

AsF Bulletin

Vol. 1- no.3; 1st semester 2001

Editorial

The 1st AsF Workshops will take place on October 26 and 27 in the Maritime Museum of Barcelona. The theme of the workshops will be 'Protection of Archival Heritage within the area of International Cooperation'. The workshops came out of the idea of hosting a biannual meeting point for archive professionals who are interested in development and aid issues. The goal of these workshops is to create a space for dialogue and participation where problems and issues of archival heritage in international cooperation can be set out, analysed and debated.

After almost four years since the foundation of AsF in 1998, we believe that the time has arrived to provide workshops on a continuous basis for members and interested parties. These biannual workshops will serve to spread information on the activities of AsF and on other themes close to our aims and ends.

The workshops will have thematic content. Accordingly, the first day will deal with the State Security archives of the since departed regimes and the conservation and treatment of archives in times of conflict and political transition. A second presentation will cover the area of oral history and its role in the recovery of historical memory. We expect that work with oral history will be common in future undertakings of AsF. The importance of oral history is well known as a tool for the recovery of collective memory and identity, above all in those countries that have lost, through a variety of reasons, their archival heritage. To close the day, a round table discussion will hold a debate open to all.

The second day will begin with a presentation on the archivist's role in the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), areas of responsibility and the work and experiences of recent years, from an archivist's viewpoint. Members and partners of AsF will then present projects undertaken by AsF in Malabo (Equatorial Guinea) and Sarajevo (Bosnia-Herzegovina). An opportunity for debate will follow. To finish, Arcadi Olivares, vice-president of Justícia I Pau (Justice and Peace), economist and professor at the Autonomous University of Barcelona, will give the closing address.



Archivists without Borders (AsF)
Passatge del Crèdit, núm. 7, pl.
08002 – Barcelona
Telf. 93.301.20.34
e-mail: arxivessf@yahoo.es
<http://www.arxivessf.org>
NIF. G-61898755
Number Register: 21.076

After the public acts of the workshops, AsF members will meet in Ordinary and Extraordinary General Assembly.

All of the presentations, discussions, and debates will be collected together in a publication for those members who live distant from AsF offices and for those who cannot attend the workshops.

We hope that the workshops will form a means of communicating and publicising experiences of cooperation in the area of heritage collections and that at the same time they will fill a space in the debate in our profession. Hopefully we will make a contribution beyond archive collections to the promotion and awareness of the need to protect, conserve and recover cultural heritage in danger of disappearance, towards the preservation of collective memory in civil society.

Projects

Two IT training workshops are up-and-running in Malabo and Bata, Equatorial Guinea.

This project undertook the setting up of two IT training workshops in the two most populated cities of Guinea, Malabo on the island of Bioko and Bata, on the mainland. The work was carried out with the Association for Community Development (ADeCo), an NGO that will take charge of managing the centres and has already provided us with the use of one of its offices.

The project originated in previous work by Barcelona City Council in 1999 when it donated six computers to five local authorities on the island. The computers were to support and improve local authority administration. Since then, a workshop was set up in conjunction with the Guinean Hispanic Cultural Centre. After Barcelona City Council completed this initial part, the possibility emerged through an AsF member of improving the equipment and opening a second training workshop on the mainland. This proposal involved the donation of thirty computers and six printers by the Department of Employment, Industry, Commerce and Tourism of the Government of Catalonia. In addition, the Centre for Cooperation in Development of the Polytechnic University of Catalonia was asked to provide the expertise of their teachers and partners. This expertise is based not only on IT but also on development and aid projects. The University contributed two technicians to set up the workshops.

Subsequently, the Department of Economy and Finance of the Government of Catalonia formalised the donation of the equipment and material while the Department of Home Affairs and Institutional Relations underwrote the costs of transporting everything to Guinea. Finally, the Malabo office of the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI) agreed to deal with the bureaucratic procedures of that country and with transport from the island to the mainland. We cannot be stress enough the efforts made by all of these groups in bringing this project to fruition.

The role of AsF was basically to act as intermediary, cooperating and advising the technicians who took on the work. Since the site of the workshop had been used previously by a number of AsF members, we were familiar with various aspects of the site. AsF was thus able to facilitate internal contact within the project particularly in relation to administration and procedures and potential pitfalls.

Finally, the viability study and early experience in the first workshop show that it will be self-financing. In addition, it has provided access to new employment particularly for young people. ADeCo will be able to provide different courses to local authority workers. Some of them had already started their first level of professional training within the framework of the first Barcelona City Council / AsF initiative geared towards automating the records of the respective municipal archives.

Cooperation with the archives of Bosnia-Herzegovina

In September 2001, AsF will commence work in Bosnia-Herzegovina. The project comes about following a request from Mr. Matko Kovacevic, the director of the National Archive of Bosnia-Herzegovina. He laid out the needs and problems of their archives as a consequence of the recent war. AsF sent a questionnaire via Paz Ahora (an NGO that works in Bosnia and is a partner of AsF) in order to calculate the scale of the problems in this part of Europe. Through this survey, it has emerged that the situation is quite disastrous and in light of this, it has been decided to start work in the area of training.

