

ASSOCIATION INTERNATIONALE DES CRITIQUES D'ART
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ART CRITICS

9th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NAPLES

PALAZZO REALE, 19 SEPTEMBER 1957

PRESENT :

President p.i. : James Johnson SWEENEY (U.S.A.)

Vice-President : Raymond COGNAT (France), H.L.C. JAFFE (Netherlands),
Sir Herbert READ (United Kingdom), Juliusz STARZYNSKI (Poland),
Lionello VENTURI (Italy)

General Secretary : Mme S. GILLE-DELAPON (France)

Regional Secretary : Otto BENESCH (Austria)

Treasurer : Walter KERN (Switzerland)

Members : G.C. ARGAN (Italian Section Pres.), Charles BERNARD (Belgian
Section Pres.), Haïm GAMZU (Israeli Section Pres.), Miroslav MICKO
(Czech Section Pres.), Sergio MILLIET (Brazilian Section Pres.), Eric
NEWTON (British Section Pres.), France STELE (Yugoslavian Section Pres.)

Mario BARATA (Brazilian Section Secr.), L.P.J. BRAAT (Dutch Section
Secr.), Palma BUCARELLI (Italian Section Secr.), Aleksa CELEBONOVIC
(Yugoslavian Section Secr.), Cornelius DOELMAN (Dutch Section Treasurer)
Hans Theodor FLEMMING (German Section Secr.), Pierre JEANNERAT (British
Section Secr.), Charles de MAEYER (Belgian Section Treasurer), Joseph-
Emile MULLER (Luxemburger Section Secr.), Georges PEILLEX (Swiss
Section Secr.), James WHITE (Irish Section Secr.)

Umbro APOLLONIO (Italy), Rosario ASSUNTO (Italy), Gino BACCHETTI (Italy),
Jean BOURET (France), Quirino CAMPOFIORITO (Brazil), Bernard CHAMPI-
GNEULLE (France), Léon DEGAND (Belgium), Gillo DORFLES (Italy), Mme
Magda Van ENDE BOAS (Netherlands), R.R. FIGGIS (Ireland), Paul GENEUX
(Switzerland), Ernst GOLDSCHMIDT (Belgium), Zahir GUVEMLI (Turkey),
A.M. HAMMACHER (Netherlands), Mme Renilda HAMMACHER (Belgium), J.P.
HODIN (United Kingdom), Werner HOPMANN (Free Section), Mme Agnès
HUMBERT (France), René HUYGHE (France), Zoran KRISNIK (Yugoslavia),
Hector LEGGE (Ireland), Jean LEYMARIE (France), Carl LINPERT (Germany),
G.L. LUZZATTO (Italy), Corrado MALTESE (Italy), Giuseppe MARCHIORI
(Italy), Lucijan MENASE (Yugoslavia), Murilo MENDES (Brazil), Bruno
MOLAJOLI (Italy), Mme Giusta NICCO-PASOLA (Italy), Guglielmo PACCHIONI
(Italy), Mario PEDROSA (Brazil), R.E. PENNING (Netherlands),

Guido PEROCCO (Italy), Olivier PICARD (Belgium), Nieckyslan POREBSKI (Poland), Attilio PODESTA (Italy), Hans REDEKER (Netherlands), Pierre ROUVE (United Kingdom), Sander TORDAY (Free Section), Giorgio VIGNI (Italy), Vostech VOLAVKA (Czechoslovakia), Charles WENTINCK (Netherlands), Aleksander WOJCIECHOWSKI (Poland)

New members : Giovanni CARANDENTE (Italy), René GAFPE (Belgium), John HUNT (Ireland), Ottano MORISANI (Italy), Gert SCHIFF (Germany), Shin-Ichi-SEQUI (Japan)

Representative of UNESCO : Mr. Michel DARD, head of the Division of the International Cultural Exchanges.

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R E P O R T

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COMMISSION MEETINGS - 9 a.m.

MEMBERSHIP COMMISSION

Chairman : Mr Lionello VENTURI (Italy)

Members : Messrs. Stanislas LORENTZ (Poland), Eric NEWTON (United Kingdom), Mario PEDROSA (Brazil), J.J. SWEENEY (U.S.A.), Soici TOMINAGA (Japan), Mme S. GILLE-DELAPON, Secretary-general of AICA

Apology : Mr. Stanislas LORENTZ, replaced by Mr. Juliusz STARZYNSKI (Pologne)

Absent : Mr Soichi TOMINAGA.

Mr. Lionello VENTURI (Chairman) requested members for their views on the applications submitted by the chairman of the various national sections, and pointed out that the list of candidates and their curricula vitae had been sent to all members of the Commission by the Secretariat.

Mr. STARZYNSKI read a letter sent to the Commission by Mr. Stanislas LORENTZ, in which the writer drew the Commission's attention to the different standards applied by the various national sections in selecting new members. Some sections submitted the names of artist who merely devoted themselves to art criticism as a sideline while others employed strict criteria related to professional qualifications and studies devoted to art history. It appeared necessary for the

Commission to look into the question. In addition he expressed the hope that, in the future, the proposals submitted by the different sections be drawn up more uniformly, which would facilitate the Commissions's task; at present, certain sections provided extremely detailed information on their candidates, while that supplied by others was very cursory.

On the suggestion of the Chairman, the Commission unanimously approved Mr LORENTZ's proposals.-----

After considering the various curricula vitae submitted, the Commission decided to give a favourable opinion with regard to 53 of the new applications to be submitted for the approval of the Committee meeting to follow immediately after the meeting of the Commission.

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ARCHIVES COMMISSION

Chairman : Mr Juliusz STARZYNSKI (Poland)

Members : Messrs. G.C. ARGAN (Italy), Robert DELEVOY (Belgium), Pierre FRANCASTEL (France), José GUDIOL (Spain), H.L.C. JAPPE (Netherlands), J.J. SWEENEY (U.S.A.), Mme S. GILLE-DELAFFON, Secretary-general of AICA.

