

## **ADVISORY COUNCIL ON LATIN AMERICAN AND IBERIAN INFORMATION RESOURCES**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 2nd July 1997 in John Rylands University Library (Deansgate) in Manchester**

**Present:** Chris Anderton (University of Essex Library), Alan Biggins (Institute of Latin American Studies, London), Sheila Candeland (Manchester Metropolitan University Library), Paula Covington (Vanderbilt University), José. Fernández (Instituto Cervantes, Manchester), Ian Glen (University of Wales Swansea), Jill Kempshall (Bolland Library, University of the West of England), John Laidlar (John Rylands University Library, Manchester), Ann Lees (Kings College London Library), Mary McDonald (Brotherton Library, University of Leeds), Robert McNeil (Bodleian Library), Carmen Suarez (Canning House Library), Graham Shields (University of Northumbria at Newcastle), Gillian Turner (London Library), Geoff West (British Library)

**Apologies:** Toby Bainton (SCONUL), David Blake (Institute of Commonwealth Studies Library, London), Diana Guthrie (Institute of Education Library, London), Alison Hill (British Library), Ruth Hodges (St Antony's College, Oxford), Robert Howes (Sussex University Library), Rory Miller (Institute of Latin American Studies, Liverpool University), Laura Salinas (St. Antony's College, Oxford), John Wainwright (Taylor Institution Library)

#### **1. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 3rd July 1996**

An error was noted in the spelling of the surname of Ian Glen in Item 5. *Matters arising* should have been Item 2. In all other respects the minutes were approved.

#### **2. Chairman's Annual Report**

The Chairman presented his annual report. He emphasized that a major achievement during the year was the establishment of an ACLAIIR homepage on the Web. It has the following URL:  
<http://www.kcl.ac.uk/aclaiir/aclaiir.html>

#### **3. Accounts for 1996/97**

A financial statement was circulated by the Treasurer who reported that the Council's accounts are healthy. The total number of members of ACLAIIR has remained approximately the same as last year. The principal items of expenditure have been the reprinting of the Directory and the design of the new logo.

Shares were received as a result of the demutualisation of the Halifax Building Society. Following discussion it was decided that ACLAIIR will retain the shares rather than sell them.

It was agreed that the ACLAIIR membership subscription will be unchanged.

#### **4. Election of Committee members and officers**

The post of Chairman was due for election. Robert McNeil, the Chairman, presented himself for re-election and was elected.

Claire Diamond resigned from ACLAIIR during the past year upon leaving her post at Canning House. Ian Glen (University of Wales Swansea), who had been acting as Secretary in her place, was formally elected as Secretary.

John Porter (University of Leeds) has resigned from the Committee, since his current post is not involved with Spanish or Portuguese studies.

Carmen Suarez (Canning House) was elected to the Committee. Geoff West, the Head of the British Library Hispanic Section, was co-opted to the Committee.

## **5. Programme of work**

### **a) Accounts of nineteenth-century Latin America**

The Chairman of ACLAIIR and Paula Covington of Vanderbilt University reported on their current project to produce an annotated bibliography of accounts in English of travel in Latin America.

### **b) Macdonald/Travis Guide to Latin American Collections**

Alan Biggins reported on progress in the production of the third edition of the directory of libraries and special collections on Latin America and the Caribbean. Questionnaires are being sent out to get information. The Institute of Latin American Studies will publish the directory on behalf of ACLAIIR in 1998.

### **c) Guide to Census material**

A decision has not yet been taken on whether a second edition of the Guide to Census materials in Latin America should be published. The first edition listed holdings of census materials up to 1979. The suggested new edition would cover the period since 1979. The views of members of SLAS would continue to be sought.

### **d) Iberia**

Carmen Suarez has agreed to be in provisional charge of the Iberia e-mail list. She will examine other e-mail lists and forward to Iberia messages which would be of interest to subscribers to Iberia. Such an approach had been successful with Latam-info. Robert Howes, one of the owners of Iberia, had written to officers of ACLAIIR asking if the committee could ask the AGM for a volunteer to devote some time to promoting the list. He had pointed out that the fairly large number of members and the comments received showed that there is much potential interest in the e-mail list but that there is a need for someone to devote more time to promote the list sufficiently.

### **e) World Wide Web**

ACLAIR's home page will continue to be developed. There was discussion of the use which could be made of the Web in future projects. It was felt that some types of information can be effectively presented on the Web, such as information about members of ACLAIIR (with links to home pages of their libraries), whereas many types of publication are more appropriate in book form.

The Chairman asked members of ACLAIIR to pass to a member of the Committee any suggestions concerning publication work.

## **6. Any other business**

Alan Biggins spoke about the newly produced *Latin American and Caribbean Library Resources in London: a guide* compiled by the Institute of Latin American Studies. Information in this guide is also available on the Institute's Web site.

It is hoped that an exchange of experience meeting will be held every two years. It will be held next in early 1998.

The Chairman reported that Glasgow University is the first Parry Centre to stop teaching Latin American Studies. He will write to the Librarian urging that the collection be maintained.

The Chairman reported that Oxford University is setting up a Brazilian Centre.

**Next Annual General Meeting**

Geoff West said that it would probably be possible to hold next year's meeting in the new British Library building in London.

*Ian Glen*