



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LABOUR HISTORY INSTITUTIONS

IALHI 35ème Assemblée Générale annuelle

XXXVth annual IALHI conference
Paris-Nanterre-Roubaix

8-11 September 2004

Report of the XXXVth Annual Conference of the IALHI Paris, Nanterre, Roubaix, 8-11 September 2004

Conference arrangements

The conference started in the afternoon on September 8th with the customary reception, held in beautiful premises of the Sorbonne overlooking the Pantheon. Welcome speech by Annie Fourcaut, Director of the CHS, Centre d'Histoire du XXe siècle. Friday was spent in Nanterre where the conference was welcomed by Geneviève Dreyfus-Armand, Director of the BDIC, Bibliothèque de documentation internationale contemporaine and Francis Démier, vice-president of the university Paris X-Nanterre. Geneviève Dreyfus-Armand, who was elected chairperson of the conference, pointed out that the conference was a joint venture organized by the CODHOS (Collectif des centres de documentation en histoire ouvrière et sociale), the BDIC, the Centre d'histoire sociale du XXe siècle, de l'Université Paris I – Sorbonne and the CAMT (Centre des archives du monde du travail). The morning session was devoted to the annual meeting of the IALHI and project presentations.

In the afternoon a Round-table discussion was organized on the theme “The Working Class in France at The Dawn of The 21st Century,” chaired by Professor Antoine Prost. Participants were Stéphane Beaud, Michel Dreyfus, Annie Fourcaut, Gérard Noiriel, Michel Pialoux, Michel Pigenet et Jean-Louis Robert. The Thursday programme was rounded off by a reception at the magnificent Town Hall of Paris. Friday was spent in Roubaix, mainly at Centre des archives du monde du travail – CAMT. Françoise Bosman, director of the CAMT presented an overview of French trade-unionism, the IALHI group was also invited to take part in the opening of the exhibition: “Le monde ouvrier s’affiche (the French Working World in Posters)”. In the afternoon there was also a visit to La Piscine, Roubaix’s art and industry museum. The Saturday study visit took place in La Courneuve with a visit to the Babcock factory, and a talk on the industrial heritage and social history of the area by Professors Jacques Girault and Danièle Rousselier. After that there were visits to the Mecano factory and the former Champagnole glassworks.

This thirty-fifth annual conference of the IALHI was an outstanding arrangement where the participating members demonstrated advanced organisational and cooperation skills. The conference took place in several different locations and offered a multitude of interesting lectures, discussions and study visits. Together with the generous social programme it made the Paris-Nanterre-Roubaix-Courneuve conference a very successful and appreciated composition. A great number of persons had put in a lot of effort to make this possible and the IALHI is most grateful to all and we express our warmest thanks to and through the triumvirate which did much of the coordination and administration. Françoise Blum, Rosanna Vaccaro and Franck Veyron.

Programme of the XXXVth Annual Conference of the IALHI

Paris, Centre d'histoire sociale du xxe siècle – CHS Sept 8

18.00-20.00 Registration desk at the University of Paris I – Panthéon Sorbonne,
Welcome speech by Annie Fourcaut, Director of the CHS, Centre d'Histoire
du XXe siècle

Nanterre, Bibliothèque de documentation internationale contemporaine – BDIC Sept 9

8.30- 9.30 Welcome and visit to the BDIC
10.00-12.00 Conference hall of the University of Paris 10:
Welcome speech by Geneviève Dreyfus-Armand, Director of the BDIC and by
Francis Démier, vice-president of the university Paris X-Nanterre, in charge of
international relations

General Assembly of the 35th IALHI Conference
IALHI project presentations
Project presentations from individual members (first session)
12.00-13.30 Buffet lunch at the University restaurant
14.00-17.00 “The Working Class in France at The Dawn of The 21st Century”
Round-table discussion chaired by Professor Antoine Prost. Participants :
Stéphane Beaud, Michel Dreyfus, Annie Fourcaut Gérard Noiriel, Michel
Pialoux, Michel Pigenet and Jean-Louis Robert

19.00 Reception at the Town Hall of Paris

Roubaix, Centre des archives du monde du travail – CAMT Sept 10

8.28 Gare du Nord (mainline train station): depart for Lille
9.45 Welcome at the CAMT
10.00-11.00 Talk: “Overview of French Trade-unionism”, by Françoise Bosman, Director of
the CAMT.
11.00-11.30 Exhibition opening: “Le monde ouvrier s’affiche” (The French Working World
in Posters”).
11.30-12.30 Visit to the CAMT
12.30-14.00 Buffet-lunch
14.00-16.00 Project presentations from IALHI individual members (second session)
16.00 Depart for La Piscine, Roubaix’s art and industry museum
18.30-20.00 Buffet-supper
20.36 Return to Paris by train