The members of the Commission, which had continued its activities during the current year, were informed that its meeting would be ajourned until the next General Assembly. The Italian Section had announced that it had a communication to make relating to the archives of Futurism. Because of the importance of that communication, it had been presented at one of the sessions of the Congress and would be transmitted to the Committee by Mr. G.C. ARGAN, chairman of the Italian Section.

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RULES COMMISSION

Chairman : Mr. Reynond COGNAT (France)

Members : Messrs. Jacques LASSAIGNE (France : Rapporteur), Umbro APOLLONIO (Italy), Grgo GAMULIN (Yugoslavia), H.L.C. JAPPE (Netherlands), Walter KERN (Switzerland), Eric NEWTON (United Kingdom), Mme S. GILDELAFON, Secretary-general of AICA

Apologies :Messrs. Jacques LASSAIGNE, Grgo GAMULIN

Members : Messrs. Bernard DORIVAL (France), Haïm GAMZU (Israel), Jos de GRUYTER (Netherlands), Pierre JEANNERAT (United Kingdom), Zuran KRZISNIK (Yugoslavia), Joseph-Emile MULLER (Luxemburg), Mario PEDROSA (Brazil), Haavard ROSTRUP (Denmark), Tony P. SPITERIS (Greece)

Secretary-general of AICA : Mme S. GILLE-DELAPON

Apologies : Messrs. Bernard DORIVAL, Jos de GRUYTER, Haavard ROSTRUP, Tony P. SPITERIS

Observer : Mr. Shi-Ichi SEQUI (Japan)

UNESCO Representative : Mr Michel DARD, head of the Division of International Cultural Exchanges.

Mme S. GILLE-DELAPON (Secretary-general, AICA) submitted to the meeting the documentation collected by the Japanese section and brought to Naples by Mr. Shin-Ichi-SEQUI.

Mr. Jean LEYMARIE explained that the documentation received comprised general works, such as biographies of artists, albums of photographs, exhibition catalogues, newspaper articles and articles on Japanese contemporary art specially written by Japanese art critics on the request of Mr. TOMINAGA. These articles, which covered painting, calligraphy, sculpture and crafts, were signed by Michiaki KAWAKITA, Kenjiro OKAMOTO and Chisaburo YAMADA.

Finally, a list of all Japanese contemporary artists, subdivided into categories according to the branch of art practised, had been drawn up. It included 137 names and gave the addresses of those Japanese artists listed who were living abroad.

Mr. Michel DARD (UNESCO Representative) also welcomed the documentation received. While appreciating its importance, he nevertheless thought that it should be supplemented.

Mr Jean LEYMARIE pointed out that the documentation only represented a preliminary delivery and that additional material had been sent to Paris. It would be important for the experts to meet one more in that city to continue their work, familiarise themselves with the additional documentation and decide on the way in which it might best be used. It was agreed to hold the next meeting at UNESCO Headquarters, 19 avenue Kléber, Paris, on 10 October.

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE

10.30 a.m.

Mr. James Johnson SWEENEY (U.S.A.), Acting President of AICA, opening the meeting, informed members that, because of the amendments proposed to the Statutes, it had been decided to hold only one meeting of the old committee and national chairman, as it had been proposed to replace the old committee by a smaller body consisting of the Chairman of National Sections and a few elected members, which would function more efficiently.

He began by requesting the Chairman of the various Commissions to report on their activities.

Mr. Lionello VENTURI (Chairman of the Membership Commission) submitted the list of applications which the Membership Commission recommended for approval, with information on the activities of the candidates. He then indicated the Commission's opinion, urging a more methodical procedure for the next assembly, so that the Commission might be able to carry out its task more expeditiously. His main request was that applications and curricula vitae should be sent to the Secretariat before the Assembly, so that the Commission might be able to study them in advance. It was inadmissible that Sections should submit nominations for membership to the meeting of the Committee without their having first been forwarded to the Membership Commission for its opinion. That Commission should henceforth shoulder the full responsibility for the admittance of new members.

The speaker then expressed the view that the Association should admit to membership those whose duties might very widely, such as newspaper critics, university professors, artist writers, etc. In his opinion, AICA should include all those who were, generally speaking, interested in criticism. An office worker should be admitted if he wrote criticism, while, on the other hand, an authority on art could not be admitted if he did not write. The social function should not be considered; the point was to accept members actively engaged in art criticism.

The Acting PRESIDENT then submitted the names recommended by the Membership Commission for the Committee's approval :

- 1 member proposed by the Belgian Section : Mr. René GAFPE,
- 1 member proposed by the Brazilian Section : Mr. Quirino DA SILVA,
- 6 members proposed by the British Section : Messrs. John A. CAUCHI, Frank W. DIBB, Nigel FOXELL, Luke John HERRMANN, William Edward JOHNSON, Charles S. SPENCER; one of the above
 - Mr. John A. CAUCHI - represented the island of Malta,
- 1 member proposed by the Chilean Section : Maria Rosa GONZALEZ (Mme Emilio PETTORUTI),

- 1 member proposed by the Colombian Section : Mr. Marta TRABA,
- 2 members proposed by the Danish Section : Messrs. Pierre d'ORIGNY LUBECKER and Jan ZIBRANDTSEN,
- 8 members proposed by the French Section : Messrs. Georges CHARENSOL, André CHASTEL, René DEROUILLÉ, Robert GENAILLE, Jacques de LAPRADE, Pierre LAVEDAN, Georges SALLES, Francis SPAR.
- 2 members proposed by the German Section : Messrs. Felix DARGEL and Gert SCHIFF,
- 4 members proposed by the Greek Section : Messrs. Manolis ANDROKINOS, Chrissanthos CHRISTOU, Georges MOURELOS and Miss Hélène VACALO,
- 1 member proposed by the Irish Section : Mr. John HUNT,
- 9 members proposed by the Italian Section : Messrs. Guido BALLO, Carlo BARBIERI, Maurizio CALVESI, Giovanni CARANDENTE, Libero DE LIBERO, Ottavio MORISANI, Roberto PANE, Nello PONENTE, Bruno ZEVI,
- 2 members proposed by the Japanese Section : Messrs. Shin-Ichi-SEQUI and Yasuo KAMON,
- 5 members proposed by the Mexican Section : Messrs. Luis Cardoza y ARAGON, Rafael ANZURES PERNANDEZ, Francisco Xavier HERNANDEZ, Pedro ROJAS and Miss Berta TARACENA,
- 6 members proposed by the Polish Section : Miss Helena BLUM, Messrs. Janusz BOGUGHI, Andrzej JAKIMOWICZ, Wladyslawa JAWORSKA, Andrzej RYSZKIEWICZ and Michael WALICKI,
- 1 member proposed by the Spanish Section : Mr Eduardo WESTHERDHAL,
- 1 member proposed by the Independent Section : John Anthony THWAITES.

