



Katy - 662-1322

The Newsletter of the Library Association of Trinidad and Tobago
P.O. Box 1275, Port of Spain.

No. 5, November/December 1986

QUARTERLY GENERAL MEETING

A quarterly general meeting of the Library Association was held on November 11 1986 at the Lulworth Punch Foundation, Port of Spain.

The meeting was well attended and the eighteen floor members present were asked to consider a long agenda. The following matters were discussed: the proposed increase in Library Association dues from 1987, the best way in which Library Association could assist its members in continuing education and personal development, the annual Christmas party, and the establishment of a permanent office for the Library Association.

These matters were the subject of such intense discussion that the meeting had to be adjourned after some two and a half hours.

The meeting did however agree to the establishment of an Education Committee to consider the ways in which the Library Association could best assist its members in continuing education. The members of the Committee are Mrs Lynette Hutchinson, Chairman, Mrs Joan Richardson, Ms Edwina Peters, and Mrs Mary McConnie.

The question of whether and how to increase Library Association membership dues was not resolved.

The President presented the findings of his research into the feasibility of setting up a permanent office for the Library Association.

Members thought the setting up of a permanent office too big a step for the Association with its present limited funds. This matter too was not resolved. The meeting was adjourned to November 25th 1986.

The adjourned meeting carded for November 25th could not take place and a new date was set for December 16th 1987.

On December 16th however only four floor members were present and the meeting was adjourned to a date to be set. The members present were treated to a tour of the Lulworth Punch Foundation by Mrs Mary McConnie.

FUND RAISING ACTIVITIES

Greeting Cards

The Finance Committee was able to show members some of the photographs of libraries which it is proposed to feature on a series of greeting cards in an effort both, to promote libraries in Trinidad and Tobago and to raise funds. The membership approved of some of the photographs and the Finance Committee is continuing work to obtain other photographs and to ensure that the project remains viable and achieves its aims.

Annual Pre-Xmas Fete

The 8th Annual Pre-Xmas Fete was held at the home of Nanci St John in Valsayn on December 7 1986. The fete

was very well attended and history was made, as for the first time no rain fell on the day of the fete. The balmy weather made it possible for everyone to enjoy themselves in the open air and a good time was had by all.

MEETINGS/CONFERENCES/VISITS

Acuril/Salam 1987

The joint ACURIL/SALAM Conference will be held in Miami from May 10 - 17 1987. The theme of the Conference is "Caribbean Collections: Recession Management Strategies for Libraries". A pre-conference will focus on Management of the On-Line Public Access Catalogue. The registration fee for this one day conference is US \$40.00. A post-conference on "Basic Library Management Skills" sponsored by OMS, ARL has had to be cancelled due to a lack of registered participants.

The restructuring of ACURIL's constitution was approved by postal ballot. The new constitution allows for wider participation at executive level. There will now be representation at the executive level for representatives from Library Associations and for personal members.

ACURIL's newsletter is carded to come out three times a year, after the annual meeting, after mid-year and another before the annual conference.

In 1988 ACURIL's annual conference will be held in Martinique, in 1989 in Jamaica and in 1990 in Haiti. Plan to attend.

At ACURIL XVII Mrs Vere Achong was asked to be the Chairman of a Committee on Special Libraries or Special Interest Groups. Anyone interested in further information on this committee or on ACURIL in general can contact Mrs Achong at the Medical Library telephone number, 623-2473.

Sixth Assembly of the IASL Conference Halifax, Canada, 1986

The International Association of School Librarians held their annual conference from July 28th to August 2nd 1986. As noted in the May/June/July/August 1986 issue of BIBLIO, Joan Osborne, Librarian, San Juan Senior Comprehensive School, attended and represented the Library Association of Trinidad and Tobago.

She presented a short paper which was included in the Communique of the conference, compiled and edited by John G. Wright, Vice President (IASL). The text of her presentation follows.

School libraries in Trinidad and Tobago are a fairly recent development. Ten years ago there was only one qualified school librarian in the island. She served as school librarian at one of our major senior high schools which was controlled by both the Ministry of Education and the Anglican Church Board. At that time in most of the schools there were book collections which were administered by a teacher, in most cases a teacher of English.

Today the situation has changed for the better. In 1979 the post of school librarian was created in all senior high schools, and a department of the Central Library, called the School Libraries' Division was established to set guidelines, to train and advise personnel appointed to work in school libraries. Also in 1979, twelve scholarships in the field of library science were granted, and again in 1984 an additional fifty were granted. Most of these scholars have been placed in the various school libraries throughout the country.

There are approximately forty school librarians working in schools today, and that number is growing as returning Government funded scholars are placed in school libraries.