

Minutes / Procès-verbal

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MINUTES / PROCES-VERBAL

Annual Meeting Canadian Committee on Labour History Calgary, 12 June 1994

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 p.m.

ATTENDANCE (22)

George Bolotenko
Bettina Bradbury
Joan Butler
Stephen Endicott
Jane Errington
Gerry Friesen
Greg Kealey
Linda Kealey
Andrée Lévesque
Gilbert Levine
John Manley

Kathryn McPherson
David Millar
Jeremy Mouat
Jim Naylor
Adele Perry
Clay Perry
Barbara Roberts
Eric Sager
Joan Sangster
Allen Seager
Odette Vincent-Domey
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*, 33 (Spring 1993), 388-90.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

GREG KEALEY CONGRATULATED Joan Sangster whose *Labour/Le Travail* article "The Softball Solution" won the Riddell Award of the Ontario Historical Society for the best article on Ontario History. Bettina Bradbury and Joan Sangster were also congratulated for winning a major award to be announced later in the CHA meetings. (This was subsequently revealed to be the CHA's Sir John A. Macdonald prize for Bettina's book *Working Families: Age, Gender, and Daily Survival in Industrializing Montreal* and the Hilda Neatby prize for Joan's "Softball Solution" and the CHR Prize for best article in the *CHR*.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

BRYAN PALMER'S REPORT was read by Kathryn McPherson. Palmer apologized for his absence and thanked all those who organized and participated in CHA sessions and the Saturday CCLH workshop. The CCLH publications committee was thanked for their work in publishing the John Stanton memoir *My Past is Now*, and Joan Sangster was congratulated for receiving the Ontario Historical Society's Riddell Award. Palmer reported that the libel suit launched by H. Baines *et al.* over Jack Scott's *A Communist Life* has not yet been settled.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER

GREG KEALEY REPORTED that *Labour/Le Travail* subscriptions are on the rise again after a slight decrease last year. Support from the Social Science and Humanities Research Council and particularly from Memorial University of Newfoundland continues.

REPORT OF THE EDITOR

CONTINUING IN HIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of the support given by Memorial University to *Labour/Le Travail*, Greg Kealey described the new and improved office space provided by the University. Kealey also explained the redesign of the cover of the journal effective with *L/LT* 33 (Spring 1994). On behalf of the Publications Committee, it was announced that two new books have been published: John Stanton's *My Past is Now: Further Memoirs of a Labour Lawyer* and a further volume of the *RCMP Security Bulletins: The Depression Years, Part I 1933-1934*. Lefty Morgan's *Workers' Control on the Railroad* will appear shortly.

ARCHIVES REPORT

GEORGE BOLOTENKO, who spoke to the CCLH last year on Russian Archives, reported that he has spent three months in Russia and Ukraine acquiring material for the National Archives of Canada. Copies of approximately 9000 pages of material on the Mackenzie-Papineau Battalion from the Spanish Civil War will arrive at the National Archives shortly. The Archives hopes to obtain copies of approximately 30,000 pages of Comintern material (1919-43) relating to Canada. This includes material on the CPC, the Young Communists, various international organizations including the Profintern. He pointed out that almost all of this material is in English. Bolotenko expressed concern about continued accessibility of this material in Russia given the instability of the political situation in that country. In response to a request from Steve Endicott, Bolotenko will attempt to determine whether the minutes of the Anglo-American Secretariat of the comintern are available.

M/S/C that the CCLH write to Jean-Pierre Wallot, National Archivist, commending the National Archive's energetic response in preserving this important material and making it available to researchers in Canada and encouraging the NAC to acquire the Comintern materials.

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

JEREMY MOUAT REPORTED on the Labour and Working-Class History Workshop that took place on 11 June 1994. He expressed disappointment with the turnout (there were 32 registrants) but was delighted with the high quality of the presentations and discussion.

Greg Kealey pointed out that since the CHA is meeting at the time of the International Congress of Historical Sciences and not with the Learned Societies of 1995, it was necessary to decide whether or not to hold a workshop next year. He added that Raymond Léger has suggested holding a conference on Labour History. Since 1996 is both the 40th anniversary of the Canadian Labour Congress and the 20th anniversary of the Canadian Committee on Labour History, this could be an occasion for such a conference. Bettina Bradbury proposed "Exploring Labour's History" as the theme for such a conference. Gil Levine pointed out the importance of involving CLC affiliates in such a conference.

Jim Naylor will serve as liaison between the CCLH and the CHA's programme committee to ensure that labour history sessions are organized for the 1995 CHA in Montréal.

M/S/C that a Labour and Working-Class History Workshop not be held in 1995.

M/S/C that we explore the possibilities of holding a conference on labour history in 1996 in conjunction with the anniversaries of the CLC and the CCLH.

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ELECTIONS

The executive was re-elected by acclamation:

President: Bryan D. Palmer (Queen's)

Vice-President: Kathryn McPherson (York)

Secretary: James Naylor (Brandon)

Treasurer: Gregory S. Kealey (Memorial University)

OTHER BUSINESS

i] GREG KEALEY ANNOUNCED the *Labour/Le Travail* internship at the Memorial University of Newfoundland. The current intern is Michael Butt. Information can be obtained from the Graduate Co-ordinator, Department of History, Memorial University.

ii] DAVID MILLAR ANNOUNCED a drop-in session being held by the Canadian Oral History Association.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C to adjourn, 2:00 p.m.