La Seine-Saint-Denis Sept 11

9.30 Arrival at La Courneuve: visit to the Babcock factory, and a talk on the
industrial heritage and social history of the area by Professors Jacques Girault
and Danièle Rousselier
Visit to the Mecano factory and the former Champagnole glassworks
12.00 Sandwich-lunch
13.30 Return to Paris (Gare du Nord) by bus

Participants/Inscrits pour la conference

Membres honoraires de l'IALHI

Karl Lang (Suisse)

AFRIQUE DU SUD

Khanya College (PO Box 5977, Johannesburg 2000):

Mondli Hlatshwayo

Lebogang Mashile

Labour Research Service (41, Salt River Road, Salt River 7925):

Bevil Lucas

ALLEMAGNE

Friedrich Ebert Stiftung Library (Godesberger Allee 149, D53175 Bonn):

Jacques Paparo

Ruediger Zimmermann

ANGLETERRE

Labour History Archives and Study Centre (103 Princess Street, M1 6DD Manchester):

Stephen Bird

Janette Martin

Trade Union Congress Library Collections (London Metropolitan University, Learning Center, North Campus, 236 Holloway Road, N7 6PP Londres):

Christine Coates

University of Warwick's Modern Records Centre (University of Warwick Library, CV4 7AL Coventry):

Richard Temple

Andrew Flinn (Lecturer in Archives at the School of Libraries, Archives and Information Studies (SLAIS), University College, London)

BELGIQUE

AMSAB Institute for Social History (Bagattenstraat 174, B9000 Gand):

Wouter Steenhaut

Geert Van Goethem

CARHOP, Centre d'Animation et de Recherche en Histoire Ouvrière et Populaire (Rue des Mouchérons 3, B1000 Bruxelles):

Marie Decelle

Colette Huberty

DANEMARK

ABA, Arbejderbevaegelsens Bibliotek og Arkiv (Nørrebrogade 66 D, DK2200

Copenhagen):

Henning Grelle

ETATS-UNIS

George Meany Memorial Archives (10000 New Hampshire Avenue, MD 20903,

Silver Spring):

Bob Reynolds

Tamiment Library, N Y University (70 Washington Square South, NY 10012 New York)

Andrew H. Lee

FINLANDE

Central Museum of Labour in Finland (Väinö Linnan aukio 8, SF 33210 Tampere):

Ulla Jaskari
Finnish Labour Archives (Paasivuorenkatu 5 B, SF 00530 Helsinki):
Esa Lahtinen
Lenin Museum (Hämeenpuisto 28, SF 33200 Tampere):
Aimo Minkkinen
Trade Union Archives (Hakaniemenranta 1, SF 00530 Helsinki):
Pekka Kalliokoski

FRANCE

BDIC, Bibliothèque (6 Allée de l'université, 92001 Nanterre Cedex):
Geneviève Dreyfus-Armand
Franck Veyron
CHS, Centre d'Histoire Sociale du XXème siècle (9, rue Malher, 75181 Paris Cedex 04):
Françoise Blum
Rossana Vaccaro
CERMTRI, Centre d'Etude et de Recherche sur les Mouvements Trotskyistes et
Révolutionnaires Internationaux (28, rue des Petites Ecuries, 75010 Paris):
Pierre Levasseur
Jean-Jacques Marie
Hélène Stern
IHS-CGT, Institut d'Histoire Sociale de la CGT (263, rue de Paris, 93516 Montreuil Cedex):
Elyane Bressols
André Narritsens
IRELP, Institut de Recherche et d'Etude sur la Libre Pensée (10-12, rue des Fossés-Saint-
Jacques, 75005 Paris):
Jean-Marc Schiappa
RIDECO, Réseau International De recherche sur les pays d'Europe Centrale
et Orientale (c/o BDIC, 6 Allée de l'université, 92001 Nanterre Cedex):
Hélène Kaplan

IRLANDE

Irish Labour History Society Museum (Beggars Bush, Haddington Road, Dublin 4):
Fionnuala Richardson

ITALIE

Archivio Storico Nazionale della CISL (Labicana 22, 00184 Rome):
Ivo Ulisse Camerini
Fondazione Istituto Gramsci (Via Portuense 95 c, 00153 Rome):
Fiamma Lussana
Fondazione Feltrinelli (Via Romagnosi 3, 20121 Milan):
David Bidussa
Fondazione Vera Nocenti, Archivio storico-sindacale (Via Barbaroux 43, 10122 Turin):
Giovanni Avonto
Paola Spagliardi
Istituto di Studi sul Capitalismo (Via Cornigliano 31 A/4, 16152 Gênes):
Emilio Gianni

NORVEGE

AAB, Arbeiderbevegelsens Arkiv og Bibliotek (Youngsgata 11 C, N 0181 Oslo):
Knut Einar Eriksen
Tove Jertin Eriksen

