MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING OF THE ORGANISATION COMMITTEE OF THE
SCIENTIFIC, TECHNICAL AND MEDICAL GROUP OF THE INTERNATIONAL
PUBLISHERS ASSOCIATION, HELD AT HEADINGTON HILL HALL, OXFORD, ON
SATURDAY, 14TH SEPTEMBER 1968

Present: Mr. P. Bergmans - (Holland) - In the chair
Mr. E.E. Booher - (U.S.A.)
Mr. G. Dunod - (France)
Mr. M.D. Frank - (Holland)
Mr. G. Coetze - (Germany)
Mr. R.H. Code Holland - (U.K.)
Mr. R. Maxwell - (U.K.)
Mr. W. Bradford Wiley - (U.S.A.)
Mr. O. ter Haar - (Holland)
Mr. H. Stam - (Holland)

Mr. Robert Maxwell welcomed members of the Committee and thanked them
for attending. Since the last IPA Conference progress had been made in
setting up the Scientific, Technical and Medical Group of IPA. It was
of increasing importance to the Publishing Profession to show their
ability and their willingness to contribute to the successful dissemination,
both within and across national boundaries, of Scientific & Technical
information which with the advent of computers was otherwise likely to
fall more and more into the hands of government organisations. Co-operation
with those government organisations and within the profession would be
both essential and beneficial and to achieve that it was vital that the
documents which the organising Committee would present to their colleagues
in Frankfurt should show the profession as internationally minded and
capable of co-operation and expansion.

Mr. Maxwell invited Mr. Bergmans to take the chair.

1. Mr. Bergmans (Holland) Chairman welcomed all members of the Committee;
he congratulated Mr. Stam on the progress made by the Educational
Committee and thanked Mr. Maxwell for providing such excellent hospitality
for the present gathering. The only substantial matter for discussion
was the bye-laws, and he hoped the Committee could get through its
agenda by 5. p.m. and have time in hand to consider a programme for 1969
that would encourage publishers to join the Group.

2. a & b The Committee noted the condensed report of the informal meeting
at Amsterdam on 12th June, which members accepted as a true record, and
agreed that the report be not distributed but filed by members as an
aide-mémoire.

2. c The Committee had before it Dr. F. Gentile's letter of August 2nd
expressing his regret that no Italian publisher had been included in the
Organising Committee, and Mr. Bergmans' reply of August 12th explaining
that the group to undertake the preparatory work had not been intended
to be representative but confined to a few members in the interest of
efficiency. The chairman said he saw no justification for inviting Dr.
Gentile to join the Organising Committee at the present stage. Mr. Dunod
(France) felt that Dr. Gentile had some justification for objecting to the
exclusion of the Latin countries and was entitled to a fuller explanation.
Mr. Maxwell agreed that it would be diplomatic, following the present
meeting, to write a further letter to Dr. Gentile endorsing the Chairman's
letter to him but emphasising that the Organising Committee was essentially a small action Committee, designed to be short-term and self liquidating and that no exclusion of any one nation had been intended. Mr. Booker (U.S.A.) suggested that in addition a personal explanation might well be made to Dr. Gentile and, with Committee approval, undertook to talk to him on the matter when he saw him in Frankfurt the following week.

Mr. Duned (France) asked how long the present Organising Committee expected to continue. Mr. Maxwell (U.K.) said that formally speaking there was no committee until the proposed bye-laws were approved by the IPA which did not meet until November. One course of action would be to seek general approval of the bye-laws from the meeting in Frankfurt, following which the Organising Committee could be discharged and a new committee formed of elected officers, which could then forward to the IPA the bye-laws as endorsed or amended with a roster of membership and elected officers. He thought that would be the most workman-like way to proceed. Dr. Goetze (Germany) supported that procedure; Mr. Code Holland referred to the lengthy discussions that had preceded acceptance of the bye-laws of the education committee and hoped that matters could move morespeedily and thought it would be advisable at Frankfurt to have some names in mind. Mr. Maxwell stressed the importance when meeting publishers at Frankfurt of making it clear that all covenants for the group were open and avoiding any impression of a self-appointed oligarchy.

