

THE ANGLO-CATALAN SOCIETY

Minutes of the XXVI Annual General Meeting, held in Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge:
27th September, 1980.

The President, Professor P.S.N. Russell-Gebbett, opened the meeting at 3.15 p.m.

- 1 Apologies for Absence. Formal apologies had been received from Srs. F. Cabana, J.M. Lloveras and F. Ribas (Socis Protectors), Professors Tate, Terry, Lomax and Ribbans, Mrs. H. Grant, Mr. and Mrs. Pring-Mill, Sr. E. Delgado, Drs. George and Hauf, Dr. K. Schottlander, Sr. J. Vilanova. A communication from I P E C C was read by the Secretary.
- 2 Minutes of the XXV A G M. These minutes, previously circulated, were approved and signed, after correction of the initials of I P E C C in minute 5, para. 2.
- 3 Matters Arising. Sr. Gili enquired whether the Society's material was sent to the Conselleria de Cultura of the Generalitat. The Secretary replied that Sr. Max Cahner received it, as an individual member, but that in future papers, etc., would be sent separately to the Conselleria.
- 4 President's Report. Professor Russell-Gebbett stated that he had no business which was not covered in the Secretary's Report.
- 5 Secretary's Report. Dr. Yates enumerated the bodies with which correspondence had been conducted in the course of the year, with a summary of the business concerned: A I L L C (The 1982 Rome Col.loqui and the new Butlletí); The Americo-Catalan Society and the Associazione Italiana di Studi Catalani (meetings and other activities); the Quatre Barres group in Stockholm; the B B C (collaboration in programme on Joan Miró); Committee of the Premi Batista i Roca; I P E C C; Institut del Cinema Català; Yr Academi Gymreig (National Society for Writers in Wales, holding conference on Catalan literature in 1982); Instituto de España en Londres (Visiting lecturers; Catalan classes in London; support for A-C S publications); the editors of Polyglot (a special number to be devoted to Catalan: Dr. M. Wheeler has agreed to coordinate arrangements). Reports had been received from Sr. J. Valls, previous holder of the Society's scholarship, and Dr. P. Waley concerning publication of her translation of Curial i Güelfa.

The Secretary acknowledged gifts of books from Sr. J. Grove, Lluís Gassó i Carbonell, J. Ferràndiz. Sr. Duran was thanked for the posters now adorning Fitzwilliam.

Dr. Yates announced that the first title in the Society's Occasional Publications series would appear in November. The launching price was £2 (incl. post) and members were asked to collaborate in publicising the volume.

A Committee meeting had been held in Cambridge in January, the main business being arrangements for the present conference and the Society's publications.

The Society's scholarship had been offered for 1979-80 and given the usual publicity, but there were no applicants. Nor had there been any communication from the organizers of the Jocs Florals.

Dr. Yates announced finally that, under agenda 7, he would be presenting his resignation, after nine years in office. The meeting approved a vote of thanks proposed by Professor Pierce and seconded by Dr. Cardwell.

- 6 Treasurer's Report. In presenting the accounts for 1979-80 Dr. Walker remarked that membership remained stable. At 24.9.80. there was cash-in-hand of £918.87 and the Sinking Fund stood at £985.24. This apparently healthy position would enable current commitments to be met without recourse to the Sinking Fund and a small surplus might be transferred there in the course of the year. It was agreed that the Society's gratitude to the Instituto de España for support to the publica-

tions operation, should be formally minuted. Dr. Walker was thanked by the President for his meticulous presentation of the accounts.

7 Elections. At the proposal of Professor Pierce, seconded by Dr. Cheyne, the Treasurer was elected to serve for a further year. Dr. Max Wheeler was nominated for Secretary by Dr. Cheyne, seconded by Professor Pierce. He was duly elected, in the absence of other nominations. There was one vacancy on the Committee for which Dr. Ettinghausen was nominated by Dr. Yates and seconded by Dr. Sala. The Officers for 1980-81 are thus: President, Professor Russell-Gebbett; Secretary, Dr. M. Wheeler; Treasurer, Dr. G. Walker; Committee: Professor Lomax (ex officio), Sr. Martin, Professor Pierce, Dr. Giner, Dr. Ettinghausen.

8 Publications. The Secretary and Treasurer answered questions of detail emerging from the Secretary's report on ACSOP No.1. Negotiations are proceeding with the Dolphin Book Co. concerning distribution; Professor Roca-Pons had generously agreed, on behalf of the Americo-Catalan Society, to coordinate sales efforts in the U S A, and A I L L C would also be asked to publicise the project. Plans for a second title were in hand (Dr. Yates repeated the request for suggestions) and Dr. Walker explained that the series should be "self-financing" once break-even position was achieved from sales of No.1.

Mr. Barrass reported on the long-term plan for a homage volume to the memory of Dr. Batista. Methuen had eventually turned down the scheme, on grounds of commercial viability, and a decision was now awaited from Benn. In view of A C S O P and other developments, the original scheme of contents might have to be revised. Dr. Yates informed the meeting that the Editorial Committee had decided to dedicate the A C S O P collection to the memory of Dr. Batista, but that this would not prejudice further commemoration as planned.

9 Future Activities. Dr. Walker reported that the Instituto de España had offered facilities for the 1981 London meeting and that negotiations were also in train with the French Institute and the Andorran Delegation in London. The Committee was authorized to make the most appropriate arrangements with all the bodies concerned. At Dr. Giner's suggestion, it was also agreed that the Centre Pluridisciplinari d'Estudis Catalans of Perpinyà should be notified and asked to help in discussions with the French. It was agreed that the traditional Annual Lunch could be replaced by a Dinner if this would facilitate things. Dr. Yates reported a request from Professors Lomax and Tate that a clash with the Medieval Historians' conference should be avoided in future.

The possibility of making Nottingham the 1982 venue, suggested by Dr. Cardwell with an offer of help, will be pursued by the Committee.

10 Scholarship and Prizes. It was agreed that the Committee should examine the possibility of raising the amount of the Scholarship to £250 and the JF Prize to £100. They would also explore ways of making both more widely known and/or more attractive. Mr. Barrass proposed that liaison be established with grant-giving bodies in Catalonia, with a view to combining resources, and this line will be pursued.

11 Members' Business. Miss Bordas thought that the Society's activities should be advertised in the national press and she also sought leave to announce a petition for the Catalan television campaign. Dr. Walker commented on previous experience and drawbacks of the former idea - which will nonetheless be borne in mind by the Committee - and the President suggested that interested individuals might see Miss Bordas about signing and circulating the petition as a private matter. Dr. Turull proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. and Mrs. Walker for their efforts in the organization and smooth running of the Conference: this was passed by acclaim. At his suggestion it was agreed that the Secretary would write to Pere Quart, formally thanking him for the Society's privileged "preview" of his forthcoming book which was the subject of Dr. Turull's paper. The Secretary would also write to thank the Institut del Cinema Català for the loan of films and enquire about the availability of similar material in a more transportable form.

At Dr. Sala's suggestion, it was agreed that an up-dated version of the Society's address-list would be made by the retiring Secretary and circulated to all members.

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 4.40 pm.