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MINUTES / PROCÈS-VERBAL

Annual Meeting
Canadian Committee on Labour History
Ottawa, 6 June 1993

CALL TO ORDER
The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE (43)
George Bolotenko
Bettina Bradbury
Joanne Burgess
Joan Butler
Sean Cadigan
Cecilia Danysk
Peter DeLottinville
Steve Endicott
Jacques Ferland
Alvin Finkel
David Frank
Gerald Friesen
A.M. Givertz
Larry Hannant
Craig Heron
Franca Iacovetta
Greg Kealey
Linda Kealey
Andrée Lévesque
Gilbert Levine
Lynne Marks
Steven Maynard

Kathryn McPherson
David Millar
Myron Momryk
Dan Moore
Sue Morton
Jeremy Mouat
Jim Naylor
Bryan Palmer
Bill Parenteau
Michael Piva
Ian Radforth
Ellen L. Ramsey
Barbara Roberts
Eric Sager
Joan Sangster
Allen Seager
Nikki Strong-Boag
Jeff Taylor
Shirley Tillotson
Odette Vincent
Irene Whitfield

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AGENDA
M/S/C: To adopt agenda as presented.
M/S/C: To adopt minutes of last meeting as published in Labour/Le Travail, 30 (Fall 1992), 369-71.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT
BRYAN PALMER REPORTED on the state of the libel suit launched by Hardial Bains et al over the committee's publication of Jack Scott: A Communist Life. Barring any settlement, it will likely go to trial in the spring of 1994.

REPORT OF THE TREASURER
GREG KEALEY REPORTED that the financial position of the Committee continues to be healthy and pointed out that the acquisition of new computer equipment had improved the print quality of Labour/Le Travail.

REPORT OF THE EDITOR
GREG KEALEY REPORTED that subscriptions to Labour/Le Travail has long remained steady at about 1,100, although there was a slight dip in numbers, possibly due to the recession. He also reported activity in the Committee’s book publishing ventures, as a number of titles are in production or under consideration.

ARCHIVES REPORT
i) GEORGE BOLOTENKO REPORTED on his recent trip to archives in Russia where he was assessing the state of collections relating to Canada on behalf of the National Archives of Canada. He visited seven central archives in Moscow and St. Petersburg as well as several ministerial archives. He noted a high degree of decentralization, commercialization, and confusion in the Russian archival system. On the other hand, the archives are now quite open and a wide variety of material is accessible. The Hoover Institute has a huge publishing program of Soviet archival material. He was able to report the existence of "a wealth" of material relating to Canada. The National Archives of Canada will develop a program of acquisition; its extent will be determined by the available funding. Bolotenko reported on some of the issues involved in finding qualified researchers in Russia and suggested that those interested in undertaking research in Russia could contact him at the National Archives.

ii) PETER DELOTTINVILLE REPORTED that a revised guide to the Department of Labour records is now available.
M/S/C: That, on behalf of the Committee, Greg Kealey protest the recent imposition of fees for work on access requests.
REPORT ON THE LABOUR AND WORKING-CLASS HISTORY WORKSHOP

NEXT YEAR'S WORKSHOP in Calgary will be co-ordinated by Alvin Finkel and Jeff Taylor, both of Athabasca University.

ELECTIONS

The executive was re-elected by acclamation:

President: Bryan D. Palmer (Queen's)
Vice-President: Kathryn McPherson (York)
Treasurer: Gregory S. Kealey (MUN)
Secretary: James Naylor (Brandon)

OTHER BUSINESS:

i] CECILIA DANYSK ANNOUNCED the availability of two jobs as historic researcher and claims researcher in Nova Scotia. Nikki Strong-Boag pointed out that the position of Executive Director of the Canadian Historical Association is becoming vacant.

ii] JEREMY MOUAT REMINDED the Committee of John Lutz's proposal to publish sample curricula in labour history, along with an introductory essay. Bryan Palmer commented that he had collected several such outlines if anyone was interested in undertaking the project.

iii] ADAM GIVERTZ ANNOUNCED the publication of the first issue of *left history: An Interdisciplinary Journal of Historical Inquiry and Debate*. Information and subscriptions are available through the Department of History, Queen's University.

iv] GERRY FRIESEN RAISED the possibility of the Committee undertaking a large collaborative project along the lines of *Who Built America?* (Pantheon Books, 1989 & 1992) or a similar project in Australia. It was held over for future discussion.


vi] LYNNE MARKS ANNOUNCED "BC and Beyond: Gender Histories" a conference to be held at the University of Victoria in June 1994, immediately following the Canadian Historical Association meetings in Calgary.

vii] CRAIG HERON ANNOUNCED a conference to be held by the Workers' Heritage Centre in October 1993.

ADJOURNMENT

M/S/C/ to adjourn, 1:30 p.m.