Finally, a national section had asked for admittance : a South African section with two members, Messrs. Dean ANDERSON and Maurice VAN ENCHE.

The total number proposed was fifty-three new full members.

The 53 applications were approved.

The Acting PRESIDENT said that, while there was no report from the Archives Commission, he would like to refer to the presentation of the first volume of the "Archives of Futurism" by Mr. Fortunato BELLONZI, member of the Italian Section, and by the Chairman of that Section, Mr G.C. ARGAN, which had taken place at one of the sessions of the Congress. He explained that the volume would be published by the Italian house De Luca. The publication was the first to be made under AICA patronage, and redounded to its credit.

Mr. Raymond COGNIAT, Chairman of the Rules Commission, then explained the proposed amendments to the AICA Statutes. As the list of amendments considered necessary for the proper functioning of the Association had been sent to the chairman of the various national sections, and as no request for their amendment had arrived since, he assumed that the various sections were in agreement with the proposals. He would therefore restrict himself to giving the reasons for which the amendments have been considered.

As the AICA's membership now counted 30 countries, the Committee would have had to consist of 120 members, which would have made it too cumbersome to function. Events had influenced the decisions. It had been observed that the chairman of the different national sections did most effective work, and it had therefore been proposed that the old Committee be replaced by a new one consisting of those chairmen. But, in order to avoid giving the new Committee a character of mere automatic national representation, it had also been proposed that a certain number of elected members be added, chosen for their personal capabilities and their prestige.

It had also been proposed that from henceforth the President of the Association be elected by the General Assembly, so that he should not only be the leader of the Committee or Bureau but the true representative of the Association; the same would be done in the case of the Vice-Presidents.

The admission of new members would remain in the hands of the Committee which was responsible for the intellectual standing of the Association. The only question remaining was that the qualifications for membership, regarding which the opinions of the various sections differed. Perhaps these differences were connected with the question of subscriptions, as associate members paid their national sections, while full members paid AICA direct. It might be possible to consider a compromise solution; i.e. out of every full member's subscription, a part might be retained by the national section, while a part of every associate member's subscription might be set aside for the Association. Such a procedure would level matters out.

Finally there was the problem of voting. It was awkward that only persons present at meetings could participate in voting. Because of its uncertainty, voting by correspondence did not seem advisable for the Association. Voting by delegation seemed preferable, but only on condition that every voting member would be restricted to a limited number of votes, perhaps three.

The Acting PRESIDENT thanked the speaker for his report. While certain items still had to be finally decided, he was of the opinion that the Committee could delegate Mr. COGNAT with the responsibility and take an immediate vote on the amendments which had been submitted to the national sections.

The proposal was accepted and the amendments adopted.

Mr. H.L.C. JAFFE, Chairman of the Terminology Commission, reported on the work done by the Commission and on its programme for the coming year, indicating that it had not yet decided on the form in which its researches would be published. The publication of a systematic dictionary - on the lines of the Lalande dictionary - was being considered, although a historic encyclopedia, on the lines of the Italian encyclopedia, might be considered useful. In the

latter case, the articles on the various terms would trace their historical development until the present. The Commission would propose that the National Sections study the meaning of the five following terms before the next Assembly, viz., Functionalism, realism, expressionism, symmetry, composition. Their study of a single term should take up no more than two typed pages and be sent to the Secretariat for transmission to the Commission.

Mr. Jean LEYMARIE, Chairman of the Committee of Experts responsible for correlating the tasks linked with the execution of the agreement with UNESCO, asked Mr. DARD to enlighten members on the more important aspects of the contract.

Mr. Michel DARD (UNESCO representative) outlined the main features of the existing contract which had been determined at the Dubrovnik General Assembly. It was UNESCO's privilege to co-operate closely with the art critics, and the Organization's art publishing programme of catalogues, colour reproductions, travelling exhibitions, albums in the UNESCO World Art series, etc., were prepared in consultation with the art critics. UNESCO was moreover highly satisfied at being able to work with AICA as a group and had already entered into a number of contracts with it. A proposal at the Dubrovnik Assembly had given the opportunity of renewing the form of those contracts. In fact, the Assembly had proposed that the contemporary art of an Eastern country be studied, as many members of the Association regretted the lack of bibliographical, biographical and photographic material on the art of the Asiatic countries. The Assembly's suggestion could only be supported by UNESCO, which had launched a project for the mutual appreciation of Eastern and Western cultural values. An agreement had therefore been entered into with AICA, which was requested to collect documentation on an Asiatic country annually, and the AICA Bureau had chosen Japan as its starting point. From the documentation so collected, a synthetic with bibliographical notes would be drawn up by a committee of experts and distributed to a number of art critics who would be requested to use it for the purpose of spreading greater knowledge of Japanese art in the Western countries.

While the contract was still extremely modest, the speaker was happy to have been able to double it and expressed the hope that it would again be doubled in the future. It had to be admitted that AICA was fulfilling its task satisfactorily, since it was using a part of the sums received for holding assemblies, facilitating the attendance of its members, and had set up a working party to study the documentation that had been assembled. For the aim was to familiarise the Western world with the little known contemporary art of a particular country, and thus to share in the task of international co-operation within the framework of the UNESCO project.

