

THE ANGLO-CATALAN SOCIETY

Minutes of the XVIII Annual General Meeting
Held in the Gallery, Westfield College, London, on 11th November 1972

The President, Sr. Joan Gili, took the Chair at 3.30 p.m.

1. Minutes of the XVII AGM

The date of the III International Colloquium in minute 2(c) was corrected to 1973, and with this amendment the minutes were approved. Sr. Sala objected to the wording of minute 7(b); his objection was noted but it was agreed that no amendment should be made.

2. Matters arising

Srs. Vilanova and Alcoverro raised the question of lessons in the Catalan language about which enquiries continue to be received. It was agreed that any suitable names should be forwarded to Sr. Alcoverro.

3. President's report

Sr. Gili reported that the Society's prize at the Jocs Florals was won in 1971 by E. Feliu i Marbrés and in 1972 by J. Palau i Camps.

The President also reported that the Society's Scholarship for 1971 was awarded to Srta. M.A. Sardà who had presented a satisfactory account of her use of the award. Sr. Gili then presented to the meeting a revised draft of the terms of the Scholarship. Some modifications were approved, and it was agreed that the Secretary should have copies made and distributed to appropriate centres and journals in the Catalan-speaking countries.

4. Secretary's report

The Secretary reported on the Appeal held in January 1972 for funds in connection with the International Colloquium, the result of which would be announced by the Treasurer.

The Secretary referred to the project to publish the full list of titles of papers read to the Society, to be distributed to members and to people attending the International Colloquium in Cambridge. The incompleteness of the Society's records made it impossible to publish abstracts of papers or details of subsequent publication. It was agreed, however, that the Secretary should follow up Mr. Pring-Mill's suggestion to publish addresses of contributors in an appendix. The cost of printing should be met by funds of the Colloquium. In the event of a deficit the Society could contribute to the cost.

Dr. Yates finally reported that the Society's broadsheet had been brought up to date and that copies were available to members who could use it for replying to enquiries about the Society.

5. Treasurer's report

Dr. Russell-Gebbett informed the meeting that the result of the Appeal for the AILLC Colloquium was £99.75, a sum which he considered could be made up to £100 without doing too much violence to the Society's accounts. In view of this result (a goal of £100 having been set) it was agreed that the envisaged second stage of the Appeal would not be necessary.

In presenting the accounts for 1971-72 and reporting a balance of £112.25 on 11th November 1972, the Treasurer referred again to the delicate state of the Society's finances. Commitments mean that a downward spiral of expenditure over income will continue.

6. The Jocs Florals

Sr. Alcoverro raised the possibility of holding the Jocs Florals in England. The feeling of the meeting was that, with the Colloquium planned for Cambridge in 1973, England would not be an appropriate venue for the immediate future. The possibility could be borne in mind for a later date, always provided that an invitation from a suitable organization would be forthcoming.

7. The International Colloquium of the AILLC

The Society's special guest, Prof. A. Badia i Margarit, addressed the meeting. He traced the history of the Colloquium leading to the setting up of the AILLC and spoke optimistically of the future.

Dr. Walker reported briefly on the state of plans made for the Cambridge Colloquium.

8. Election of officers.

Dr. Walker proposed that Sr. Gili should be elected to serve an extraordinary fourth year as President of the Society, in recognition of his contribution to preparations for the AILLC Colloquium and in order to maintain continuity in this work. The proposal was passed by acclamation. The Treasurer and Secretary were re-elected to serve for 1972-73. Dr. Walker was also re-elected to the Committee, and Sr. Marfany re-joins it to serve the third year of the term for which he was elected in 1969.

The officers for 1972-73 are therefore:

President: Sr. Joan Gili
Secretary: Dr. A. Yates
Treasurer: Dr. P.S.N. Russell-Gebbett
Committee: Professor D.W. Lomax (ex officio)
Dr. G.J. Walker
Sr. J.M. Alcoverro
Sr. J.L. Marfany
Professor F.W. Pierce
Dr. G. Cheyne

9. Members business

Sr. Vilanova proposed a resolution in support of intellectual freedom to be sent to various centres in the Catalan-speaking areas. A long discussion ensued in which the question of fines imposed on the Jury of the Jocs Florals and the possibility of a protest were raised. The feeling of the majority of members was that, while many were sympathetic to the spirit of such proposals, any such action would contravene the non-political nature of the Society, and that letters to the English press in individual cases were a proven and more effective line of action.

A. Yates
Hon. Sec.