PAYS-BAS

IISG, Institut International d'Histoire Sociale (Cruquiusweg 31, N 1019 AT Amsterdam):
Jaap Kloosterman
Jenneke Quast
Marien van der Heijden

RUSSIE

RGASPI, Rossiiskii Gosudarstvennyi Arkhiv Sotsial'no-Politicheskoi Istorii
(Bolshaya Dmitrovka 15, 103821 Moscou):
Irina Novichenko
GOPB, [<http://www.iisg.nl/~gopb/>]Gosudarstvennaia
Obshchestvenno-Politicheskaiia Biblioteka, State Social-Political Library
(Ul Vil'gel'ma Pika 4 Korpus 2, 129256 Moscou):
Irina B. Tsvetkova
State Central Museum of Contemporary History of Russia (Tverskaya Str. 21, 125009
Moscou):
Olga Litvinova
Tamara Shumnaya
State Museum of Political History of Russia (Kuybisheva str. 2-4, 197046 Saint-Petersbourg):
Eugeni Artemov
Irina Tatar

SUEDE

ARAB, Arbetarrelsens Arkiv & Bibliothek (Box 1124, S11181 Stockholm):
Karin Englund
Lars Gogman
Martin Grass
Rigmor Hagström
Museum of Work (Laxholmen, S60221 Norrköping):
Ann Kristin Carlström
TAM Arkiv (Västmannagatan 52, PO 6157, S10233 Stockholm):
Annelie Johansson

SUISSE

Fondation du travail (11 rue des Maraîchers, CH-1205 Genève):
Alda De Giorgi
Schweizerisches Sozialarchiv (Stadelhoferstrasse 12, CH8001 Zurich):
Urs Kälin

General Assembly

AGENDA

1. Annual meeting proceedings

- 1.1. Election of the chairperson
- 1.2. Report from the Dublin conference 2003
- 1.3. Annual report 2003 – 2004
 - 1.3.1 Coordinating committee
 - 1.3.2 Membership
 - 1.3.3 Publications and communications
 - 1.3.4 IALHI projects
- 1.4. Financial report
- 1.5. Future conferences
- 1.6 Any other business

2. Project presentations

- 2.1 IALHI projects
- 2.2 Members' projects

1.1. Election of a chairperson

According to statutes and tradition a representative from the host country chairs the conference. Geneviève Dreyfus-Armand, Director of the BDIC was unanimously elected chair person of the XXXVth annual IALHI conference.

The meeting decided that the proceedings be open, with possibilities for media and others who might be interested to attend.

1.2. Minutes of the Dublin conference.

The minutes and report of the XXXIVth IALHI conference in Dublin were sent to the IALHI members on the 11th of March 2004. The conference approved the reports.

1.3. Annual report and financial report 2003 - 2004

The annual report and financial reports were presented by the Secretary General, Karin Englund. The reports were approved by the conference. (Appendix 1 and 2)

1.3.1 Coordination committee.

The coordination committee consists of Kyrill Anderson (RGASPI, Moscow), Janette Martin (LHASC, Manchester), Karin Englund (ARAB, Stockholm), secretary, Davis Bidussa (Feltrinelli-Milano), Jaap Kloosterman (IISH-Amsterdam), Andrew Lee (Bobst Library, NYU, New York), Rüdiger Zimmermann (Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung-Bonn), Wouter Steenhaut (AMSAB-Gent), Marien van der Heijden (IISH-Amsterdam) and Franck Veyron (BDIC-Nanterre). There have been no changes of the committee over the year and the committee has held two meetings, February 14 and September 8. Also present at the February meeting were Geneviève Dreyfus-Armand, representing the BDIC and Françoise Blum and Rossana Vaccaro of the conference organizing committee. At the February meeting Dr. Chiara Daniele from the Feltrinelli Foundation presented work of the Foundation collecting contemporary social movements materials and a conference in Milan in December 2004 on "Archives of the Present: From Traditional to Digital Documents".

1.3.2 Membership.

Two new members have registered: the Co-operative College, in Manchester, mentioned in the annual report and Institut d'histoire ouvrière, économique et sociale, Seraing in Belgium, which has been accepted as a member, after the finalizing of the Annual report. Information has been sent to an institute in Brazil, which has so far not responded. The number of members is stated in the report. By the 1st of September, 64 members have paid their membership fee.

1.3.3 Publications and projects.

The question of an **ACTA publication from the Dublin** conference was left open. Due to the digital character of the conference, there were not many manuscripts available for an ACTA publication. The possibility of a CD-ROM presentation remains.

The **IALHI News Service** is done from Amsterdam, coordinated by Jaap Kloosterman. There's been around 100 items distributed during the year. Thanks to the Institute for the very useful service.

The secretary emphasized the need for constant updating of the **list of addresses** and other information available about the institutions on the IALHI web site. The costs and difficulties with a paper based directory are too big. The easiest way to keep an updated list of participants is on the web-site. All members are therefore urged to make sure their data are correct. Changes or new entries should be sent to IISG for processing.

