Minutes of the First and Inaugural General Meeting held on the 18th December 1977 at 10.30 hours in the Rootes Workshop at the University of Warwick.

Present: Professor Thorlby (Chair) and approximately 40 members.

1. i. Draft Constitution. The Chairman read out amendments to the proposed draft Constitution.

A. Section 4 (Advisory Board). It was thought desirable to have such a body. The Executive Committee should be responsible for approaching appropriate persons. Election was not considered suitable.

B. Section 5 (Quoracy). A new sub-paragraph d. should be added. Meetings of the Executive shall be deemed to be quorate when half the members are present (in the case of 9, then 5).

C. Section 7a. In view of A above, the words "members of the Advisory Board" should be deleted.

D. Section 10 (Publication Sub-committee). The nature of the relation of this committee to the Executive Committee had exercised the Steering Committee a great deal. Thanks to the private initiative of Dr Shaffer in approaching Cambridge University Press who are prepared to publish a yearly volume called *Comparative Criticism*, this idea had started well. The BCLA would be happy to regard this volume as its own. The wording of 10b was to be revised. It was decided that a convener plus two members of the Committee should be appointed by the Executive Committee to the Publications Sub-committee. The Treasurer of the Association would also be a member of the Sub-committee except the Convenor of the Sub-committee would normally be the editor (10c as it stands).

ii. Quoracy at General Meetings. Was a statement on General Meetings' quoracy needed? This problem should be discussed at the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

iii. Dissolution Clause. The Chairman raised the problem of the unhappy eventuality of the Association falling on unpropitious times. It was decided to consult with other associations about the wording of such a clause.

iv. ICLA Affiliation. Dr Klein wondered whether affiliation to the ICLA should be written into the Constitution. It was decided to add the sentence "the BCLA will seek to establish close co-operation with the ICLA" to 1. as a third paragraph.

v. Dr Skilton said there seemed to be no provision for alteration to the Constitution. Could this be done under 9? The idea of a postal ballot was suggested by Dr Bellos. It was felt that this was an important matter to be minutied for the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

vi. Professor MacFarlane raised the problem of electing Officers for life, or removing them. Professor Terry said that the immediate past President became an *ex officio* member of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee would discuss this at its next meeting.

vii. Date of Meetings. The Executive Committee should take decisions about such dates. An agenda would be sent by post notifying all members.
2. President. It was agreed to invite Professor Kormode to be President.

3. Election and appointments of i. Executive Committee, ii. Publications Sub-committee, and iii. Advisory Board.

i. The following were duly elected members of the Executive Committee: Professor Thorby would continue as secretary, Dr Bollos as treasurer, Dr Bassett-McGuire, Dr Curtis, Professor Fletcher, Mrs Fox, Gal, Mr C. Heywood and Dr Shaffer.

ii. The following were duly elected as members of the Publications Sub-committee: Dr Sheffer (Convenor), Dr Clifford, Professor Printz-Pahlson and Dr Steiner.

iii. The Executive Committee was empowered to approach appropriate persons to be members of the Advisory Board.


i. Dr Bollos said it was important to ensure that the Association's income was substantial, in order to cover running costs. He expressed thanks to university secretaries. The use of internal mailing systems also helped the success of the Association. Future expenses would depend on these. The University of East Anglia was to be thanked for the successful Norwich Conference. This had ensured a healthy profit, and thus a launching pad for the Association. The smaller York Conference had also helped. It was important for the Association to husband its resources.

ii. There was a question of refunds to those people who had paid for a BCLA publication, not yet available. People who so wished might have a refund, others would count their publication subscription towards the 1973 membership subscription.

iii. He pointed out that affiliation to the ICLA was done on a personal membership basis (3 per member). It was thus necessary to raise the BCLA subscription for 1978 to £4 (joint sub. £7), with £7.50 for overseas members. These sums would be tax deductible once the Constitution was approved, and a set of accounts presented.