3. a The chairman suggested the committee to go on and discuss the bye-laws on which much work had been done and of which the sixth version was before them. The crucial point related to article 4: who could become a member of the group? Were individual members to be accepted from countries not members of IPA? The view of Mr. Lefebvre strictly in accordance with IPA rules which would allow only second class membership to Publishers in Eastern Europe was in conflict with the aim of the Group that Scientific Publishers should be full members irrespective of whether their country was an IPA member.

Dr. Goetze (Germany) said it was essential in order to provide a real possibility for dealing on a world wide basis with problems of scientific publishing to admit as members all individual active publishers in their own right; there was nothing to be gained from setting up an ineffective amorphous Organization of anonymous corporations - a mere talking shop.

Mr. Maxwell (U.K.) said they were faced with a serious problem in the difference between their own outlook and that of Mr. Lefebvre. He fully supported Dr. Goetze's view. There would be great advantages in bringing in the Eastern Publishers, not only in the regard to their undoubtedly strong influence in Scientific Publishing but also in regard to the possibility of influencing them to adopt positive attitudes helpful to the group on the issue of copyright when one could tackle them away from their Political and Financial Bosses. That might seem a rather remote possibility but there was a chink of light which was not without value to IPA.

Mr. Maxwell continued that there was no question of the group's seceding from IPA. How were the two difficulties to be overcome? If individual members were admitted would the National Organizations see a danger that some members would join the group and resign from their National Associations? They were on the horns of a double dilemma and had a very tricky circle to square. Therefore it was vital that the bye-laws should make abundantly clear the loyalty of the Group to IPA and to their national associations and should concretely and unambiguously spell out the specialist technical and scientific field in which the
Group's function was to provide a service which neither IPA nor any national association could offer. They should seek IPA’s sanction for individual membership set at a fee sufficiently high to safeguard national associations against a mass exodus of their members. One could thus strive to have the best of both worlds.

The Chairman invited the views of the two members of the IPA Executive Council who were present, Mr. Code Holland and Mr. Wiley.

Mr. Code Holland (U.K.) thought it would not be easy to sell Mr. Maxwell’s compromise to IPA, even though nothing in its rules precluded individual membership of Groups. However, it was helpful that the Action Committee had recommended the admission of Eastern European countries, presumably a step in the direction of individual membership as those countries had no independent trade associations.

Mr. Wiley (U.S.A.) recalled that the U.S. delegation to IPA had advocated a basic change on rules of membership, on which they would be putting forward a detailed proposal to the Executive Committee in November. In the past IPA had not been successful in attracting the active participation of the Eastern European countries which resented offers of second-class membership and last minute invitations.

Mr. Code Holland (U.K.) warned the Committee that the Group could not admit nationals of East Germany, a state not recognised by Western governments. Mr. Maxwell (U.K.) agreed that unless and until the East German situation changed it was necessary to exclude that state to avoid the arguments and difficulties the Educational Group had met. Mr. Stam (Holland) (Sec. of Educational Group) said that the experience of his Group, which was not recognised by UNESCO because it did not represent all nations, raised the question whether it was right to maintain membership rules of IPA which resulted in non-recognition by international organisations.

Mr. Maxwell (U.K.) said that was a known pitfall to be avoided by the Scientific Group which required recognition to function effectively and to deal with the International Council of Scientific Unions (ICSU) and other bodies affiliated to UNESCO. He suggested a three-fold approach:

(i) individual membership was accepted;
(ii) to qualify for membership the individual had to be a national of a state which was a member of UNESCO;
(iii) in the action programme the Secretariat’s most urgent duty would be to obtain affiliation to UNESCO and other international bodies.

He thought such an approach could result in a very successful Group which would enhance the whole standing and prestige of IPA, a point which Mr. Code Holland and Mr. Wiley might well impress on their fellow-members of the Executive Committee.

