

THE ANGLLO-CATALAN SOCIETY

Minutes of the XXIII A.G.M.
Birkbeck College, London
October 29th, 1977

The President, Prof. G.W. Ribbans, took the chair at 4.10 p.m.

Before opening the meeting Prof. Ribbans expressed the Society's grief at the death of Professor J. Trueta and called for a minute's silence in remembrance of one of the Society's most revered founder-members.

1. Apologies for Absence. Apologies for absence and a note of adhesió had been received from the President d'Honor, Dr. J.M. Batista i Roca. Apologies had also come from Drs. Whaley, Cardwell and Turull, Sr. Delgado and Prof. Pacheco.
2. Minutes of the XXII A.G.M. These minutes, previously circulated, were approved and signed.
3. Matters arising. The meeting approved the revised draft of the Society's Constitution submitted by the Committee, with the amendment proposed by Prof. Pierce that para.6(b) should read 'There shall be four other members of the Committee...'
4. President's Report. Prof. Ribbans remarked on the Society's active participation in publication of a special number of Vida Hispánica (Spring 1977) devoted to Catalan Studies. He complimented the contributors and expressed satisfaction at the fruitful collaboration with the Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. The Society's prize at the Jocs Florals held in Lausanne in 1976 had been awarded to Sr. E. Feliu i Mabres for his translation of poems by W.H. Auden, a copy of which was available for inspection by members. The President and Secretary had sent on the Society's behalf messages of congratulations to Dr. Jordi Rubió on his 90th birthday. A letter in The Times from the Antiquarian Horological Society asking for help with translation of a medieval Catalan text had been answered by several members of the Society and the matter was now being dealt with by Dr. Barrass. Following the suggestion made at last year's A.G.M., invitations to address the Society had been sent to Professors López-Morillas and Duran, and it was hoped to include a lecture by a distinguished non-Catalan Hispanist in a future programme.
5. Secretary's Report. Dr. Yates reported on a Committee meeting held in Cambridge on June 18, 1977, the main business of which was as follows: 1) to draft constitutional amendments, 2) to plan a further publication of Catalan studies, following on from the Vida Hispánica issue, with possible financial support from Omnium Cultural, 3) to plan invitations to future guest speakers. The revised Constitution was now before the meeting, formally approved. Two further points from the Committee's minutes were stressed: that the clause 'Catalans shall be strongly represented on the Committee', present in a previous draft revision, should be a tacit understanding but, for practical reasons, not an explicit part of the Constitution; that a wider participation of the membership in the Committee should be encouraged.

Dr. Yates thanked contributors to the Catalan Vida Hispánica for their promptness and efficiency. Normal distribution of the journal to members of ATSP had brought several enquiries and new members. After sales to members and distribution for publicity purposes, some 40 copies remained. The Committee were negotiating a grant from Omnium Cultural towards a further publication along similar lines.

Dr. F. de B. Moll would be invited as Guest of Honour at the 1978 Conference, and suggestions for future invitations would be welcomed from members.

In accordance with the 1976 A.G.M. resolution, the Society had made a corporate subscription to the Congrés de Cultura Catalana. Close links had been established with the Secretariat and the Àmbit de Projectió Exterior of the Congrés.

Eduard Vinyamata and Imma Tubella, winners of the Society's 1976 Scholarship, had followed up their report with copies of newspaper articles deriving from their work done in the British Isles and with the typescript of a monograph on the Països Catalans. Both were available for inspection.

Contact had been established, through Jordi Carbonell, with the newly formed Associazione di Studi Catalani. Information had been received about the first Col.loqui d'Estudis Catalans a Nord-Amèrica, planned for Spring 1978, and the projected Americo-Catalan Society. Positive developments and cooperation were hoped for on both fronts.

Generous gifts of books had been made by Prof. Llauradó and Sr. Grove, and Sr. Duran had sent a dossier of recent political publicity. These donations are held in the Sheffield Spanish Department.

The Society's Scholarship, value £150, will be advertised for 1978. The 1978 Conference will be held in Birmingham, September 22-24.

6. Treasurer's Report. Dr. Walker presented the accounts for 1976-7 which had previously circulated. Cash in hand at 27.10.1977 was £621.45p. With a slight increase in income from subscriptions and donations but the loss of one Soci Protector, the Society's finances appeared just to be maintaining an even keel. Dr. Hauf had reported that the recruitment of Socis Protectors was slow. In the circumstances the proposal to set up a Sinking Fund, approved at the last A.G.M., had had to be temporarily shelved. The President thanked Dr. Walker for his work during the year and for his meticulous presentation of the accounts.

7. Election of Officers. The Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected for a further year. For the two vacancies on the Committee, Dr. Hauf (proposed by Mr. Pring-Mill, seconded by Dr. Walker) and Mr. Barrass (proposed by Prof. Pierce, seconded by Dr. Casey) were elected unopposed. The Officers for 1977-8 are therefore: President, Prof. G. Ribbans; Secretary, Dr. A. Yates; Treasurer, Dr. G. Walker; Committee, Mr. R. Pring-Mill (ex officio), Dr. M. Wheeler, Mrs. Ll. Anderson, Dr. A. Hauf and Mr. D. Barrass.

8. Members' Business. Dr. Ettinghausen informed the meeting of a beginners course in Catalan which was being organized in Barcelona, hopefully to be held every summer. The course was not intended to compete with the one run by the Institut d'Estudis Catalans (who had been consulted) and Dr. Ettinghausen would be pleased to give information to interested members.

Dr. Ettinghausen enquired whether it would be the members' wish that the Secretary should convey a formal message of congratulations to the President of the newly restored Generalitat. Some members felt, despite the strongest individual pleasure at recent developments, that such a gesture might be seen to compromise the Society's non-political character. After a long discussion of the principles involved, the meeting instructed the Committee to draft a message to salute the institution of the Generalitat and to express hopes for the future of Catalan culture in the new and more favourable circumstances.

There being no further business, the President closed the meeting at 5.30 p.m.