The acting PRESIDENT thanked Mr. DARD for the information he had given to the Assembly. He assured him of the importance

combined those two qualities without allowing their knowledge to take the edge off their enthusiasm ? And how many with the same sense of humour had been able to laugh at the absurdities of life without losing sight of its nobility ? That nobility had made the AICA proud of its Chairman whenever he was its spokesman at meetings held in the great centres of the world. He could assure Mme FIERENS that the members of AICA mourned its Chairman more than merely as a chairman and that his memory would be ever-present to guide them in their future conduct.

Mr. Charles BERNARD, on behalf on the Belgian Section of which he was Chairman, expressed his thanks to Mr. Eric NEWTON and all those speakers who had paid tribute to the memory of Paul FIERENS. The unanimous homage of art critics stemming from all parts of the world made the loss of the man who had for so long controlled, with such authority and kindness, AICA's discussions, appear much greater, and filled his countrymen with justifiable pride. This great Belgian, more than any other, had contributed to his country's fame abroad through the brilliance of his knowledge and his humanistic activity. If he had made valuable contributions to art history and art criticism, it could also be said that he had added dignity to his profession.

The Acting PRESIDENT, after thanking the speakers, informed the Assembly that the Committee had admitted fifty-three new members and a new National Section. After reading out the name of the new members, he called on the Secretary-General and Treasurer to submit their reports.

Mme S. GILLE-DELAFFON (France), the Secretary-general, began by referring to the great shock it had been to her to hear, on 2 March, of the death of the President, Paul FIERENS. He had been her constant friend since the foundation of AICA. Since then she had been able to assess what his loss meant to the Association, the National Sections, and to individual members. Mr. G.C. ARGAN, Chairman of the Italian Section, had expressed the feeling of all when he had written : "He was our great mutual friend". His sincere dignity and his human understanding and behaviour had made him respected by all members. She had never until then realised the extent to which AICA was a large family.

She then referred to the successful General Assembly of Dubrovnik. The Chairman Mr. GAMULIN, Aleksa CELEBONOVIC and the other members of the Yugoslav Section had done everything in their power to instil a love for their country and they had succeeded fully.

The Dubrovnik Assembly had seen AICA burst into full flower. Suddenly expanded through the adhesion of 107 members and 6 sections, it had become an important association with branches in nearly every country. In continuing with the task facing her, she had been helped and advised by Mr. James Johnson SWEENEY, who had been elected Acting President by the Bureau. His loyalty and dynamism had been a valuable source of encouragement to her in carrying out her work with confidence.

Another successful achievement also deserved mention. The admission of 53 new members now brought the total membership of AICA to more than 450 and, with the South African Section, there were now 34 National Sections. The keenness of the Association had been stimulated by UNESCO which was lending it unfailing support. Mr Michel DARD had offered it an attractive task by enlisting its participation in the East-West project. The Committee of Experts appointed to study the documentation sent by the Japanese Section had begun its work on the same day. Its task was to organize the diffusion of the documentation received through articles and reproductions and also to select works to be considered for a UNESCO prize, as that Organization was anxious to reserve one of its prizes for a Japanese artist to be selected by AICA. The cultural exchanges between the Asiatic Section of AICA and its Western sections would also be supplemented through the sending of one of the Western members to Japan through the aid of a UNESCO fellowship.

The Secretariat's other major achievement during the year had been the establishment of working committees which, together with the Secretariat, had to constitute AICA's Executive Council. Four such committees had been established and each had brought positive achievements before the present Assembly. They were the Membership, Archives, Rules and Terminology Commissions. As the Secretariat had taken over the responsibility for the field of architecture in the constitution of the archives of contemporary art, the speaker stated that, in co-operation with Mr. Alberto SARTORIS, member of the Italian Section, publications under AICA patronage would be undertaken.

Thus the Association was continuing with its attempt to form a group of all writers on art and to promote international exchanges of information on art. 4,000 exhibition catalogues had been sent to members during the year, thanks to deliveries received from England, Brazil, U.S.A., France, Italy and Czechoslovakia. AICA's authority was expanding. Once again, the Solomon Guggenheim Foundation had asked for the participation of the national sections of AICA in connection with the prizes to be awarded during the following year; moreover, that participation would be increased since its members were being given the honour of being invited to preside over the juries. The committee for the Auschwitz Memorial Competition had, for its part, expressed the wish that a member of AICA be included on its jury.

Her report would not be complete, said Mme GILLE-DELAFFON, without once again referring to the help its honorary member, Mr. Georges WILDENSTEIN, was continuing to give. She assured him of the Association's gratitude for his unwavering support.

Mr. Walter KERN (Switzerland), the Treasurer, reported on the financial period 1956-1957. He expressed his satisfaction that subscriptions had been more regularly paid than in previous years -

a fact which proved that the members were aware of the Association's work. The Association's position, after all the difficulties inherent in the foundation of an international body had been experienced, had become stronger. On 10 September 1957, the Association's credit balance at the Turgovian Cantonal Bank was 3.959,71 Swiss francs. That amount represented the assets of the Association, without taking into account the figures for the Secretariat in Paris, whose credit balance on 31 December 1956 had been 64.410 French francs.

He expressed the hope that national treasurers would send him details on the payment of subscriptions to their sections, so that his records could be kept up-to-date.

Mme GILLE-DELAPON observed that, for the first time, the Treasurer's report gave an optimistic picture. The same was true for the accounts of the Secretariat, which showed a credit balance for the first time and which are given below :

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS : 1956

C R E D I T

Subscriptions :

French Section : 25.000

Other Sections : 101.431 126.431 Fr

Transferred by Treasurer : 50.000

UNESCO subvention

1/2 received at the Secretariat 175.000

1/2 received at Dubrovnik(dinars, equivalent to 500 ₯) 351.431

D E B I T

Balance 1955 93.988

Expenses Secretariat:

Stamps, stationery,
duplicating: 73.491

Transport, misc. 5.850

Despatch of catalogues : 14.451

93.800

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Payments to members (dinars,
equivalent to 500 ₯)

287.021

287.021

BALANCE..... 64.410 Fr

Credit balance as at 31 December 1956 : 64.410 Fr. Fr

Contribution of Mr. Georges WILDENSTEIN, honorary member :

Secretariat : 520.000 Fr; premises; telephone

The Acting PRESIDENT thanked the Secretary-General and Treasurer for their encouraging reports, which made it possible to face the future with increased confidence. He urged the Assembly to renew the mandates of these two members of the Bureau, who were playing prominent parts in the life of the Association. The proposal was carried by applause.

