

# ICA Section for Archives of Literature and Art (SLA): Plenary session

25 October 2011, 15:00  
Salón Mancha II, Hotel Beatriz, Toledo

## Minutes

### (1) Present :

Leonor Calvão Borges, Fatoumata Cissé, Lourdes Fuentes Hashimoto, Sebastian Gurciullo, Deborah Jenkins, Helena Leonce, Elisabete Ribas, David Sutton

### (2) Apologies for absence had been received from:

Jamie Andrews, Heather Dean, Catherine Hobbs, Veno Kauaria

### (3) SLA committee.

The following ten volunteers were elected as the committee/ bureau of the section for four years, 2011-2015:

Jamie Andrews, *UK*  
Leonor Calvão Borges, *Portugal*  
Fatoumata Cissé, *Senegal*  
Heather Dean, *USA*  
Sebastian Gurciullo, *Australia*  
Catherine Hobbs, *Canada*  
Veno Kauaria, *Namibia*  
Helena Leonce, *Trinidad*  
Elisabete Ribas, *Brazil*  
David Sutton, *UK*

### (4) Appointment of Chair, Secretary and Webmaster for 2011-2015.

The following were elected as the officers of the section:

Chair: David Sutton  
Secretary: Heather Dean  
Webmaster: Sebastian Gurciullo

### (5) Leverhulme Trust network on Diasporic Literary Archives: prospects for collaboration with SLA

A report on the new Leverhulme Trust project (see <http://www.ica.org/9135/news-events/new-project-on-international-cooperation.html>) was received and discussed. It was agreed that there were extensive and welcome opportunities for co-operation between SLA and the Leverhulme Trust network.

## **(6) SLA Projects**

### **(i) World-wide directory of repositories holding literary and artistic archives: progress report**

This was described as the SLA project which had made the most progress. A demonstration was given of the pages on the SLA website

(<http://www.ica.org/2908/useful-links-collections/worldwide-directory-of-repositories-holding-literary-archives.html>), and suggestions were made for improvements and additions. All members present agreed to check the entries for countries of which they had some knowledge, and to report back to the Chair.

### **(ii) Literary copyright: progress report on the ICA Working Group on Intellectual Property (subsuming the SLA project)**

It was agreed by the meeting that, although literary copyright remained a subject of interest for the section, this work would be undertaken primarily by the new ICA Working Group on Intellectual Property.

### **(iii) International register of literary manuscripts outside the home country: joint work with Leverhulme Trust network**

It was agreed that this was an important area for research, which could be conducted at collection-level, as a joint project with the Leverhulme Trust network. The plenary meeting had a general discussion about literary manuscripts in unpredictable locations.

### **(iv) Project on "how to use" literary archives: joint work with the Group for Literary Archives and Manuscripts (North America) - GLAM(NA)**

The meeting agreed that research on what users wanted from literary archives was important, and that a "how to use" guide would be an excellent resource. It was felt that this project could be led by GLAM(NA), with SLA support.

### **(v) Born-digital literary archives**

It was agreed to retain this as a potential SLA project, but first to observe the work of the AIMS project (see <http://born-digital-archives.blogspot.com/p/about-us.html>), so as to avoid duplication.

### **(vi) Correspondence of literary authors, publishers etc.**

This had been suggested as a possible area of SLA work, but the plenary meeting felt that it was too big a subject for a section project, and that there was no great difference between literary correspondence and general correspondence. It was agreed to check with the ICA Standards representatives to see what work was already being done on the cataloguing of collections of letters and emails.

### **(vii) Papers of dissident literary authors**

The Chair reported that Catherine Hobbs had suggested that the papers of dissident literary authors might provide an interesting area of work. The meeting agreed, but was concerned about taking on too many projects. It was agreed to ask CH to write a brief paper about what might be involved.

**(viii) Issues of access and privacy**

There was a lively discussion of issues of access and privacy within literary collections. It was agreed not to adopt this as an SLA project but to track the work of the ICA Working Group on Access, and to look into other projects on access and privacy.

**(7) SLA website, OKE, and possible blog**

There was a good discussion on the challenges presented by the official ICA website, the OKE forum, and the creation of an SLA blog. It was agreed that the webmaster should be trained in the peculiarities of the ICA webbler, should seek to establish a presence on OKE, and should also actively investigate the setting up of a simple SLA blog using a platform such as Wordpress. All those present agreed to contribute four pieces of text per year to the SLA blog. It was agreed that everyone should write in their own first language.

**(8) Matters raised at the Section Chairs' meeting, 22 October 2011, and the Executive Board meeting, 24 October 2011**

Some key matters discussed at earlier meetings of the Section Chairs and the Executive Board were summarised - including (i) membership initiatives, (ii) translation priorities, (iii) copyright issues, (iv) the congresses in 2012 and 2016. It was agreed that the Section would be prepared to spend some of its financial allocation for 2012 on a poster display for the ICA Congress, Brisbane 2012.

**(9) Any other business**

There being no other business the meeting closed (on time) at 16.30.