

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

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.
- v] KATE MCPHERSON ANNOUNCED "Out of the Archives," a Bisexual, Gay, and Lesbian History Conference at York University, 14 and 15 January 1994.
- 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.