5. ICLA Membership. Dr Fokkema spoke about the ICLA. It had about 1000 members and extended world-wide, especially in North America and Western Europe. It was keen to see BCLA affiliation. Every three years there was an ICLA Conference; the next would be in Innsbruck (20–24th August 1979). Smaller meetings were announced in bulletins. There were various specialised committees, such as a Translations Sub-committee. One solid and valuable undertaking by the Association was its History of European Literature. Membership was on a private basis though other national associations had paid a lump sum, having collected private subs. He expressed the feeling that a British contribution was much needed, remarking on their commonsense approach to literature and the friendliness to be found in British academic circles.

The Chairman said that the Executive Committee had considered the problem. We would like to join, following the example of other national associations. The wish of the meeting was that the BCLA be formally affiliated on a private membership basis.

6. Publications Sub-committee Report. Dr Shaffer referred to her circulated report. It was good that CUP were to publish a year book. This would go ahead. Bibliography help had been forthcoming, though we needed a Hispanist bibliographer. She expressed thanks for the response to her ideas for a publication, especially with regard to bibliography.
BRITISH COMPARATIVE LITERATURE ASSOCIATION

CONSTITUTION

1. The Association shall be known as the British Comparative Literature Association.

The purpose of the Association is to promote literary studies without confinement to national or linguistic boundaries, and in relation to other disciplines.

The Association shall seek to establish close cooperation with the International Comparative Literature Association.

2. Academic members and former academic members of the universities and other institutions of higher learning in Great Britain and Ireland are eligible for membership of the Association; other persons of proven scholarly ability may be admitted to membership at the discretion of the Association. Such discretionary admissions shall be decided by the Executive Committee (see 5 below) and indicated on the membership lists available to members at General Meetings of the Association.

3. The Association shall hold a General Meeting from time to time, at intervals no greater than three years. Members shall be notified of the agenda in advance by post.

4. There shall be an Advisory Board consisting of 20 members, or such other number as the Association may decide, to advise the Association on broad questions of policy. The members of the Advisory Board shall represent the academic subjects likely to be interested in comparative literature and the universities and other institutions where it is studied. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for inviting appropriate persons to serve as members of the Advisory Board.

5. The Association shall be managed by an Executive Committee, along lines established in consultation with the Advisory Board and under a President who will take the chair at meetings of the Association, the Advisory Board and the Executive Committee.

6. (a) The Executive Committee shall consist, besides the President, of the Secretary, the Treasurer, the Convener of the Publications Subcommittee (see 10(c) below), and at least five committee members.

(b) In the absence of the President, the Secretary of the Executive Committee shall take the chair at meetings of the Association, the Advisory Board and the Committee, and shall act as the senior officer of the Association.

(c) The Executive Committee shall have the power to coopt further members at its discretion.

7. (a) The President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and the members of the Executive Committee shall be elected by the Association at its General Meeting. The term of office shall be three years or until the next General Meeting, whichever is the less. No members of the Executive Committee shall normally be eligible for more than three successive terms of office.
(b) Nominations for election, duly seconded, shall be sent to the Secretary not less than one month before the General Meeting.

(c) Elections will be held by secret ballot in the event of rivalry for any post.

(d) Meetings of the Executive Committee will only be quorate when at least half of its members are present.

8. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the efficient running of the Association and in particular for the collections of subscriptions, the distribution of information to members, the organization of conferences and the organization of the General Meeting.

9. The President shall call an Extraordinary General Meeting when he receives a request to that effect bearing more than 50 members' signatures.

10. (a) There shall be a Publications Subcommittee responsible to the Executive Committee whose task shall be the promotion of publications in the field of Comparative Literature.

(b) The Publications Subcommittee shall consist of a Convener and at least two members, all to be appointed by the Executive Committee; the Treasurer of the Association will also be a member of the Publications Subcommittee (ex officio). These appointments shall be reviewed by the Executive Committee after each General Meeting (see 7(a) above).