The **Labour History Index Project** has made some progress during the year and is described under the project presentations.

1.4. Financial statement

The financial report was presented together with the auditors report (cf. attachment 2/ Voir aussi l'annexe 2). The total bank account per August 2004 was: 38.244,63 Euros. The amount is rather large, due to the fact that one major cost during the year was (by mistake) paid by the ARAB (Labour Movement Archive in Sweden), which will be corrected. But even so the figures show that there is no need to raise the membership fee.

The conference approved the financial report and decided that the membership fee remains unchanged, 112 Euros.

1.5. Future conferences

The coming conferences are to be held in Ghent in 2005 and in Zurich in 2006. Wouter STEENHAUT (AMSAB) presented the plans for the Ghent conference, which will take place when AMSAB will celebrate its 25th anniversary. The conference will start on the 8th of September, (with the traditional reception the preceding evening at the AMSAB premises). The conference will follow the well known IALHI format with annual conference, project presentations, study visits and with an international colloquium on the anti-globalisation movement. On Saturday there will be visits to a coal mine in the Wallonie and to the Flanders Fields Museum of Ypres.

Urs Kälin (Schweizerisches Sozialarchiv, Zurich) presented the dates for the conference in Zurich, which will be the 6 to 9 September in 2006.

At present, there are no candidates as yet for the forthcoming conferences, although in informal discussions for instance New York has been mentioned as a possible venue for the 2007 Conference.

1.6. Any other business

1.6.1 Contacts with other organizations

The secretary brought up the question of contacts with other organizations. There are today no formalized contacts between IALHI and the ICA of IFLA. However, the Chairman of the Business and Labour Archives section of the ICA has contacted IALHI to investigate some form of cooperation. Jaap Kloostermann described the earlier contacts (through him) with the Business and Labour Section of the ICA and the meeting concluded that some joint projects and meetings might be an interesting idea, but that the scarce administrative resources of the IALHI must be kept in mind.

1.6.2 Election of a new Secretary General

The secretary, Karin Englund, brought up the question of a successor, since she will have retired by the time of the conference in Zürich. A new Secretary must thus be elected at the Ghent conference. The IALHI members will receive a circular letter asking them to nominate a candidate and thereafter a ballot paper for the voting. The votes will be counted at the XXXVIth conference in Ghent and the new secretary will be elected and take over from there.

January 27, 2005/Karin Englund

2. Projects presentations

2.1 IALHI projects

2.2 Members' projects

2.1 IALHI projects.

The main IALHI project currently is the Labour History Index Project. The project was presented by Marien Van der Heijden (IISH, Amsterdam). See also appendix 3.

Most of you were there in Dublin last year, when we already sketched the idea for this Labour History Index Project, and asked for other institutions to participate in its first phase. Besides the Amsterdam's Institute, seven IALHI members volunteered to participate, so the first stage will be a project with eight institutions: the Institutes from Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Gent, Stockholm, Paris, Bonn, Manchester and Edinburgh.

The idea is to create a web-based search platform for data related to the collections of the institutions; to create something simple, usable — something “Google-like” — where people could enter a few search terms, quickly get results from the data from these different institutions in one search, and then be pointed to the place where they should go for further information, or for ordering photocopies, or whatever.

The organisation of this project is more or less based on a project which we are still doing in Amsterdam: the idea is to build an XML based search platform, with data sources all from ourselves, but with very different types of data (the idea is to load them to one data platform and create a very simple search interface).

You have all type of records or documents, but it is all searched at once; if data coming from one institution are structured very differently from data coming from another institution, it is not a problem for this platform. It is very flexible to take in any kind of records or documents — archival descriptions in MARC format, or archival inventories in a text format, etc. We just have to just put them in, make them searchable, and display. When you are on the list level, and choose a record, you still are on the search platform, so you are seeing data from the XML document platform. But you can also do it differently: if a user gets a result in the list and clicks “Select”, then he doesn't go to the record on the server, but straight to its original location, which can be for instance an archival inventory on the website of one of the 8 institutions. You need the data on this platform to make a search engine, or to build indexes, etc., but if people find these data and want to go to the document, they can go to the original data on the original location. That's, very briefly, the way this search platform looks like.

The contributing procedures are very simple. If you are an IALHI member institution which wants to give data to the project: you don't have to do anything besides export a copy of the data in the format they are, in a way that is the most convenient for you, and does not mean extra-work. You don't have to convert your data to a different format: that job is for the IALHI project, not for the contributing institutions. You just have to create a copy of your data, just as they are, that can be send by e-mail, or on a floppy disc or on a CD-Rom, or put somewhere on a server where we could pick it up. Then, a script will transform these data - which can be for example brief descriptions of archives, and inventories of archives, as at first stage we hope to get data concerning archival collections - into XML documents, which will go on the central XML server in our Institute in Amsterdam. This server has software to build indexes for speed of retrieval, and there is another set of scripts that are working behind the search screen: so there is a user interface web-page where the users go to ask questions,

but then the scripts work, consult the indexes, take documents, find the right documents and display them, first on a list level and then full. Again, this can play a display of the data from the central server, but they can also be a pointer to the original document on another server somewhere in the world.