Mr. Wiley (U.S.A.) said the Executive was well aware of the need to make IPA a truly international organisation.

Mr. Bergmans (Holland) Chairman reminded members of the Committee that the bye-laws were required in Frankfurt the following week and suggested that the draft before them should be taken article by article.

Mr. Maxwell (U.K.) proposed that the Committee ask Mr. Code Holland as a lawyer with the collaboration of Mr. ter Haar to re-draft the bye-laws, after their scrutiny by the Committee, making any agreed amendments and modifications. Mr. Code Holland undertook to do so.
AIMS AND OBJECTS The Committee accepted Mr. Maxwell's proposal that the bye-laws be prefaced by a general statement of the aims and objects of the Group in the form of a Preamble under three headings, first affirming loyalty to IPA and to national organisations, and then stating the two aims of assisting national organisations in the better dissemination of scientific, technical and medical information and of assisting publishers in that field to better carry out their duties. It was agreed that the Preamble should replace Articles 1 and 2.

Mr. Wiley (U.S.A.) proposed and the Committee agreed that "storage and retrieval" be included after "better dissemination" in the Preamble.

Following concern expressed by Mr. Bergmans and Dr. Goetze for some inclusion of the humanities The Committee adopted Mr. Maxwell's proposal that there should be in the Preamble a reference to the inclusion in "science" of the social and behavioural sciences.

MEMBERSHIP Mr. Bergmans (Holland) Chairman asked whether the Committee wish to follow the distinction made by Mr. Lefebvre and accept as individual members only nationals of IPA members. Mr. Maxwell (U.K.) opposed that view; the situation had been explained to IPA who realised the advantages to the Association of wider membership in the Scientific Group. He proposed and the Committee accepted "Any scientific publishing house may become a member whose country enjoys membership of UNESCO". (Article 3 now 1) Article 4 becomes Article 2.

The Committee adopted Mr. Maxwell's suggestion in (b) that where there were specialist groups equal to the Group membership should be through such groups. He suggested also that a Membership Sub-Committee be set up to consider applications for membership, meeting half-yearly with appeal only to the Annual General Meeting. It was his opinion that the best course was to fix a substantial subscription, $500 or $1,000 a year, and any publisher in the field willing to pay the fee and surviving the scrutiny of the Membership Sub-Committee was a member. Mr. Code Holland (U.K.) and Mr. Bocher (U.S.A.) felt that national associations as members of the Group should pay a higher fee than individual members, but the Committee agreed that the question of differential subscriptions be left for the Executive Committee.

Articles 5, 6, 7, 8 - with deletion of last two sentences - and 9 were adopted subject to small drafting refinements.

Article 10 was adopted with the inclusion in b) of "and of three nationalities".

Article 11 List of duties was amended to the following:

a) election of officers of Group Executive
b) any amendment to bye-laws
c) approval of the budget and accounts of the Group
d) (as c) in draft)
e) receiving the Annual Report from the Group Executive and proposals for future programmes of the Group.

Article 12 was amended to "shall be fixed by the Chairman and Secretary with the approval of the Executive."

Article 13; first sentence was amended by adding at end "except for amendments to the bye-laws where a two-thirds majority is required".
Article 14 was adopted.

Article 15: In first line "and seven other members" was amended to "a minimum of seven and a maximum of eleven other members". It was suggested that a quorum be five, the Chairman having the casting vote.

Article 16: It was suggested that the duties of the Group Executive should be very broadly stated along the lines of "implementation of the aims and purposes of the Group and the carrying out of the will of the General Assembly", thus ensuring the greatest freedom for the Executive. It was suggested by Mr. Wiley that a Nominations Sub-Committee should be appointed by the Executive.

Article 17: was amended to "shall be held not less than once a year"

Articles 18, 19, 20 and 21 were adopted in principle.

Article 22: was deleted in toto.