Barcelona Coopera

AsF took part along with the CIREM Foundation (Foundation Centre for European Initiatives and Research In the Mediterranean) in presenting the project 'The promotion, awareness-raising and stimulation of civic participation in solidarity and cooperation and peace' also known as '*Barcelona Coopera*'. The main aim is to create a web space that will act as a portal and reference point for all the NGOs in the city. This will help establish a communication plan for the various initiatives being undertaken within Barcelona in the area of international cooperation. The proposal has been presented to the *Barcelona Solidaria* program of the City Council.

Microfilming and digitisation of the archive of Pere Casaldàglia, Bishop of Sao Felix do Araguaia.

Last year, Catalan-born Bishop Pere Casaldàglia made contact with AsF through one of our members to offer us the possibility of undertaking a project to recover, treat and reproduce his archive collection before his imminent retirement from the bishopric of Sao Felix do Araguaia in the north of Mato Grosso state, Brazil.

In March 2000, Àngels Costa, AsF member, carried out a survey in order to establish the current state and needs of the archive while at the same time, provided a primary overview of the content to judge the interest of this project.

Once the study was analysed, the need to carry out a series of actions became clear. It is expected that with the support of the bishop and his staff work could begin at the end of 2001 and carry on through 2002. The participation of the University of Campinas and the Brazilian Forum of National Archive Directors has also been reckoned upon.

The principal aim is to produce a complete reproduction of all records to allow sufficiently good copies to be used in the future by researchers while at the same time, acting as a security copy of the original currently kept in the bishop's diocese. Such reproductions would guarantee the preservation and access to the records. Before tackling the reproduction, the collection will have to be reorganised and catalogued.

The collection is made up of records produced in the course of the work of Bishop Casaldàglia and his staff. It has been distributed throughout the extent of the bishop's jurisdiction, an area of 150,000 km². The collection covers many areas including

nutrition, preventative medicine and other fields, in partnership with other collectives in the area.

The records also chronicle the bishop's remarkable relations with the world of politics and religion in the second half of the twentieth century. The bishop played an important role in the defence of the poor, in the land struggle and the gradual disappearance of the *latifundios* must be remembered, activity that falls within the description of Liberation Theology.

Board of Management

Agreements

- Session of 15 January 2001.
 1. Process the resignation of Sra. Caterina Aguiló
 2. Approval of the web site design.
 3. Approval of AsF bulletin design.
 4. Approval of the drawing up of a structure for coordinating regional representatives.
 5. Sr. Adrià Borrut charged with the set up and design of the web site.

- Session of 12 February 2001
 1. Approval of the proposed agreement with UNHCR and the production of a first draft.
 2. Approval of an article on AsF activities for publication to tie in with the "Archive Cultures" exhibition and congress organised by the Tàpies Foundation, Barcelona.
 3. Tender requested to undertake a training course in project management.

- Session 19 March 2001
 1. Approval of the accession of AsF to the Coordinating Body of the Spanish Professional Association of Archivists

2. Information on AsF sent to the Open University of Catalonia (UOC) in order to participate in a virtual space called Campus for Peace.
 3. Reminder to send a collection survey questionnaire to the Urban Community of Niamey and a letter explaining the aims of AsF.
 4. Approval of the 1st AsF Workshops and the proposed activities (exhibition, training course, etc.)
 5. Presentation of the Workshops project to the *Barcelona Solidaria* program of the City Council.
 6. Approval of the training project aimed at Bosnian archives and its submission to Barcelona Solidaria.
 7. Approval of the membership application of Sra. Carmen Barriga Guillén, member number 43.
- Session of 25 April 2001
 1. Approval of AsF annual report for 2000.
 2. Approval of the cooperation of AsF with Tavera Foundation.
 3. Approval of the contraction of web space with Dominio.com for five years in accordance with the contract cost of 49, 000 pesetas.
 4. Approval of the training course to be held in May 2001 in view of the importance of training for aid workers.
 5. Approval of the membership application of Sra. Elena Torrijos Sánchez, member number 44.
 - Session of 6 June 2001
 1. Approval of appointment of Sr. Ramon Saball i Balasch as acting chair of publications.
 2. Approval that the coordination and organisation of the 1st AsF Workshops be done between the training and publications committees.
 3. Approval that AsF vice-president, Sra. Mariona Corominas, represents AsF in relations with the Coordinating Body of the Professional Associations of Spain.

4. Approval of the participation of AsF in the next meeting of the SPA of CIA/ICA to be held in Barcelona in the final third of 2001.
5. Approval of the work in relation to the collection of Bishop Pere Casaldàglia.

Items of interest

No hace falta traducir los títulos de los documentos

Other News

Review of the 'Tools for project design and evaluation' course

During the week of May 28 to June 1, the 'Tools for project design and evaluation' course was held in the Barcelona City Archive.

The aim of the course was to standardize the phases of project management in the area of cooperation and development: identification of requirements, plan of action and execution, monitoring and evaluation. The course used the Project Management Cycle methodology which is standard procedure used internationally.

The Training Institute of the Pere Tarrés Foundation, Barcelona, providers of customised training courses, directed the instruction.

Next! The AsF Web Site

Nowadays, the Internet is most certainly the most potent medium for distributing information on actions, events, organisations and projects in whatever part of the world. It is a medium that we should take advantage of given that it could prove very useful to our organisation and activities. That's why we are working on the design and content of AsF web site and soon, we hope to be able to let you know of its launch.