This is more or less what we already had in mind in Dublin, and if you would ask me what has happen since, I have to confess not as much as I hoped... Mainly because of a lack of time, we have not been able to do the first round of visits to the 7 contributing institutions to look at their data, speak with their data experts, and analyse what they have, what they want to give, and how it can be done. We hope we will finish this in November or December, and I hope that for the next Conference in Gent we will be able to show a sort of a prototype of what it will be. A more detailed planning is in the part Project plan of the paper we gave you with the Conference papers (attachment 2).

However, we have come with a small change in the project plan: first, we intended to work with data from these 8 institutions only, but we thought that it would be more interesting if every IALHI institution was more or less represented in this data platform. So, what we are now planning to do is to get very general descriptions of collections of each IALHI Institution. This could be just a web-page where you give brief general information on your holdings, on which we could just go to harvest the pages and put them on the documents server so that at least on a very general level every IALHI member would be present in the Labour History Index. As she will work on the IALHI Directory, we will ask Jenneke Quast, from our Institute, to try to find information about all IALHI members, and general descriptions of your collections. If she can not, she will then contact you, and ask you for files, folders, leaflets, etc. This will also happen between now and the next year Conference.

The last thing I should mention is that this all idea (very brief descriptions of collections of all IALHI members and larger date sets from 8 institutions) is only the first stage of this labour History Index Project. Of course, we hope that there will be a second stage; but at this moment, it is still impossible to say if we will be able to find money for this. But please keep in mind that we hope there will be a second stage.

The IALHI's Website and the serial service

Marien Van der Heijden (IISH, Amsterdam):

Please check if the website of your institution has somewhere a link to the IALHI website. This is quite important; we link to you, you link to IALHI. Then, a little bit of information about visitor numbers. Last August, which is a summer month, so not one of the busiest month on the Internet, the website had close to 20000 hits, which means a daily average of 631 - not counting the visitor to the IALHI Serials Service (of this Serials Service, I do not have the numbers yet). If you have a look at the website homepage, you will see the News Service, which is made, maintained and sent out by Jaap Kloosterman. Its consists of news coming from different sources, different countries, different institutions specialised on labour history. What happens is that the calls for papers, or books announcements, or book reviews, etc., are copied from an e-mail, or from something, put into the IALHI News Service and posted on the website. There is a News Service Archive, so that older news items are all kept — some of them from e-mail newsgroups are perhaps somewhere else also —, which means our website a very good place to consult to see what happens in labour history during the recent years. If you do not know our News Service, and have a look at it, what is quite interesting is the fact that it is not just on the Web (on which you have to go to), but it is also an e-mail news service, which comes to you if you subscribe. If you subscribe, once a month you will get an e-mail from IALHI, with the headlines of the news items; you can click

on the headlines if they interest you, and go to the news items — which is quite a convenient way to be pointed to something you perhaps would have missed.

Another part of the website is the IALHI Serials Service. It used to be not so sophisticated as it is now: it is now a database in which you can search for anything you would like to search, and you get hits from indexed serials (serials indexed by some IALHI members).

When you do your free text search, you find a list of articles matching your search; you know in which serials it was published, and you have a functionality to order a photocopy of the article from one of the participating institutions who own the serial.

The participating institutions at this moment are: AMSAB-Institute for social history (Gent, Belgium), (Ghent, Belgium), Arbejderbevaegelsens Bibliotek og Arkiv (Copenhagen, Denmark), Bibliothek der Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (Bonn, Germany), BDIC-Bibliothèque de documentation internationale contemporaine (Paris-Nanterre, France), Fondazione Giangiacomo Feltrinelli (Milano, Italy), International Institute of Social History (Amsterdam, The Netherlands), Schweizerisches Sozialarchiv (Zürich, Switzerland), GOPB-State Social-Political Library (Moscow, Russia) and Tamiment Library, New York University (New York, USA).

For each of them, you can see which serials they index, and which issues have been indexed. You get also the contents of the serials. Our question here is that it used to be a lot of work to index these serials (you had to type a text file, and then make a sort of HTML web-file of it, and then send it to Amsterdam where it would be put on the IALHI web server). Right now, we have made a screen where you can do all this online, which is much more easy and convenient. You should consult Franck Veyron on this, who he is a big fan of the new data management interface: he says that it is no work at all, and that it is very difficult now to make mistakes. The question here is that perhaps some of you would like to do one or more serials for the Serials Service... Contact us if you would. Doing a serial would mean every once in a while add the data from the serial to the database, and be willing to accept orders for photocopies (you can decide your own prices and delivery time: that is not decided by the central system, you can do it just as you do every normal order - but this is a functionality built in the system, so you could get more orders for photocopies that you are used to). If you are willing to do this, it would be very interesting for the Serials Service.