(c) The Convener of the Publications Subcommittee will normally be the editor of Comparative Criticism.

(d) The Convener of the Publications Subcommittee shall be a member of the Executive Committee (see article 6(c)).
Minutes of the meeting of the Steering Committee held in the Rootes Building at Warwick University on Monday, the 19th December 1977, at 1.00 p.m.

Present: A.K. Thorlby (Chair), S. Bassnett-McGuire, D. Bellos, S. Curtis, J. Fletcher, E. Fox, Gal and E. Shaffer.

1. The minutes of the last meeting were approved.

2. Warwick Conference Arrangements.

Last minute alarm and excursions were discussed. The indisposition of Professor Weimann prevented him from attending. As he had thoughtfully sent his paper, arrangements would be made for this to be read at the time of his plenary lecture. Fuss had been created by a small number of foreign guests and ICLA members unhappy at the Conference's inclusive price. The consensus of the committee was that in view of the early planning of the Conference, the price was justified, even if it seemed pessimistically large. It was felt that in cases of hardship to East European visitors, financial help could be extended; possibly £5 could be reimbursed to unhappy ICLA guests. AKT wondered whether the British Academy grant of £200 should be offered back to the donors, now that Professor Weimann was unable to come. Such an offer was deemed politic. On the advice of the Treasurer, it was agreed that Professor Wellek could be offered £200 with his expenses. Though the accounts were in a state of flux, they seemed to be healthy enough to allow this offer. Last minute timetable hitches and changes were to be posted on a blackboard. Arrangements were made for ferrying those people who had to catch 'planes.

3. Draft Constitution of the BCLA.

i. The problem of quoracy at Executive meetings. Though this had been deliberately omitted, it was thought that for a meeting to be quorate at least half the members (in case of 9, then 5) should be present.

ii. Comparative Criticism. The BCLA was in no position to change the editorship contract between Dr Shaffer and Cambridge University Press. This might lead to problems in electing an editor. It was decided that a convenor plus two members of the Committee should be appointed by the Executive Committee to the Publications Sub-committee. The Treasurer of the Association would also be a member of the Sub-committee ex officio. The Convener of the Sub-committee would normally be the editor (10c as it stands). 10d. would also remain as it stands. It was debated as to whether the term of office of the Publications Sub-committee should be laid down. It was decided that this should be revisied by the Executive Committee after each General Meeting of the Association. This decision should be incorporated in 10b.

4. Advisory Board.

The names of persons nominated should be posted. Professor Terry had accepted to become a member. The Executive Committee should be responsible for inviting appropriate persons to serve.
5. Affiliation to ICLA.

Dr Sallos said that affiliation to the ICLA cost £3 or 15 Francs per person. This would mean raising the BCLA subscription, and he proposed that this should be £4.00 for 1973, with a joint (husband and wife) subscription of £7.00.

6. There was a verbal report from the Publications Sub-committee on the progress of *Comparative Criticism*.

7. It was suggested that the next two Conferences should be of the "workshop" kind open only to fully paid-up members of the BCLA. The Executive Committee would be happy to receive written suggestions for ideas. It was thought that "translation" was a good subject for the 1978 Conference. The idea of "text and reader" was also mooted, ES saying that papers might well go into an issue of *Comparative Criticism*.

8. The date of the next meeting was fixed for Friday, the 16th February, at 2.30 p.m. at the Germanic Institute, London.
Mrs. Mary C. KING, 1 St. George's Avenue, Swinton, Mexborough, South Yorkshire S68 6DJ.

Dr. H.M. KLEIN, The Old Rectory, Taverham, Norwich (U.E.A., Norwich)

Laura LEPSCHY, Dept. of Italian, University College, Gower St., London WC1E 7HP.

Dr. M.J. LESSER, UMIST, P.O. Box 88, Manchester M60 1QD.

Mrs. A.M. LIVINGSTONE, Dept. of Literature, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ.

Prof. H.T. MASON, School of European Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich NOR 66C.