Mr. Raymond COGNAT, Chairman of the Rules Commission, then reported on the decisions taken at the previous meeting by the Committee and of the agreement it had shown with regard to the proposed amendments to the Statutes (see report on the Meeting of the Committee, Thursday, 10.30 a.m.).

The Acting PRESIDENT thanked Mr. COGNAT for the work he had contributed to bringing the Statutes up-to-date. He then called the Assembly to attention, as it was faced with a delicate operation - that of electing a new President of AICA. He urged members to perform that duty conscientiously, without any spirit of rivalry and with the sole aim of giving AICA a President who, from the international angle, would guide it along the best path. A new procedure would have to be introduced for the election as, until the present, the Association had always had the same President, Paul FIERENS. He asked the members present to nominate candidates they considered worthy of holding the presidential office.

.... After discussion, it was decided to begin with a secret ballot for the purpose of drawing up a list of nominations. The figures obtained were as follows :

Messrs. SWEENEY : 54 votes	-	COGNAT : 18 votes	-	HUYGHE : 15 votes
ARGAN : 12 votes	-	VENTURI : 9 votes	-	READ : 2 votes
STARZYNSKI 1 vote	-	DEGAND : 1 vote	-	LEYMARIE 1 vote
NEWTON : 1 vote.				

On the basis of the number of votes obtained, it was decided to retain the first 5 names. Messrs. HUYGHE, ARGAN and VENTURI, however, withdrew and it was then decided to hold a second secret ballot by roll-call, the two candidates being Messrs. COGNAT and SWEENEY.

Mr. Michel DARD assisted in counting the votes, and the final result was as follows :

Mr. SWEENEY : 52 votes - Mr. COGNAT : 18 votes.

Mr SWEENEY was declared elected and took the chair amidst enthusiastic applause.

Mr. James Johnson SWEENEY, President of AICA, thanked the General Assembly for electing him and promised that he would carry on the task begun by his predecessor, Paul FIERENS, to the best of his ability and in a way which the latter would have appreciated.

He then proposed that the meeting continue with the agenda and elect three new vice-presidents to replace those retiring. Messrs. Raymond COGNAT and Pierre COURTHION were designated by lot as two of the retiring presidents, the third being Mr. J.J. SWEENEY, newly elected President. There remained Messrs. Lionello VENTURI, Sir Herbert READ, Georges ROMERO BREST, and the three vice-presidents elected at the last General Assembly, Messrs. H.L.C. JAPPE, Grgo GAMULIN and Juliusz STARZYNSKI.

Agreement was soon reached on the three following candidates: Messrs. G.C. ARGAN (Italy), Mario PEDROSA (Brazil) and Soichi TOMINAGA (Japan), who were elected vice-presidents for a period of three years.

The PRESIDENT, turning to the next item on the agenda, the renewal of the Committee, pointed out that the AICA Committee would henceforth be completely changed as a result of the amendment to Article VI of the Statutes. The new Committee would consist of the chairman of the national and free sections and of a number of members still to be decided, who would be elected at every Assembly for a three-year period and chosen from among those members with an international reputation and the members of the Bureau, without consideration of nationality.

A discussion then followed on the number of members of the Committee to be elected for their prominence and on the method of renewal of such members.

The PRESIDENT expressed the view that the latter members could be elected annually, leaving the Assembly free to re-elect the same members or propose new candidates. Such a system would lead to the partial renewal which would be desirable and avoid any possibility of immobility.

The Assembly then voted by a show of hands on the candidates proposed.

Mme GILLE-DELAFFON announced that the following had been elected to the Committee : Mr. Mc BRIDE (U.S.A.), Miss Palma BUCARELLI (Italy), Messrs. Jean CASSOU (France), J.J. CRESPO de la SERNA (Mexico), Will GROHMANN (Germany), A.M. HAMMACHER (Netherlands), René HUYGHE (France), Jean LEYMARIE (France), Fritz NOVOTNY (Austria), Georg SCHMIDT (Switzerland).

It was then proposed that the regional Secretariat for Latin America be entrusted to a member of the Brazilian Section, as it had already been the case previously. The proposal was adopted and Mr. Mario BARATA (Brazil) appointed to take charge of matters of interest to that region.

The PRESIDENT announced that Mme GILLE-DELAFFON and Mr. Walter KERN would be members of the Committee, as ought indeed all the members of the Bureau.

The meeting rose.

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P A L E R M O

- Hall of the "Storia Patria" Society

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Plenary session (continued) - Saturday, 21 September

The PRESIDENT announced the agenda for this last session of the General Assembly as follows : reports on the activities of National Sections; the date and place of the next Assemblies and the next Congress; suggested subjects for study.

He then called on the Chairmen of the National Sections.

Mr. Hanns Theodor FLEMMING (Germany), representing Mr. Franz ROH, Chairman of the German Section, said that the section had not carried out any special activity during the year as most of its members were deeply involved in their own work. He reported the death of one of its members, Prof. Dr. Hans HILDEBRANDT of Stuttgart, who had died in August at the age of nearly eighty. While Prof. HILDEBRANDT had taken a deep interest in AICA and its activities, his long illness had prevented his participation at its congresses. For more than half a century he had been one of the leading German art critics and had been an ardent champion of modern art. He had written a large number of books, more particularly on modern architecture, a monograph on Oscar Schlemmer, and had been one of the first lecturers on modern art in the period preceding the first world war. The Nazis had deprived him of his chair at the University of Stuttgart, which was restored to him in 1945. He had been an extremely loyal and congenial personality.