The e-mail address to send information is:
ialhi@iisg.nl

The web address is: Cf. <http://www.ialhi.org>

2.2 Members presentations will be published in the ACTA of the Paris conference

ATTACHMENTS / ANNEXES

Attachment 1 / annexe 1

XXXVth annual report to the IALHI

Attachment 2 / annexe 2

IALHI Annual financial statement

Attachment 3 / annexe 3

IALHI Labour History Index Project (June 2004) Marien van der Heijden, IISH, Amsterdam

Attachment 1 / annexe 1

Annual report to the XXXVth IALHI Conference, Paris, 2004

1. The Co-ordination Committee

The Co-ordination Committee consists of
Kyrill Anderson (RGASPI, Moscow)
Janette Martin (NMHL, Manchester)
Karin Englund (ARAB, Stockholm), secretary,
Davis Bidussa (Feltrinelli-Milano),
Jaap Kloosterman (IISH-Amsterdam),
Andrew H. Lee (Bobst Library, NYU, New York),
Rüdiger Zimmermann (Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung-Bonn),
Wouter Steenhaut (AMSAB-Gent)
Marien van der Heijden (Museum group) and
Franck Veyron (BDIC-Nanterre)

The Committee held 2 meetings in 2003-2004:

- 8 February 2004, Paris
- 8 September 2004, Paris

CC. 9.2.2004, Paris, attending members: David Bidussa, Karin Englund, secretary, Jaap Kloosterman, Andrew H. Lee, Janette Martin, Wouter Steenhaut, Marien van der Heijden and Rüdiger Zimmermann. Also present were Geneviève Dreyfus-Armand, representing the BDIC and Françoise Blum and Rossana Vaccaro who together with Franck Veyron form the organizing committee for the XXXVth conference.

At the meeting of the CC the following items were discussed:

- Evaluation of the XXXIV Annual IALHI Conference, Dublin, September 2003
- Finalization of the report from the XXXIVrd meeting, to be presented to the Annual meeting for final approval
- ACTA of the Dublin conference
- Preparation of the XXXV Annual IALHI Conference, Paris, September 2004
- Future conferences, especially the Gent conference in 2005
- Membership, new members
- Financial situation of IALHI
- IALHI Projects, especially the Labour history service

In connection with the CC meeting February in Paris Dr. Chiara Daniele from the Giangiacomo Feltrinelli Foundation presented their work for the collecting of material produced by contemporary social movements and a forthcoming conference in Milan in December 2004 on “Archives of the Present: From Traditional to Digital Documents”.

A CC meeting is also held on the eve of the annual conference, this year on the 8th of September, in Paris.

2. Membership

In the year September 2003 -September 2004 following institution was registered as a new IALHI members:

Learning Resources Manager and Archivist
The Co-operative College
Holyoake House, Hanover Street, Manchester M60 0AS
Tel No: 0161 246 2925
Mobile: 07973 111964
College Web Site: www.co-op.ac.uk

The secretariat sent information on IALHI and its activities to:
Michel Hannotte, directeur.
L'Institut d'HIstoire Ouvrière, Economique et Sociale
3, Avenue Montesquieu
B-4101 SERAING

According to the constitution of IALHI “Applications for membership shall be made to the secretary of the Association who submits them for endorsement to the Co-ordination Committee”. (Art 2, revised in 2000 in Oslo.)

During the year 2003 - 2004, IALHI had 64 paying members (situation on 1st of September, 2004). Two institutions pay reduced membership fees and 8 institutions came under the “godparenthood” system. The “godparenthood” system is possible because seven IALHI members (IISH-Amsterdam, AMSAB-Gent, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung-Bonn, ABA-Kobenhavn, Fondazione Feltrinelli-Milano, Arbejdermuseet-Kobenhavn, ARAB - Stockholm) had declared themselves ready to pay the membership fees for financially weaker members. The IALHI membership fee was during the year unchanged: 112 Euros during the year.

Number of paying members:

31.12.1997: 55
15.08.1998: 48
31.08.1998: 61
31.12.1999: 73
09.09.2000: 60
31.12.2000: 78
31.12.2001: 71
01.08.2002: 62
01.09.2003: 64
01.09 2004: 64

3. Publications and projects

3.1 *The ACTA publication*

There has not been any ACTA publication produced from the Dublin conference. The reason is the digital nature of the conference. There were simply not any (or very few) paper manuscripts to multiply. The question of a digital product - on the IALHI web site or as CD-ROM - is still open.

