

IFLA Section on Library History

Newsletter

Number 17
December 2002

Editorial

Welcome to the first newsletter of the IFLA Section on Library History. Although the name and status of our group has changed slightly, for reasons of continuity it is arguably not appropriate to commence a new series for the newsletter. Hence this issue, number 16, follows on from what was *effectively* the last issue of *RTLH Newsletter* – probably bibliographically incorrect and out of line with international cataloguing rules, but I think it makes sense! A reminder that if you wish to contribute anything to the newsletter you can email me at a.black@lmu.ac.uk or write to me at the School of Information Management, Leeds Metropolitan University, Beckett Park Campus, Leeds, LS6 3QS, United Kingdom.

New flyer

A new flyer for the Section has been produced. It appears on the final page of this newsletter. Please reproduce and distribute it if ever you have an opportunity to promote our Section on Library History.

Looking back on Glasgow 2002

The RTLH's open session attracted a large audience to hear three expert papers under the theme of 'Libraries in Times of Adversity: Lifelong Use of Community Libraries in History': 1) Charles Seavey (University of Missouri-Columbia), 'American Public Libraries in the Great Depression' 2) Chris Baggs (University of Wales, Aberystwyth), '*We Built Them With Our Own Pennies*: South Wales Miners' Libraries 1870-1930' 3) John Crawford (Glasgow Caledonian University), 'The Scottish Community Library: Overview and Influence'. John Crawford's paper will appear in the *IFLA Journal* (Volume 28, Number 5/6)

A good number of history-minded delegates went on a study trip to the historic community libraries of the lead mining towns of Leadhills and Wanlockhead, in the area of Dumfries and Galloway, about 50 miles south of Glasgow (our thanks to John Crawford for helping to organise this). In addition, a number of historic libraries were included in the general programme of library visits.

The Library History Group (UK) attracted over 40 participants to its fringe conference on 'Community Libraries', which took place at the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. (Our thanks to the Library History Group and also to the Royal College for generously providing, free of charge, an excellent lunch and evening reception).

Looking forward to Berlin 2003

As stated in our Strategic Plan, the Section's open session in Berlin, in August 2003, will operate under the theme of 'Libraries and Democracy'. Three papers will be delivered in the session which, along with other open sessions, has been cut from 2.5 hours to 2 hours:

- 1) Graham Jefcoate (Berlin State Library), 'Ambivalence and Accommodation: The National Socialist Book Burnings of 1933'
- 2) Wayne Wiegand (University of Wisconsin), 'Right Here I See my Own Books': The Women's Library at the 1893 Chicago World Fair.
- 3) Thomas Hapke (Hamburg-Harburg Technical University Library), From the World Brain to the First Transatlantic Information Dialogue: Activities in Information and Documentation in Germany in the First Half of the 20th Century.

The Section has requested from IFLA a study trip to Halle to see both the recently restored Baroque library of the Franckesche Stiftungen zu Halle, one of Germany's most important historic libraries, and the 19th-century university library, also recently restored.

In addition, it is planned that a workshop, directed by Wayne Wiegand, will take place in connection with the proposed publication of *A World History of Modern Librarianship*, a project initiated by the late Pamela Spence Richards.

Buenos Aires 2004

The Section has yet to decide the theme for Buenos Aires in 2004. Early suggestions and expressions of interest are requested in respect of papers for the open session, as well as possible visits to historic libraries.

Implementing Section Status

Regarding the transition from Round Tables to Sections and the elections to Section Standing Committees, it is again emphasised that IFLA has decided that the current RT Executive Committees will function as interim Section Standing Committees until the next elections of 2004-2005. These Committees will serve until the Oslo conference of 2005. During the 2003 Berlin conference interim Standing Committees will elect Officers (chair, secretary and treasurer).

In the meantime, it is important that the Section on Library History begins to recruit members, upon which funds will be allocated. The opportunity has been taken below to print the IFLA's '*Recruitment Notes for New Members*':

..... All IFLA members are entitled to register for Section membership. The number of members of a Section is important for two main reasons: it determines the amount of administrative money to be allocated to the Section; it is only these members who are eligible to nominate and vote in the Section's Standing Committee elections. You should communicate with these members throughout the year, usually in the format of a newsletter.