Mr. Otto BENESCH, President of the Austrian Section, reported on the activities of members during the year and on the various exhibitions arranged by them. He referred to the sudden death, during the "Rembrandt Symposium" in Munich, of one of them, Prof. Ludwig MUNZ. Professor MUNZ had been one of the Section's most active members and the important educational exhibition on 19th and 20th century art, organized by him in Vienna, his writings and his lectures, would remain fresh in the memory of everyone. His disappearance was a bitter loss for the cause of modern art in Vienna.

Mr. Charles BERNARD, Chairman of the Belgian Section, said that the past year had been one of mourning for the section through the loss of its most eminent member, Paul FIERENS, and of another of its most active and devoted members, Henri KERELS. A stirring tribute had been paid to the memory of the former, who had been one of the Association's founders, had acted as its President with the distinction expected from one so eminent, and had contributed to it his whole store of vast knowledge and the unlimited devotion stemming from his

deep love of art. His memory would not fade.

For Henri KERELS, himself a painter, art criticism had not a mere hobby. He practised it conscientiously, contributing his splendid intellectual qualities and his wide knowledge of technique. He was not only one of the most listened-to and respected members of the section, but also one of the most loved, for while art was his ideal, friendship and comradeship were the bases of his philosophy.

He was happy to be able to give to items of good news. The first was the promotion to the post of Director-General of the Department of Fine Arts of Mr. Emile LANGUI, who thus became the administrative head responsible for the supervision of the fine arts in Belgium. He was happy to have the opportunity of expressing the thanks of the Association's members for the support and aid which the latter was continuing to give them. The second was the marriage of Miss Van den BRANDE who, in spite of her marriage to Mr. HAMMACHER - the distinguished curator of the Otterlo Museum in Holland - had nevertheless not set up a frontier between herself and the Belgian Section. The Belgian Association now numbered 63 members, 22 of whom were full members and 7 associate members of AICA. It had continued to hold regular monthly meetings at which it had selected the better exhibitions of the month. Mrs. P.C. LEGRAND and Mr. de MAEYER had continued with their researches for the purpose of setting up the archives of Flemish Expressionism. Thanks were due to them for performing that arduous task.

Mr. Mario BARATA (Brazil), replacing Mr. Sergio MILLIET, Chairman of the Brazilian Section, informed the Assembly of the death of Mr. SANTA ROSA. The fact that a number of new associate members had been admitted proved that the Association was of great importance for Brazil. He also reminded the meeting that Mr. Mario PEDROSA had submitted his name as a candidate for the UNESCO fellowship for a visit to Japan, which it was hoped would be granted to an AICA member in connection with the establishment of documentation on contemporary Japanese art by the terms of the UNESCO contract.

Mr. Colin D. GRAHAM (Canada), on behalf of Mr. John STEEGMAN, Chairman of the Canadian Section, said that although the section had been formally established, it had not yet been able to meet because of the great distances separating the Canadian cities. No method of meeting the costs of travel had yet been found. As soon as the problem would be solved, a meeting would be held and a programme drawn up for Canada. On the national level, art criticism only existed in the review "Canadian Art" and the newspapers of the large cities.

Mr. Sigurd SCHULTZ, Chairman of the Danish Section, said that although the year had been a quiet one for the section, it had renewed its committee and guided its activity towards the younger generation with the aim of interesting them in international work and in AICA.

Mr. Tony P. SPITERIS (Greece) gave the report of Mr. Demetrios EVANGHELIDIS, Chairman of the Greek Section, which stated that the section had met very often, mainly for the purpose of discussing various local problems. The section had instituted a Critics Prize to be awarded annually to the best work shown during the season. The Prize would be endowed with a sum of Drs. 15.000 (500 \$). The section had also striven to obtain the representation of its members on the various artistic commissions and had obtained satisfaction in several cases, mainly owing to the intervention of Mr. M. CALLIGAS, who had become Secretary-General to the Ministry of Education.

Mr. Bish FARES, Chairman of the Egyptian Section, should have participated in the General Assembly but, in spite of the facilities granted him, he had to give up the project at the last minute.

Mr. N.C. MEHTA, Chairman of the Indian Section, referred to the special difficulties in establishing the section in his country. Nevertheless, it had been possible to hold a preliminary meeting in August at which he had been confirmed as chairman and the members of the jury for the Guggenheim Prize selected. He felt that in India it would be desirable to admit to membership not only writers on art but also all those interested in the arts.

Mr. James WHITE (Ireland), representing Mr. Thomas McGREEVY, Chairman of the Irish Section, informed the Assembly of the success obtained by the members of the section in securing the suppression of the heavy customs duty on imported paintings. The Secretary of the Section had been extremely active in connection with an exhibition of Irish private collections, while the Section had also attempted to encourage the summer school for teachers, primary, secondary and private-school pupils, which now included a department for art history, to give intensive courses. Lectures had been given by the Secretary of the Section all over Ireland on the subject of understanding of contemporary aesthetics by artists. The section was hoping to bring out a bulletin.

Mr. G.C. ARGAN, Chairman of the Italian Section, explained that the Section's entire activity had been given over to the preparation of the Congress, apart from its current activities, i.e. the sending and distribution of catalogues and the publication of the AICA Bollettino. Nevertheless, another important activity had been the publication of the Archives of Futurism and the organization of Italian participation in the Guggenheim Prize, for the jury of which Miss BUCARELLI had been chosen. The preparation for the Congress had been made in close co-operation with the AICA Secretariat which had assisted in the solution of several difficulties. The organizing Committee had been presided over by Miss BUCARELLI, supported by several colleagues - among whom the enthusiasm and zeal of Mr. Giovanni CARANDENTE, which members had been able to note during the Assembly, deserved special mention. The proofs of the Archives of Futurism had been

submitted to the Congress and he only wished to ask his AICA colleagues for their aid in the final phase by indicating any additions they considered necessary for making the work as complete as possible.

