TO SEND DETAILED INFORMATION TO THE SECRETARY FOR CIRCULATION AMONG MEMBERS.

MRS. GRANT SUGGESTED THAT EACH MEMBER OF THE SOCIETY SHOULD WRITE TO THE BBC A LETTER OF APPRECIATION OF THE CATALAN VERSE PROGRAMME, EXPRESSING THE HOPE THAT MORE SUCH PROGRAMMES WOULD BE FORTHCOMING.

IT WAS DECIDED THAT A SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE

SOCIETY (SRS. ALCOVERRO, ORDEIG AND VERGÉS) SHOULD ASCERTAIN THE DATE OF ARRIVAL IN THIS COUNTRY OF THE PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA, SR. FIGUERES, AND CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF ARRANGING AN ACTE D'HOMENATGE TO HIM.

DETAILS OF THE INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION (BARCELONA, APRIL, 1957) WERE GIVEN TO THE SOCIETY AND MEMBERS INTERESTED WERE ASKED TO CONTACT MRS. HUMBLE DIRECT.

FINALLY, IT WAS REQUESTED THAT ANY SUGGESTIONS FOR INCREASING THE SOCIETY'S MEMBERSHIP SHOULD BE SENT TO THE SECRETARY, DR. J. CREMONA, ST. CATHARINE'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE; THOSE NOTED AT THE MEETING WERE THE INSERTION OF ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE PERSONAL COLUMNS OF THE TIMES, THE NEW STATESMEN AND NATION AND THE SPECTATOR, AND THE WRITING OF ARTICLES FOR THE DAILY NEWSPAPERS.

THE
ANGLO-CATALAN
SOCIETY

SECRETARY'S CIRCULAR.

JANUARY 1957.

THE THIRD CONFERENCE. AS RESOLVED AT THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF THE SOCIETY WILL BE HELD IN SHEFFIELD DURING THE WEEK-END FRIDAY 29TH MARCH - MONDAY 1ST APRIL. ACCOMODATION HAS ALREADY BEEN BOOKED FOR THE SOCIETY IN CREWE HALL, ONE OF THE HALLS OF RESIDENCE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD. FURTHER DETAILS WILL BE CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS AT A LATER DATE. MEMBERS INTENDING TO READ PAPERS AT THE CONFERENCE ARE INVITED TO SUBMIT TITLES AND ABSTRACTS TO ME FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE COMMITTEE.

DR. RIBA'S VISIT. DR. CARLES RIBA AND SRA. RIBA ARRIVED IN THIS COUNTRY TOWARDS THE END OF NOVEMBER AND, BETWEEN 25TH NOVEMBER AND 10TH DECEMBER VISITED THE FOLLOWING UNIVERSITIES: - CAMBRIDGE, NOTTINGHAM, SHEFFIELD, OXFORD, BIRMINGHAM, LIVERPOOL, LEEDS, DURHAM (NEWCASTLE) AND BELFAST. THE COMMITTEE DECIDED THAT THE SOCIETY'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE VISIT SHOULD TAKE THE FORM OF TWO FIRST-CLASS RAIL FARES FROM LONDON TO SHEFFIELD. THE SUM INVOLVED IS £3.15.0d.

BBC CATALAN TRANSMISSIONS. THE PRESIDENT'S DISCUSSION OF THE MATTER SINCE THE ANNUAL LUNCHEON LEAD HIM TO BELIEVE THAT LITTLE SUPPORT FROM NON-CATALAN PROFESSORS OF SPANISH WOULD BE FORTHCOMING FOR THE PROPOSED INTERVIEW AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE. IT IS ALSO FELT THAT, IN VIEW OF THE PRESENT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION, NO APPROACH SHOULD BE MADE TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE AND/OR A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT UNTIL AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE NEW YEAR.

PUBLIC LECTURE AT THE THIRD CONFERENCE. AN INVITATION TO DR. N. PEVSNER TO TALK ON ANTONI GAUDI WAS REGRETFULLY DECLINED BY DR. PEVSNER OWING TO HIS PROPOSED ABSENCE FROM THIS COUNTRY ON THE DATES CONCERNED. MR. B. BEVAN HAS NOW BEEN APPROACHED, BUT HIS ANSWER IS NOT YET KNOWN.

PREMI ANGLO-CATALAN SOCIETY. IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DECISION TAKEN AT THE LAST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING TO CONTINUE THE AWARD OF AN ANGLO-CATALAN SOCIETY PRIZE AT THE Jocs Florals, MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO SEND REMITTANCES TO THE HON. TREASURER, MR. G.W. RIBBANS, DEPT. OF SPANISH, THE UNIVERSITY, SHEFFIELD 10.

SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THE CURRENT YEAR. THE HON. TREASURER ASKS ME TO REMIND THOSE MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT YET PAID THEIR SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1956-57 THAT THEIR REMITTANCES ARE NOW DUE (10s. P.A.) (STUDENT-MEMBERS 5s.). THESE SHOULD BE SENT TO THE HON. TREASURER MR. G. W. RIBBANS, DEPT. OF SPANISH, THE UNIVERSITY, SHEFFIELD 10.

J. CREMONA,
ST. CATHARINE'S COLLEGE,
CAMBRIDGE.