

MINUTES / PROCÈS-VERBAL

Annual Meeting Canadian Committee on Labour History Montreal, 26 August 1995

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 p.m.

ATTENDANCE (22)

Bettina Bradbury
Joanne Burgess
Sean Cadigan
Alvin Finkel
Nancy Forestell
Julie Guard
Craig Heron
Franca Iacovetta
Greg Kealey
Nicole Lang
Raymond Léger

Andrée Lévesque
John Manley
Lorna McLean
David Millar
Dan Moore
Jim Naylor
Bryan Palmer
Ian Radforth
Barbara Roberts
Joan Sangster
Irene Whitfield

AGENDA

M/S/C: To adopt agenda as presented

M/S/C: To adopt minutes of last meeting as published in *Labour/Le Travail*, 34 (Fall 1994), 415-8.

BUSINESS ARISING

REFERRING TO THE ARCHIVES REPORT presented to the Committee in 1994 by George Bolotenko of the National Archives of Canada, Greg Kealey noted that the material on the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion in the Spanish Civil War is now available. As well, the general Comintern material relating to Canada is now at the National Archives, but not yet available for use.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

BRYAN PALMER REPORTED that the libel suit launched by Hardial Bains *et al.* over Jack Scott's *A Communist Life* is close to being settled. He also acknowledged the work of the CCLH Publications Committee, pointing to the recent publication of R.E. (Lefty) Morgan's *Workers Control on the Railroad: A Practical Example 'Right Under Your Nose'* which was edited by G.R. Pool, and the volume *RCMP Security Bulletins: The Depression Years, Part II, 1935*.

Sean Cadigan reported on the newly established Eugene A. Forsey Prize for students of Canadian Labour and Working-Class History. There will be two prizes of \$250 each for the best undergraduate essay (or equivalent) each year, and one \$500 prize for the best graduate thesis. Two Forsey prize committees will be struck. The undergraduate committee will be chaired by Sean Cadigan, the graduate committee by Jim Naylor. Instructions for submitting papers and theses to be considered for the prize will be published in *Labour/Le Travail* and circulated to universities and colleges.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

GREG KEALEY REPORTED that the finances of *Labour/Le Travail* continue to be in good shape. The deficit for the current year is due to the purchase of new computers. He also explained the new Social Science and Humanities Research Council rules for journals, pointing out that this will result in a smaller grant in the future. Kealey added that we might expect some financial support from the Boag Foundation.

REPORT OF THE EDITOR

GREG KEALEY REPORTED that subscriptions to *Labour/Le Travail* are down slightly and characterized the situation as "working hard to stand still." Among historical journals in Canada, *Labour/Le Travail*'s sales places it in a strong third position after the *Canadian Historical Review* and the *Revue d'histoire de l'Amérique française*. *Labour*'s subscriber base surpasses that of many equivalent international

journals. Kealey also pointed to the recent publications of the CCLH, and to those in preparation or in press.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

GREG KEALEY ANNOUNCED that the new Workers' Arts and Heritage Centre in Hamilton, Ontario, has offered to host a two-day conference around the time of the 1996 meetings of the Learned Societies at Brock University. The theme would be the fiftieth anniversary of the 1946 strike of the United Steelworkers against Stelco, and the post World War II labour uprising generally. Our plans to host a national conference to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Canadian Labour Congress, the 25th anniversary of the CCLH, and the 20th anniversary of *Labour/Le Travail* are still in the works. An organizing committee will soon be struck with the event tentatively scheduled for 1997.

Jim Naylor will serve as liaison between the CCLH and the CHA's program committee to ensure the labour and working-class history sessions are organized for the 1996 CHA in St. Catharines.

ONTARIO WORKERS' ARTS AND HERITAGE CENTRE

CRAIG HERON MADE A SPECIAL REPORT on the history of the Ontario Workers' Arts and Heritage Centre and the plans for its new home, the Custom House in north-end Hamilton. He detailed the plans for the renovation of the building and its functions once it is operational in the spring of 1997.

ELECTIONS

The executive was re-elected by acclamation:

President: Bryan D. Palmer (Queen's University)

Vice-President: Kathryn McPherson (York University)

Secretary: James Naylor (Brandon University)

Treasurer: Gregory S. Kealey (Memorial University)

ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C to adjourn, 1:00 p.m.