He knew that every one had esteemed the excellent work that Rodolfo PALLUCCHINI had done for modern art and the development of international relations in the world of art at the Biennale of Venice, and he therefore hoped that the members present would send him a message of friendship solidarity at the moment he was relinquishing his post.

Mr. Shin-Ichi SEQUI (Japan), representing Mr. Seichi TOMINAGA, Chairman of the Japanese Section, thanked AICA for the interest it was taking in contemporary Japanese art. He hoped that the Association would find in the documentation sent the means of investigation it needed to evaluate the actual state of art in Japan. While the distance between East and West was very great, it could be diminished by an effort of will. The documentation sent would be extensively supplemented.

On the national level, the Japanese Section counted more than thirty members. It had organized two international biennial exhibitions - one of painting and sculpture, and the other of graphic art - to which Messrs. Jean LEYMARIE and Haim GAMZU had been invited to Tokyo during the previous spring. The current AICA Assembly was an opportunity of establishing even closer international relations among art critics.

Both Mr. Luis Lara PARDO, Chairman of the Mexican Section, and its Vice-Chairman, Mr. J.J. CRESPO de la SERNA, stated that the members of the section were most active. Round-table conferences had been held at the University and by several organizations, and some members had been invited to participate on art juries and as technical advisers for the organization of exhibitions. Finally, the Section had begun a study of art terminology with the aim of contributing information that might be useful to the AICA Terminology Commission. In addition, a beginning had been made with a dictionary of Mexican painters and sculptors. The Section had had the pleasure of receiving Jean CASSOU during his visit to Mexico.

Finally, Mr. CRESPO de la SERNA announced that Mr. CASTO LEAN, former Chairman of the Section, had been received by the Academy of Letters and the College of Mexico, and that himself had been appointed member of the Exhibitions Council of the National Institute of Fine Arts in Mexico.

Mr. Juliusz STARZYNSKI, Chairman of the Polish Section, informed the Assembly that his section had taken an active part in the artistic thaw of the country, in the process of restoring full freedom of artistic creation in Poland. He quoted the recent words of Jean CASSOU which had so well characterized the present trends within the

country : "..... to carry on to-day, in a freer atmosphere, the work begun and still remaining the same, namely, the construction, the reconstruction of its national reality". Under those conditions the fact that the Polish Section would this year have the possibility of publishing its own periodical took on a special significance. It was the Art Review "Przegląd Artystyczny", the mutual organ of the National Art Institute and the AICA Section, which, fighting for the creative independence of contemporary Polish art, was also publishing information on international art. Its articles were published in Polish and French and 200 copies were sent to the AICA sections.

The Archives of Contemporary Art formed the second field of activity of the Polish Section. From the organizational point of view, these Archives were dependent on the National Art Institute whose relations with the Section were close and constant. The documents now being collected by the archives were related to 20th century Polish art. The collection now consisted of roughly 7.000 photographic reproductions, and files on 2.000 artists, 50 of whom had been selected to form the subject of monographs. These files contained biographical and bibliographical data, a list of works, newspaper cuttings, exhibition catalogues. The Section also organized lectures. Messrs. Emile LANGUI (Belgium) and S. EPRON (Israel) were invited to speak on the art of their countries, while Aleksander WOJCIECHOWSKI, member of the Polish Section, lectured in Vienna. The Section hoped that their colleagues from other sections would also visit their country to lecture. Generally speaking, the work of the Section would be still more intensified in the coming months.

Mr. Oscar REUTERSVAERD, Secretary of the Swedish section, on behalf of Mr. Sten KARLING, its Chairman, stated that the Section had been able to constitute a jury for the Guggenheim Prize during the year and was now actively engaged in establishing a Norwegian section.

Mr. Gotthard JEDLIKA, Chairman of the Swiss Section, reported that the membership of the Section had increased by six. The Zurich members met monthly on a determined date to discuss questions concerning them. The Section was happy to report that one of its members, Walter KERN, had received a third prize in the competition for criticism organized by the XXVIIIth Biennale of Venice. For the last two years the Section had been busy trying to establish a critics Prize in Switzerland for painting, sculpture or graphic art and was continuing its efforts in that direction.

Mr. Miroslav MICKO, Chairman of the Czechoslovak Section, began by reminding the Assembly that the Czechoslovak Section had been established in 1948, and that its members had participated in the first congresses held in Paris. Later difficulties had led to the suspension of the international activities of the Section, although it had remained in permanent contact with the AICA Secretariat which had kept it informed of developments. Particular thanks were due to the former President, Paul FIERENS, whose death had come

as a great blow, and to Mme GILLE-DELAFFON. At Dubrovnik, the Section's members had been happy to resume personal contacts and hoped that such contacts would be more frequent in the future.

The intellectual and material conditions under which the Section worked were as follows: It was a voluntary member of the Union of Czechoslovak artists - a group which included, besides artists themselves, writers on art who were currently active in the world of the arts. The critics have to perform a great many practical tasks as members of juries for exhibitions and competitions, editorial committees, and to co-operate with artists in tasks of common interest. While it was possible that the world of art was over-organized, such organization did have its advantages. A very large documentation centre, to be attached to the Union of Artists, was in the process of formation, and would facilitate their work to a large extent. Also attached to the Union for the last three years was the Arts Fund, which had fairly large financial resources and granted study fellowships, loans, advances on fees and prizes. On the proposal of the Section, the Fund had, during the current year, given four prizes of 5.000 and 2.000 Kcs. for books on the history, the theory and the criticism of art.

There were several art reviews open to critics; the organ of the Union of Artists was "Vytvarne umění". While critics had nothing to complain of, it was to be regretted that the large dailies neglected the fine arts. 15 to 20 exhibitions took place in Prague every month. At Brno an important exhibition on "The Founders of Modern Czech Art", arranged by three young art critics, was to take place. Art publications were brought out by two publishing houses, one of which - SNKLHU - was a State undertaking, and the other attached to the Union of Artists. Finally, the house of Artia published books on Czech and world art. The book on French art treasures in the Czechoslovak museums by Věstecká VOLAVKA, a member of the Section, and another on pictorial writing with a preface by René HUYGHE had been published by the last-mentioned house. Art books were extremely popular with the public and the complete translation into Czech of the Journal of Eugène Delacroix, for which the speaker was responsible, had sold 8.000 copies in three days. A similar result was obtained with the correspondence of Van Gogh.

