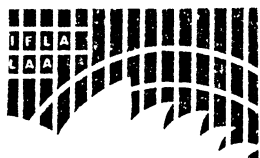


Life after LAA/IFLA



The dust and furore of the recent LAA/IFLA conference is now subsiding with the planning committees completing and submitting their reports to the November meeting of General Council.

Without doubt this conference was highly successful, with 1,966 enrolments from 53 countries. Delegates had a very busy but, from all accounts, professionally stimulating and socially enjoyable week. Conference organisation included the weather and visitors were able to enjoy the scenic delights of Sydney.

With the conclusion of the IFLA conference, four years of planning came to fruition. For Australian librarians, it was an opportunity to meet colleagues from overseas. Equally important (and perhaps more significant) it was an opportunity for many overseas librarians to sample Australia and discover Australian libraries and librarians. This two-way process of revelation perhaps suggests more similarities and common problems than differences.

At the closing ceremony, I made the observation that we had been on trial by IFLA. It was also true that IFLA was on trial in Australia. I am pleased to say that we were both acquitted and hope that Australian librarians will develop closer links with IFLA in the future.

Readers of these columns will be aware of doubts that have arisen in the past about our capacity to host the IFLA conference without government support. I think LAA members should be proud that we were able to mount such a sensational program without bankrupting the Association. The following interim report from our treasurers is a pleasing note on which to conclude the conference organisation.

Barrie Mitcheson
Chairman
Organising Committee
LAA/IFLA

The financial situation

Despite the early prophesies of doom and gloom IFLA/LAA has not brought the Association to the brink of financial ruin. On the contrary the treasurers are pleased to be able to report to General Council that, although the final accounts are not yet in, the conference has

- entirely paid for itself and all major bills and most minor bills have now been paid from conference proceeds; this includes the advances made by the LAA to the IFLA/LAA Conference Committee during the first years of planning prior to the receipt of registration fee income.

- met all of its financial commitments to both IFLA and LAA.

Specifically, IFLA has been paid 5 percent of the IFLA registration fee income, an amount of some \$24,000, as required by IFLA headquarters. The LAA has received its stipulated conference fee of 20 percent (ie \$93,100) in accordance with the LAA Biennial Conference Guidelines. This amount was paid in full, despite the fact that the numbers attending the LAA component of the conference were some 500 below the attendances we have come to expect in previous years when biennial conferences are held in a major capital city.

As stated, the final audited accounts are not yet available but the treasurers are confident that after all the bills have been paid and all the financial commitments have been met there will be a small operating surplus.

There are three reasons for the conference's financial success. They are first of all the extraordinary generosity of our sponsors who are therefore once more listed below. Secondly, there were the very gratifying financial returns from the trade exhibitions, for which we owe a debt of gratitude both to the exhibitors for their support and to John Rodwell and Julia Jeffrey who organised the exhibition so superbly. And finally we can thank those librarians from Australia and overseas who were willing to take a punt, and if necessary to dig into their savings to come to Sydney in August/September to find out what IFLA/LAA 1988 was going to be all about.

In conclusion we would like to thank our generous sponsors:

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Jan Cree and Hans Groenewegen
Conference Treasurers

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