Existing Round Table participants

If there are individuals currently active in the Round Table who are **not** on the interim Standing Committee, they or their institution must be an IFLA member and they must add registration in the new Section to their IFLA membership. Please check your current membership lists to determine if anyone is in this situation, and have them contact Kelly Moore at IFLA HQ (kelly.moore@ifla.org) to register.

Recruiting current IFLA members to join your Section

Associations & Institutions which are current IFLA members: The highest officer should contact IFLA HQ to register the association/institution as a member of the new Section. If their free Section allocation is already filled, payment of EUR 45 must accompany the registration. If they wish to replace a current Section registration with the new Section, they

should indicate which Section is to be deleted from their membership. There is no charge for replacement.

Personal & Student Affiliates who are current IFLA members: Contact IFLA HQ to register for the new Section. If this registration is in addition to their 1 free Section allocation, payment of EUR 45 must be made. They may also replace their current Section registration with the new Section at no cost.

Recruiting new members to IFLA and your Section

All new members need to submit an application form to IFLA Headquarters. The forms for the various membership categories are available on IFLANET at: <http://www.ifla.org/III/members/index.htm>. Printed membership information and applications can be requested from IFLA HQ. The print forms are available in the 5 IFLA languages. At the moment, the website has only the English forms, but we hope to have the others available by the end of October. Payment for new members should be sent with the application. The fees are indicated on the application forms. IFLANET has a list of countries with the differentiated fees for Institutional membership, Institutional Sub-units, School Libraries, and One-person Library Centres (see <http://www.ifla.org/III/members/form2.htm> and click on Country List for the .pdf file). Potential National Association members should contact IFLA HQ for fee information.

Payment Methods

We accept payment by cheque, bank or giro transfer, cash, UNESCO coupons, or credit card. Our bank account details are listed on the application forms.

Section brochures

You may wish to produce a brochure for distribution to advertise your Section. IFLA HQ has standard texts about IFLA, activities and objectives, and how to join membership. Please contact Kelly Moore (kelly.moore@ifla.org) to receive the current information to include in your brochure.

Executive Committee

At the AGM of the RTLH in Glasgow a request was made to circulate the membership and details of the current executive. Please email the editor if any of your details are incorrect or incomplete. Officers and members are listed below:

Officers

Chair: Professor Donald G. Davis, Jr., Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, TX 78712-1276, USA.
(dgdavis@gslib.utexas.edu)

Secretary and Information Officer: Professor Alistair Black, School of Information Management, Leeds Metropolitan University, Beckett Park Campus, Leeds, LS6 3QS, UK.
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Treasurer: Magnus Torstensson, Swedish School of Library and Information Studies, University College of Borås, SE-50190, Borås, Sweden. (magnus.torstensson@hb.se)

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Section on Library History (SLH)

The IFLA Section on Library History (previously the Round Table on Library History) places great emphasis on the power of historical research and scholarship to reveal the important roles that libraries and librarianship have played in society.

The SLH aims to:

- Strengthen the historical conscience of the library and information profession.
- Serve as an international forum for those interested in the historical dimension of library and information services.
- Provide an international leadership role in stimulating research into the history of libraries and librarianship.
- Help individuals and organisations deliver library and information services more effectively by encouraging them to compare current and planned provision with past needs, techniques, policies, purposes and functions.

Recent Conferences

- Libraries and reading in times of cultural change, Russia, June 1996.
- Libraries, reading and publishing in the Cold War, France, 1998.
- Libraries in times of utopian thought and social protest: libraries of the late 1960s and the 1970s, Sweden, 2001.

Recent and Forthcoming Open Sessions held at IFLA

- History of books & libraries in Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Jerusalem, 2000.
- The Boston years of early library profession leaders, Boston, 2001.
- Libraries in times of adversity, Glasgow, 2002.
- Libraries and democracy, Berlin, 2003.

Officers of the SLH

- Chair: Professor Donald G. Davis, Jr., Graduate School of Library and Information Science, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, Texas, TX 78712-1276, USA. (dgdavis@glis.utexas.ed)
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