The art critic's lot during that period distinguished by the "cult of the personality" had been difficult. At the moment, he had more freedom to express his ideas and discuss them openly. Nevertheless, freedom should not be lacking in social responsibility. By serving art, one wanted to serve life, mankind, the people.

Mr. Zahir GUVENLI (Turkey) read the report of Mr. Nünrullah BERK, Chairman of the Turkish Section, which, after expressing the deep regret for the loss of the President, Paul FIERENS, went on to state that art literature was taking an increasingly prominent place in Turkey, a fact in large measure due to the activity of the section. Weekly art sections - always taking up two columns - written by the members of the section had made the public familiar with the problems of modern art. The result had been an increase in the sale of works

of art and the opening of new galleries dealing both in art decoration and furnishings. The contacts made by the Section with the Ministry of Education had facilitated the publication of a large number of art monographs. The section had also organized the Turkish contribution to the Sao Paulo Biennale and the Edinburgh Festival.

In his capacity of Regional Secretary of AICA for the Near East, Mr. BERK had contacted the Iranian Embassy in Ankara and the Ministry of Education in Teheran with a view to establishing a section in Iran. It could be expected that the Iranian section would be formed within the coming year. The publication of the Turkish Bulletin had had to be temporarily suspended, but would recommence as soon as conditions permitted.

Mr. José Pedro ARGUL, Chairman of the Uruguyan Section, reported on the Section's activities in its first year of existence. The main problem had been to obtain for its members greater facilities in the newspapers of the country and to persuade the latter to give increased prominence to art criticism. The Section had corresponded with several countries and sent the biographies of critics that had been requested by foreign publications. Exhibition catalogue had been sent to the AICA Secretariat.

Mr. France STELE, Chairman of the Yugoslav Section, stated that the Section had held a new Assembly and elected a new Chairman, but had retained Aleksa CELEBONOVIC as Secretary. Two points had been discussed, namely the publication of an almanac and the co-operation of artists with the Organization. The Government had nominated a member of the AICA Section to serve on the jury of the Rubens Prize. The Section had shown great interest in the activity designed to improve the knowledge of the contemporary art of the Far East. It was also pleased to be able to announce the expanding interest in the International Biennale of Graphic Art held in Ljubljana.

The PRESIDENT, after thanking the Chairmen of the National Sections, turned to the last item on the agenda, which he described as an agreeable task, namely the choice of a venue and date for the next AICA meetings. For 1958, the Belgian Section's invitation to hold the Xth General Assembly at Brussels on the occasion of the Universal Exhibition had already been accepted. With regard to 1959, during which the XIth Assembly would be held, several proposals had already been made, in particular by the representatives of the Israeli and Czechoslovak Sections and by the speaker himself who intended looking into the question of arranging the transport of members to New-York during that year.

In 1960, when the next Congress would take place, an official invitation had been received to hold the VIIth International Congress of Art Critics and the XIIth General Assembly of AICA at Warsaw. He asked the Assembly to vote on that proposal immediately.

Adopted unanimously by acclamation.

The PRESIDENT informed the Chairman of the Polish Section that his proposal had been accepted and thanked the Section. He then asked the meeting for suggested subjects of study for the Warsaw Congress.

Mr. Pierre JEANNERAT (United Kingdom) suggested that the opportunity be taken to arrive at a satisfactory definition of the term "art critic".

Mme GILLE-DELAFFON indicated that a difficult point, which had been worrying her for a long time, still had to be decided. The fact was that art critics were not included - particularly by UNESCO - in the category of "creative artists", which embraced other writers, novelists, short-story writers, etc., and painters, sculptors and architects. It was amusing to think that MALRAUX as art critic was not considered as a "creative artist", while any painter or architect who did nothing but plagiarise traditional forms was.

Mr. Haïm GAMZU, Chairman of the Israeli Section, suggested that the following topic would be of great interest, viz., "How to reconcile national demands with the demands of modern art".

Mr. Mario PEDROSA suggested as subject the following :
"Is modern architecture the international style of our era ? "

Mr. Juliusz STARZYNSKI suggested : "The beginnings and development of modern art in the various countries, and the passage of national art into the homogeneous current of international art".

Mr. Raymond COGNAT tended rather to favour the study of art in countries visited.

Mr. Zahir GUVENLI felt rather that our age should be more concerned with studying the international character of the arts.

Mr. Jean LEYMARIE suggested that the whole problem could be discussed under the heading : "Is modern art international ?"

The PRESIDENT thanked members for their suggestions, which could be re-discussed and put into final form when preparations for the Warsaw Congress were made at the next Assembly.

Replying to Mr. Jean LEYMARIE, Mr. G.C. ARGAN said that he could assure the Assembly that Mr. DELL AQUA, the new Secretary-General of the Venice Biennale, would continue the brilliant work carried out by Mr. PALLUCCHINI.

R E S O L U T I O N S : Resolutions were suggested, and among them the following were retained :

- AICA expresses the hope that the Venice Art Biennale will continue to remain open to the more vigorous currents of contemporary art, as it had done under the guidance of Mr. Rodolfo PALLUCHINI.
- AICA supports the campaign being carried out by the Italian Section in conjunction with other organizations against the publicity hoardings which are disfiguring the roads of Italy.

The PRESIDENT would submit these resolutions to the Congress.

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Mr. Mario BARATA proposed that UNESCO support be obtained in the organization of a preliminary Latin-American meeting of art critics, to be held at Rio de Janeiro in September 1958, on the occasion of the Latin-American Museum Seminar under UNESCO patronage.

The PRESIDENT, after expressing the hope that he would meet all members in Brussels during June of the following year, declared the IXth General Assembly closed.

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