3.2 IALHI News Service

IALHI News Service (which replaces the former IALHI Newsletter) is published on the internet and distributed by email and coordinated by Jaap Kloosterman. From August 2003 to July 2004 inclusive, the IALHI News Service published about 100 items. The monthly email subscription service was used by 154 persons. The content list sent out in the email service is regularly reproduced by both H-Labor and LabNet, thereby reaching the many hundreds of subscribers to those discussion lists.

3.3 IALHI Serials Service.

The IALHI Serial Service has been upgraded to a database with extended browse and search functionalities, and with an interface for adding and editing data on-line by the participating institutions. The process of ordering photocopies from articles has also been automated. Users can add an article to a 'shopping cart', and the system sends out an email message to the institute holding the serial. 1,406 issues of 96 serials are now indexed. The Serial Service is coordinated by Marien van der Heijden.

3.4 IALHI gender web page

The IALHI Gender web page, <http://www.ialhi.org/gender/>, is managed by Jenneke Quast, who has added new links and reports to the page during the year, both in English and French.

3.5. IALHI Directory

The IALHI directory will be published and maintained online only. It is important that all members report changes of address to IISG, who maintain the website of IALHI and its address register.

3.6. IALHI on WWW

IALHI's website (<http://www.ialhi.org>) is hosted on a web server at the International Institute of Social History.

3.7. IALHI leaflet

In order to be able to spread the word about IALHI to potential new members, the secretariat has revised the IALHI folder. The folder was presented at the Dublin conference and can be obtained at the secretariat on demand.

3.8 The Labour History Index project

The Labour History Index project (provisional title) aims to build an integrated, web-based search platform for collection related data from IALHI institutions. The goal is to make existing data more accessible to users, not to create or manage data. The first stage of the project is a pilot undertaken together with the following IALHI members:

- Arbejderbevægelsens Bibliotek og Arkiv, Kopenhagen,
- AMSAB Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Ghent,
- Arbetarrörelsens Arkiv och Bibliotek, Stockholm,
- Bibliothèque de documentation internationale contemporaine, Paris,
- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Bonn,
- International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam,
- John Rylands University Library, Manchester,
- National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh

3.9. Relationships

There is at present no formalized relationship between IALHI and the international organizations as the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) or with the International Council on Archives (ICA). Individual members are active in those organizations ex officio or in their personal capacity. However, the chairman of the ICA/SBL (the Business and Labour archives section within the ICA) has informally raised the question of some kind of affiliation of IALHI to the SBL.

3.10 Circular letters of the IALHI secretary

The secretariat sent circulars on the 12th of December with thanks to the Irish organizers of the XXXIVth conference in Dublin and information about the forthcoming XXVth conference in Paris. At the same time a letter was sent to the conference participants with a group photo from the conference. On the 11th of March the report from the Dublin report was distributed, together with the preliminary invitation for the Paris Conference. This invitation was later followed up with letters directly from the organizers in Paris. Reminders about the membership fee for 2004 was sent at two occasions.

5 September 2004, Karin Englund

Financial statement

Financial statement per August 2004-12-14

Bank account as per August 2003:

Deposit	4933.01 €
Account	21334.15 €
Euro Pocket	5228.57 €
Balance on 31 august 2003 :	31495.73 €

Income:

Membership fees	8004.91 €
Interest rate	266.94 €
Total income	8311.85 €

Expenditure:

Travel founds, members	1277.50 €
Cost for interpreters 2004	— *
Xeroxcopies and postage	— **
Banking costs	335.45 €
Total expenditures:	1562.95 €

Net profit per August 2004: 6748.90 €

Accounts control

Deposit	5883.70 €
Account	21495.89 €
Euro pocket	11365.04 €
Total bank account per 31 August 2004:	38244.63 €

*: Paid from ARAB: account to be invoiced IALHI during 2004 (4000 €)

** : This cost will be invoiced by ARAB during 2004 (approximately 350 €)

Translation of the Auditor's report to the International Association of Labour History Institutions (organisation number 802412-6321).

I have examined the accounts and balancing of the books of the IALHI for the period 2002- 09-01—2003-12-31.

The audit is done according to Swedish regulations for auditing. I have thus planned and carried out in order to assure that the book keeping and balance of books are not misleading. I have controlled verifications, receipts and other information related to the book keeping. I have also controlled the principles for accounting and information. I consider that these controls are a good base for the following opinion:

The balancing of books has been done in accordance with the legislation on book keeping and give a fair description of the result and financial situation of the organisation. I approve that the net profit of 31665 SEK and total balance of 289760 be determined.

Stokholm, 30 August 2004.