Article 23: Mr. Maxwell proposed "The secretary of the Group shall carry out duties as assigned to him by the Executive Committee and shall take all other positive steps to implement the groups objects and to enhance its standing and reputation". The deletion of "Its location shall be fixed by the Group Executive" was agreed.

Article 24: The Committee briefly discussed languages to be used. It was agreed that the working language should be English, minutes of meetings to be kept in that language and circulated in the official languages of IPA, English, French and German, and in such other language(s) as were truly representative of the membership.

Article 25: deletion was agreed.

Article 26: agreed.

Article 27: (from Mr. Lefebvre's text) agreed.

The Committee adjourned at 1:10 p.m.
CONTINUATION OF THE MEETING AT 3.00 p.m.

Agenda Item 4 - Nomination of a tentative Board of the Committee

Mr. Bergmans (Chairman), opening the afternoon session at 3.00 p.m., said he did not think this item was relevant at the present stage. It would be better to nominate a proper Executive Committee in 3 to 5 months' time than to try to nominate any tentative Board of the present Committee now.

Mr. Maxwell (U.K.) pointed out that the first opportunity there would be of meeting the interested membership would be at Frankfurt. He suggested that the Committee should put forward its own nominations there, and invite further nominations from the floor.

Mr. Bergmans (Chairman) objected that in any case the present group had no executive powers; it was merely a steering committee. He could not see any advantage in enlarging it.

Mr. Maxwell (U.K.) explained that the problem was whether to seek endorsement for the existing Committee at Frankfurt, or whether to continue without formal approval until the time came to give way to a properly constituted Executive Committee elected by the members. Referring to a suggestion made at the morning meeting by Mr. Dunod that French and Spanish representatives ought to be invited to join the Committee, he pointed out that since there was as yet no membership, there was no machinery whereby Committee members could properly be elected. He did not think there was any need to invite others to join for the present. As soon as the Group had a membership, those members would be asked to nominate an Executive, and the existing Committee would be dissolved.

Mr. Dunod (France) thought it was important for the definitive Committee to come into being as soon as possible. Since it could only be elected by the Constituent General Assembly, an early date for the Assembly should be fixed.

Mr. Maxwell (U.K.) agreed. An undertaking had been given that a definitive Committee would be appointed within one year, or if possible within six or eight months.

Mr. Frank (Holland) felt it would be dangerous to nominate a new Committee at Frankfurt.

Mr. Booker (U.S.A.) said that all that could be done at that meeting was to propose to the potential members the machinery whereby the first Executive Committee and its officers could be elected.

Mr. Bergmans (Chairman), summing up, suggested that the present group should present itself at Frankfurt as the de facto Organizing Committee. There could be no election at that meeting since there were as yet no members and therefore no voting procedure, but the Committee would propose a date by which a definitive Executive Committee would be appointed. Since the order of the Frankfurt meeting was to be discussed under item 7, he proposed that any further points be dealt with under that heading and that item 4 be deleted from the agenda.

It was so agreed.

Agenda item 5 (a) - Definition of fields of activity of the Educational Group and of the Scientific, Technical and Medical Group.

Mr. Bergmans (Chairman) said the informal meeting in Amsterdam had given some guidelines on these definitions. Could the Committee agree to adopt Mr. Maxwell's version?
Mr. Maxwell (U.K.) said that as he saw it the Educational Group would be concerned with primary and secondary education, while the field of their own Group would be tertiary and further education and the whole problem of storage and retrieval of information.

Those definitions were agreed in principle.

5 (b) - Points for a working programme for 1969

Mr. Maxwell (U.K.) said that it should be enough before the next annual General Assembly for the Group to aim to secure approval by IPA of its Articles of Association, to obtain the recognition of appropriate international organizations such as UNESCO and ICSU, and to appoint a Secretary. It would be very wrong for the present Committee to do more than launch a membership drive, invite suggestions for activities, and prepare for the Constituent General Assembly at which the new officers would be elected.

It was so agreed.

