



11/2 2007

**Genealogy and Local History Section
Annual Report 2005-2006**

The Genealogy and Local History Section had by the end of 2006 35 section members.

The Standing Committee consists of:

Chair: Mel Thatcher

Secretary: Ruth Hedegaard

Treasurer: Janice McFarlane

Information Coordinator: Colette O'Flaherty

Editor of Newsletter: Elizabeth Melrose assisted by Richard Huws

Committee members 2003-2007: Mel Thatcher, Ruth Hedegaard Janice McFarlane, Colette O'Flaherty and Guiwon Lee

Committee members 2005-2009: Elizabeth Melrose, Richard Huws, Paul Smart, and Juergen Warmbrunn.

Corresponding members: Gu Yan, Janet Tomkins, Marie-Louise Perron, Mattye Laverne Page

During the year we have been working among other things with the following items:

Open Session Program

The theme of 2006 program was *Local History: A Dynamic Partnership between Libraries, Archives, and Museums*. It was a successful session with 5 speakers and 90 attendees. Wu Shushi's paper on cooperation on local history and networking between archives, libraries and museum was chosen for publication in IFLA Journal.

Workshop

We have been very lucky to have Guiwon Lee from Korea on our committee. She had taken the initiative and organized a workshop on Korean genealogy held at The National Library of Korea with 85 participants. The National Library provided simultaneous translation and distributed the presentation papers in a bilingual volume to all the delegates. Moreover they had produced the most magnificent banners both outside and inside. The workshop got a whole page of mention in IFLA Express, issue 7 of Thursday 24 August.

Study Tour

Like previous years we organized our own study-tour. In the morning we visited Jongmyo shrine (world heritage) to see the place where memorial services are performed for deceased kings and in the afternoon the visit went to The Royal Library to see the royal collections inherited from Joseon dynasty (1392 – 1910). We had 16 attendees in the morning 18 in the afternoon. Satisfactory as we have to organize transport etc. by ourselves.



Section Committee Meetings

The minutes can be seen at IFLA homepage.

Section Review

Both before and during the congress in Seoul we spent much time on the section reviews. We made many question and comments, and many of the section members made their voices heard in the special meeting on section reviews. Our comments can be seen on the IFLA homepage <http://www.ifla.org/VII/s37/index.htm>

Membership drive

One important goal of the section is to get more members and thus to avert the threat of being closed down. Therefore an initiative has been taken, and Mel Thatcher chair of the section has organized the sending of recruitment packets to 127 IFLA member national libraries, 74 IFLA member library associations, 30 IFLA non-member national libraries and 24 IFLA non-member library associations. Moreover Raymond Wright of Family History Library has been in charge of sending letters to public libraries with genealogical and local collections, and more than 500 letters have been sent.

Communication

Thanks to our editor Elizabeth Melrose and her co editor Richard Huws, we can also in this report boast of our very nice and interesting newsletters.

GENLOC

Unfortunately we still have not succeeded in making GENLOC our listserv into a discussion forum, but we use the listserv to send information from the section, our minutes, newsletter etc.

Publication of conference papers

It has been suggested to make a publication of the conference papers from the section's Open Sessions, and Ruth Hedegaard, Elizabeth Melrose and Richard Huws are working on it. Nearly all papers have been collected, and K.G. Saur Verlag has shown great interest in the publication, so we expect the publication to appear in 2007.

Survey

The section is continuing to survey genealogical sources in national libraries and national archives through the following questionnaire.

http://www.llgc.org.uk/ifla/holiadur_ifla.htm

The response to date has been good, and the information collated has been very useful in assisting our membership and publicity drives. Relevant institutions can still respond to the questionnaire, as it will remain on IFLANET for the foreseeable future.



International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions

Genealogy and Local History Section

Durban 2007

The theme for Durban will be “*Stories without writing: local and family history beyond the written word.*” We will collaborate with the audio-visual and media section and have already got many very interesting answers to our call for papers, so we are confident, that our Open Session in Durban will be a success.

Quebec 2008

Preconference

We are planning to organize a preconference in Quebec, Janet Tomkins our Canadian member is looking into the matter.

January 2007

Ruth Hedegaard

Secretary of Genealogy and Local History Section