W. MEISSNER, (Dept. of German-Liverpool Univ.), 7/7a Abercromby Square, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool L69 3BX.

Christine A. MIDDLETON, The Boat House, Potters Lane, Samlesbury, Preston.

Mrs. Valerie MINOGUE, Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, London E1.

Miss S. MORTON, Dept. of French, University of Leeds, LS2 9JT.

Anthony McCOBB, Dept. of German, The University, Hull HU6 7RX.

Prof. Thomas McFARLAND, City University Graduate Centre, 33 W. 42 St., New York NY 10036, USA.

Prof. J. McFARLANE, School of European Studies, University of East Anglia, Norwich, NOR 66C.

R.A.N. MacGREGOR-HASTIE, 4 Peel St. Hull, (Hull College of Further Education).

Miss M. NURNBERG, Dept. of French, Liverpool University, P.O. Box 147, Liverpool 3.

Mrs. L. ORMOND, English Dept., King's College, Strand, London WC2R 2LS.

Prof. Dr. Belma OTUG, Dept. of Humanities, Orta Dogu Teknik Universitesi, Ankara, Turkey.

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Dr. Eric VICKERS, School of Librarianship, Polytechnic of North London, 207-225 Essex Road, London N1 3PH.

Dr. S.W. VINALL, Dept. of Italian Studies, University of Reading, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 2AA.

Pamela WALEY, Westfield College, Kidderpore Avenue, London NW3 7ST.

Dr. David H. WALKER, Dept. of French, University of Glasgow, Glasgow G12 8QL.

Mrs. Nicole WARD, Dept. of English and Related Literatures, University of York, Heslington, York.

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Linda R. YOUNGS, Dept. of Modern Languages, University of Salford, Salford MS 6BT.

Mrs. Lucrezia A. ZAINA, Dept. of Italian, The University, P.O. Box 117, Liverpool 3.

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B.C.L.A. ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

TO 8TH FEBRUARY 1978.

1. Miss Margaret E. ALLISON - Modern Languages Centre, University of Bradford, Bradford, West Yorkshire.
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3. Dr. Harold L. HEAVER - 10 Eastfield Road, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire CV32 4EX.
4. Anna-Maria BUSI - Via Lecco 6, Milano 20124, Italy.
5. Dr. P. Jane GRAYSON - 13 Gatcombe Road, Tufnell Park, London N 19.
6. Tamsin HARGREAVES-BRAIDWOOD - English Department, No 40 Trinity College, Dublin 2. (also: Garden Flat, 6 Proby Square, Blackrock, Dublin.).
7. Dr. Owen N. HEATHCOTE - Modern Languages Centre, University of Bradford, Bradford, West Yorkshire.
8. Dr. Mary JACOBUS - Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford.
9. Ms. E. KNIGHT - 9 Travis Place, Sheffield 10, S. Yorkshire.
10. Dr. John MARGETTS - Department of German, Liverpool University, P.O. Box 117, Liverpool L69 3BX.
11. Prof. Dr. Karl MAURER - Romanisches Seminar, Ruhr-Universitat, Bochum, Postfach 10 21 18, D - 4430, Bochum I, W. Germany.
12. Franco MEREGALLI - S. Croce 1337, Venezia, Italy.
13. Dr. Christopher NASH - Department of English, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL.
14. Patrizia NEROZZI - via Desiderio 12, Milano 20131, Italy.
16. R.M. REINER - 2 Abercromby Drive, Bridge of Allan, Stirling.
17. Prof. Henry H.H. REMAK - Comparative Literature, Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana 47401, USA.
18. Prof. A.V. SUBIOTTO - Department of German, University of Birmingham, Birmingham B13 2TT.
19. Prof. Arthur TERRY - Department of Literature, University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester C04 3SQ.
20. Leonardo TESSO - Via Meina 6, Milano 20125, Italy.
21. Prof. Robert W. WEBER - Stammestrasse 82, D 3000 Hannover 91, W. Germany.
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