Agenda item 9 - Date and place of the Constituent General Assembly

Mr. Bermans (Chairman) invited suggestions for the date and place of the first General Assembly.

Mr. Maxwell (U.K.) suggested that the Assembly should be held before the end of May 1969 in Paris, London or Frankfurt, since European publishers would find it difficult to travel to New York.

After some discussion, during which Mr. Wiley (U.S.A.) and Mr. Bookers (U.S.A.) warned that it was unlikely that representatives of American publishing firms in the field would attend, both because they had other commitments and because the Group was not yet a going concern, it was agreed that the Constituent General Assembly would be held in Paris on 26 April 1969, and that Mr. Dunod (France) would be responsible for organizing it.

Agenda item 6 - Fixation of contribution for members for 1969

Mr. Maxwell (U.K.) proposed that the contribution be fixed at $1,000. In order to be really effective the Group needed substantial resources, and he also felt that potential members should consider joining with some care. He expected a total of 50 members and thought the Group should aim at an annual budget of $50,000.

Mr. Bermans (Chairman) thought that $1,000 was too high and would discourage many firms from joining. He did not think that the Group was likely to get more members in the Netherlands than the two firms represented at the present meeting.

Mr. Dunod (France) also felt $1,000 was too high. Moreover, he did not think French firms could easily be persuaded that it was to their advantage to join the Group individually rather than en bloc as members of the Syndicat des Editeurs. It was important to declare the Group’s aims in the clearest possible terms at Frankfurt, so that subscribers should be convinced they were getting value for money.

Mr. Maxwell (U.K.) pointed out that the Group could not begin to provide a worthwhile service until it had assembled sufficient resources to start such a service. The advantages membership offered were, specifically, the right to vote in the General Assembly, and, generally, the exchange and dissemination of information on technical and scientific subjects on a worldwide basis.

That outline of a working programme was agreed.

5 (c) Draft for a circular letter of interested publishers

Mr. Maxwell (U.K.) suggested that the draft letter before the meeting should
Mr. Bocher (U.S.A.) listed the U.S. firms that he thought likely to be willing to join the Group. Of the American University Presses, there were 8 or 9 whose volume of business exceeded one million dollars yearly, but he pointed out that the maximum membership due these firms paid either to their own organizations or to the American Book Publishers' Council was $300 a year. He too thought that $1,000 was too high a figure and proposed $750 as more realistic.

Mr. Wiley (U.S.A.) supported the $750 figure. He pointed out that only a few of the American University Presses (Chicago, MIT and Yale) had a major interest in the sciences and hence could be expected to see an advantage in joining.

Mr. Frank (Holland) thought that the Latin countries were unlikely to contribute more than $400. The Belgian publishers' association would not be willing to pay as much as $1,000 for collective membership.

Mr. Bérgmans (Chairman) said that from the discussion it appeared that the Group would be able to count on 12 members from the U.K., 10 from the U.S.A., 6 from Germany and 3 from France. There was a danger that it might be labelled a "rich boys' club" of English-speaking publishers. It was important to give full advance publicity to the Group's objectives if European countries were to be persuaded that it was to their advantage to join.

Mr. Bocher (U.S.A.) stressed that the whole object of organizing the Group was to guard the interests of the publishing trade in this field - those interests being the dissemination of information and the protection of copyright. The trade could not have this protection unless it was willing to pay for it.

Mr. Frank (Holland) feared that such bodies as UNESCO and ICSU would be unwilling to give recognition to the Group on the grounds that, with only 20 or so members, it was not sufficiently representative. A high contribution figure would exclude such countries as Italy, Finland, Sweden and Denmark.

Mr. Stam (Holland) supported that view, pointing out that UNESCO was particularly concerned with the interests of the developing countries. On the other hand, the Group must have an adequate budget to enable it to appoint a Secretary and provide a proper service.

Mr. Maxwell (U.K.) said that in view of the arguments advanced he withdrew his original proposal. He suggested that the contribution be fixed at $500, the figure for the developing countries to be decided on by the Group at a later stage. The response at the Frankfurt meeting might provide further guidelines.

