Minutes of the 1984 Annual Meeting of the Society

THE THIRTY-NINTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE BIBLIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY OF Canada / La Société bibliographique du Canada was held on Wednesday June 6 1984 at the Metropolitan Toronto Library, Toronto.

A programme had been organized by the local arrangements committee composed of Dr. Desmond Neill, Chairman, Dr. Robert Brandeis, Dr. Patricia Fleming, Miss Elizabeth Hulse, and Mr. David Kotin. In the morning the following papers were presented:

'Quest for Crusoes: Frustrations and Rewards' by Dr. Rupert Schieder, Trinity College, University of Toronto.

'La Revue Culture et sa contribution à la bibliographie canadienne' by Dr. Marcel Lajeunesse, Ecole de bibliothéconomie, Université de Montréal.

In the afternoon:

'The Early History of the Macmillan Company of Canada, 1905-1921' by Mr. Bruce Whiteman, McMaster University Library.

'An Honest Trade: The Porcupine’s Quill' by Mr. Tim Inktster, publisher and poet.

[Dr. Lajeunesse’s and Mr. Whiteman’s papers are published elsewhere in this volume.]

The thirty-ninth annual business meeting followed the afternoon session at 4:15 PM. The President, Miss Liana Van der Bellen, called the meeting to order and welcomed the sixty members and guests present. Approval of the agenda was moved by Mr. David Kotin, seconded by Dr. Desmond Neill, and carried. In the absence of both the Secretary-Treasurer and the Associate Secretary, Mr. David Kotin agreed to act as Secretary. The minutes of the thirty-eighth Annual Meeting having been published in the May 1984 issue of the Bulletin, Mr. David Kotin moved their adoption as printed, seconded by Dr. Olga Bishop, and carried.

Miss Van der Bellen then presented her President’s report. She noted that the BSC / SBC continues to be the principal association to bring together those who, individually or within institutions, pursue research and publish
bibliographical and scholarly studies in the various fields related to Canadian literature and publishing and printing history. For many years to come, dedicated individuals will be needed to tackle unexplored areas of Canadian bibliography and to fill gaps left in this field by institutional and official bibliographical and networking enterprises. Annual meetings of the Society will continue to offer a forum for presenting research papers, discussion, and exchange of information on work in progress. She pointed out that many members have been recipients of SSHRC grants and thus even in economically difficult times bibliographical research projects have been initiated and completed. She noted the Society’s pride in the outstanding contributions of its members and listed a few projects, completed or near completion: Dr. Olga Bishop’s *Publications of the Government of Upper Canada and of the Government of Great Britain Relating to Upper Canada, 1791-1840*; Dr. Patricia Fleming’s *Upper Canada Imprints, 1801-1841*; Dr. George Parker’s long awaited comprehensive history of the book trade in Canada; the Metropolitan Toronto Library’s listing of its pre-1867 Canadiana acquired since the publication of *A Bibliography of Canadiana* and its Supplement.

The President reported on a meeting of the Groupe de recherche en histoire de l’imprimé au Québec (GRHIQ) held at the National Library of Canada in March 1984 and coinciding with the meeting of the BSC Council also held at the National Library. Several BSC Council members were able to participate, including Dr. Patricia Fleming, Miss Elizabeth Hulse, Prof. Peter McNally, and Dr. George Parker. They presented to their Quebec colleagues overviews and reports on their personal research in the fields of the history of printing, publishing, and libraries. Miss Van der Bellen suggested that consideration be given to holding a meeting together with GRHIQ, which brings together scholars in the field of the history of libraries and books in Quebec. This could perhaps be done when CLA meets in Quebec.

During the year the President and Secretary responded to requests for information and for BSC publications, and the President wrote letters in support of the Canadian Institute for Historical Micro-reproductions and the University of Toronto Press, recommending continued and sufficient financial aid to these important institutions. The Council, as usual, held two meetings, one in October of 1983 in Toronto and another in March 1984 in Ottawa. The President noted that the archives of the Society are located at the Queen’s University Archives and reminded former Council and Executive members to send any documentation, correspondence, etc. related to their activities in the BSC to the archives.

The Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Eleanor Magee, was unable to attend the meeting. The President read her reports and distributed the annual financial report and the proposed 1984 budget. As of December 31 1983 the balance in
the General Account was $5,197.77 and in the Bibliography of Canadian Bibliographies Account, $4,754.97. Acceptance of the report of the Secretary-Treasurer was moved by Mr. David Kotin, seconded by Dr. Desmond Neill, and carried. The proposed budget was then presented. An estimated income of $9,200 and an estimated expenditure of $12,180 would give a deficit of $2,980. The Secretary-Treasurer noted that the expected deficit would be covered from surplus funds carried forward from 1983. The two major expenses anticipated were Papers / Cahiers Vol. xxii and the twenty-year cumulative index to the Papers / Cahiers. Acceptance of the 1984 budget was moved by Mr. David Kotin, seconded by Ms Patricia Stone, and carried. Some discussion ensued concerning the anticipated deficit. Notice was taken of Mr. Katz's motion that consideration be given by the Council to increasing the membership fees for personal and institutional members by five dollars. The President then read the Membership Report submitted by the Secretary-Treasurer. Quite a few membership fees still not having been paid, she was unable to give exact figures. However she estimated that the final number would probably be about 360, including personal and institutional members. Ten new members joined the Society between January and June 1984. The membership list will be printed in the fall.

In the absence of the Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Prof. Gloria Strathern, Ms Beth Miller presented the Committee's report. As recommended by Prof. Peter McNally at the 1983 Annual Meeting, a call for nominations had been included in the Bulletin. The following slate of officers for the Society was presented:

**Executive:**
- Honorary President: Marie Tremaine
- President: Desmond Neill
- Past President: Liana Van der Bellen
- 1st Vice-President: Philip Teigen
- 2nd Vice-President: George Parker
- Secretary-Treasurer: Eleanor Magee
- Associate Secretary: Michel Thériault

**Council:**
1984-1987
- Peter McNally (Montreal)
- Ruth May (Winnipeg)
- Anne Yandle (Vancouver)

1983-1986
- Marcel Lajeunesse (Montreal)
- Appollonia Steele (Calgary)
- Bruce Whiteman (Hamilton)
The President called for further nominations from the floor. There being none, Ms Beth Miller moved the acceptance of the report, seconded by Miss Elizabeth Hulse. The motion was carried. The President thanked retiring Council members for their work for the Society and then introduced the new Councillors present.

A report on the activities of the Publications Committee was given by the President in the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Bruce Peel. The bsc brochure had been revised and reprinted. A publications policy was being developed with the following types of publication being proposed by the Chairman, pending availability of suitable texts and funds:

2. A literary bibliography series featuring individual authors.
3. A series of subject bibliographies.
4. Bibliographical essays and collections.
5. Facsimilies or reprint series of early interesting or significant Canadian pamphlets.

The editor responsible for the preparation of the third edition of the Society's Bibliography of Canadian Bibliographies had resigned in August 1983 and the Council at its March 1984 meeting had come to the conclusion that a complete revision would not be feasible at the present time. A supplement listing Canadian bibliographies published since 1973 could be considered. The volume could either include all disciplines, or the fields of the humanities and social sciences only. The publication policy and programme would be discussed at the fall Council meeting. It was also reported that the storage of the stock of bsc’s publications has been a problem. For several years the boxes have been stored in a building on Dr. David Hayne’s property. A Sub-Committee of the Publications Committee composed of Miss Elizabeth Hulse and Dr. Patricia Fleming will investigate other locations, preferably on the University of Toronto campus. The Secretary-
Treasurer has proposed a sale of some long runs of publications at discounts to members in order to diminish the stock on hand.

The new Editor of *Papers / Cahiers*, Ms Patricia Stone, reported that the 1982 issue of the *Papers / Cahiers* (Vol. xxI) was distributed in the fall of 1983. This was the last volume edited by Miss Elizabeth Hulse. Ms Stone is completing the 1983 volume (Vol. xxI1) and reported that it will contain three of the papers presented at the 1983 Annual Meeting in addition to three other papers and twenty reviews.

Ms Beth Miller, the Editor of the *Bulletin*, reported that two issues were published, one in November 1983 (New series No. 21) and one in May 1984 (New series No. 22).

In the absence of the Indexer to the Society, Mrs. Marilyn Flitton, the President reported that a twenty-year cumulative index to the *Papers / Cahiers* was in preparation.

Miss Elizabeth Hulse, Chairman of the Tremaine Medal Committee, reported that a call for nominations will appear in the fall 1984 issue of the *Bulletin*. The nominations must be submitted before January 31 1985. The presentation of the medal will take place at the 1985 Annual Meeting.

In her closing remarks the President proposed a vote of thanks to the Organizing Committee and noted that she hoped many of the members would be able to participate at the next Annual Meeting to be held in Calgary on June 12 1985. She then presented the new President, Dr. Desmond Neill, to the membership. The meeting ended at 5:20 PM on a motion of adjournment. The members and guests then proceeded to the reception held in the Reading Room, E.J. Pratt Library, Victoria University, for a reception.

LIANA VAN DER BELLEN, President

DAVID B. KOTIN, Acting Secretary