Ulrika Granholm Dahl, Chartered accountant

IALHI Labour History Index Project (june 2004)

Marien van der Heijden, IISH, Amsterdam

In Brief

The Labour History Index project (provisional title) aims to build an integrated, web-based search platform for collection related data from IALHI institutions. The goal is to make existing data more accessible to users, not to create or manage data. The first stage of the project is a pilot undertaken together with the following IALHI members:

- Arbejderbevægelsens Bibliotek og Arkiv, Kopenhagen,
- AMSAB Instituut voor Sociale Geschiedenis, Ghent,
- Arbetarrörelsens Arkiv och Bibliotek, Stockholm,
- Bibliothèque de documentation internationale contemporaine, Paris,
- Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Bonn,
- International Institute of Social History, Amsterdam,
- John Rylands University Library, Manchester,
- National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh.

The collections these institutions have are from social movements that were generally international. Collections that have similar content are scattered among different institutions. Accessing the collections can be by very different interfaces, with very different functionalities. This means these collections are not sufficiently known and used. The development of a joint search engine with a user-friendly interface may provide a web resource that is relevant for social historians, other historians, and people with an interest in (social) history worldwide.

IALHI institutions provide copies of select data sources (such as descriptions and inventories of archives). These data sources are made available in another format on a central server. On this server search functionalities will be developed that allow users to search all data sources in a 'Google-like' interface. Search results will refer users directly (or indirectly) to the data in their original location. With each participating institution a number of relevant data sources will be determined, and ways developed to deliver and update these data to the central server. After uploading the first set of data, the web interface will be developed in Amsterdam and tested by the 'pilot group'. The more definitive search platform will be made accessible to the public and presented to IALHI, with the hope that other institutions will participate. For the second stage additional funding will be required. The costs of the pilot project, however, will be covered by the IISG.

Project Approach

In 2002 the IISG started developing a data platform, based on XML, to create a single search engine for a number of different sources: the library catalog, inventories of archives, image collections, databases on trade unions, strikes and historical occupations, a bibliography on women's history, a biographical dictionary, and the institute's website. These sources are copied and made XML files, and then delivered to an XML document server. Another set of scripts makes it possible to search these documents by means of a web interface. Users can

- search all sources at once, from very a simple search screen,
- choose a selection of sources to search,
- search a separate source with some advanced search and sort options,
- mark search results for email,
- contact the IISG for further information.

The 'raw' data are not edited or enriched in any way on the XML server; any editing or enriching should take place only in the original data. Language and spelling differences are retained from the originals, nor is there a meta-thesaurus. Even if it were theoretically possible, it would have been too major and difficult an undertaking. The power and speed of the search engine and the usability of the interface should compensate for this. Almost every study of 'web search engine user behavior' shows that people prefer simple interfaces where they can type a few words, get results quickly, and obtain references to related information - as in Google. The IISG took this as a model for creating this project.

A similar approach could be used to build a platform for data from IALHI institutions. Just as in the IISG project:

- data are very diverse in content, structure, and format,
- implementation of a joint format to the data within their original repository is not an option,
- the best way to harvest data can be developed for each data source individually,
- a central repository can be used to transform the data to make them searchable through a single interface and to build indexes for speed of retrieval,
- result lists can refer to full records in their original location or to records in the XML repository,
- as the structure of the data platform is modular, changes in existing data sources and new data sources should be relatively easy to cope with,
- without demanding implementation of standards (such as OAI) from contributing institutions, the data platform itself can adopt a standard.

Project Plan (Outline)

The Labour History Index project will be coordinated and hosted by IISG. Representatives from the IISG will communicate with representatives of each participating institute to:

- inventory data sources of possible interest. Besides descriptions and inventories of archives, data on other collections can be considered (library holdings, visual, and audiovisual collections), and data closely related to these collections (data on persons and organizations, digitized contents of sources).
- discuss how to harvest the data (directly by a webbot from Amsterdam, by exporting the data to an accessible FTP server, by sending data by email or even on a CD or DVD; as 'full' or in 'incremental', frequency).
- investigate the structure and contents of the data in order to decide which 'fields' should be mapped to which index.
- discuss and evaluate the web interface and the functionalities to be developed.

Each institute agrees to deliver data to the Labour History Index to participate in the brainstorming group and to test the data and the functionalities. This will not be very time consuming; communication will be mostly by email and a project website.

In 2004 IISG representatives will visit all participating institutes. By the end of 2004, an email discussion list and a project website will be available.

In the first half of 2005 scripts to harvest data will be developed and tested. A server and an XML database will be installed to hold the data. First drafts of the joint data model, the functionalities and the interface will be developed and tested. Perhaps the first pilot version of the Labour History Index can be shown at the 2005 IALHI congress.

In the second half of 2005 second versions of the scripts, data model, functionalities, and interface will be developed and tested by project group members and a wider group of test users. Possibly by the end of 2005 the Labour History Index will be online.

After this more institutions will be invited to participate (and the participants from the first stage will be invited to contribute more data). Funding will also need to be found for this next stage.