It was so agreed.

Item 7 - Order of the Frankfurt Meeting on Thursday, 19th September

Mr. Bérgmans (Chairman) said he had asked Dr. Goetze to preside at Frankfurt since he himself would be in the States on that date. He recalled that Mr. Dunod had proposed that a statement of the Group's aims should be circulated at the meeting.

Mr. Wiley (U.S.A.) suggested that this statement could be based on the section of the bye-laws entitled "Aims and Scope".

Mr. Maxwell (U.K.) suggested that at Frankfurt the Chairman of the present Committee should make a progress report and distribute any relevant documents (including minutes of the present meeting) to show what had
been achieved so far. He should stress that the Organizing Committee would cease to exist as soon as the membership had elected an Executive.

Mr. Wiley (U.S.A.) felt it should also be made clear at Frankfurt that the present Committee had only volunteered its services because its members had happened to be assembled in Amsterdam for the IPA Congress. The Organizing Committee represented the interests of all publishers and was not intended to be exclusive.

Mr. Maxwell (U.K.) agreed. A letter to Dr. Gentile should be drafted by the Chairman which would stress that point.

Mr. Escher (U.S.A.) proposed that representatives of publishers in Italy, Spain and Eastern Europe should be invited to join the Organizing Committee.

Mr. Dunod (France) supported that proposal. He made the point that it would be desirable for the circular letter that was to be sent out to interested publishers after Frankfurt to be signed by a wide variety of different countries, to show that the Group was sufficiently representative.

Dr. Goetz (Germany) thought it better to wait till after the Frankfurt meeting to co-opt new members. He pointed out that in any case the present Committee would soon be resigning to make way for the Committee elected by the Constituent Assembly. If representatives from Italy, Spain and Eastern Europe were to be invited, other small publishers, such as those of India, ought not to be excluded.

Mr. Stam (Holland) reminded the Committee that there was to be a meeting of the Educational Group the day before the Frankfurt meeting, which would be attended by publishers both from Eastern Europe and from India.

After some further discussion it was agreed that Mr. Hoesli, Mr. Salvat, Mr. Bluhm and Mr. Grohmann would be asked to join the Organizing Committee, and invited to attend the Frankfurt meeting on 19th September 1969.

**Agenda item 8 - Fixation of date and place of next meeting of the Committee**

It was agreed that the next meeting of the Committee would take place in Zurich on 14 November 1969, immediately before the meeting of 15/16 November. On Mr. Maxwell's suggestion it was further agreed that if there were not sufficient business to justify it, this meeting would not take place.

The meeting rose for tea at 4.30 p.m. and resumed at 5.10 p.m.

After the tea-break Mr. Maxwell (U.K.), on the subject of the Frankfurt meeting, said that the key task was membership recruitment. Each member of the present Committee should be responsible for recruiting a certain number of members before they were disbanded. In answer to a question from Mr. Stam (Holland), he said that the document "Suggestions for a working programme 1969 derived from the condensed report of the Informal Meeting" should provide Dr. Goetz with sufficient material to give the Frankfurt meeting a full explanation of the objectives and activities of the Group. One of those activities, he suggested, would be the study of the effects of computers and electronic copying devices on the revenue of authors and publishers, and of what positive steps could be taken to enhance those revenues. Another activity could be described as "ways and means of minimizing the harmful effects of the Stockholm Convention on the rights of authors and publishers in the tertiary field". Protection of the interests of authors would be one of the Group's most important tasks.
Copies of the Draft Bye-Laws, as re-drafted by Mr. Code Holland and Mr. Ter Haar in the light of the morning's discussion, were distributed to the Committee.

After some discussion on drafting points the Draft Bye-Laws, as amended, were approved.

Mr. Maxwell (U.K.) on behalf of the Committee, thanked Mr. Code Holland and Mr. Ter Haar for their valuable work in re-drafting the text.

The meeting rose at 6.30 p.m.