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OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN THE FIELD OF ARTS AND LETTERS

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ACTIVITIES OF THE INTERNATIONAL P.E.N. DURING THE YEARS 1962 AND 1963

ACTIVITIES - PUBLICATIONS - 1962

The International Executive met in Brussels from 2 to 6 May 1962, at the invitation of the Belgian Centre, attended by 53 delegates from 28 Centres. The Executive accepted Unesco's invitation to assume Category B Status, and passed a resolution proposed by the French Centre expressing disapproval of all measures tending to limit the freedom of expression of writers and journalists and condemning all extreme measures (no matter what their source) aimed at the intimidation or removal of writers and journalists in the sole interest of suppressing all differences of opinion; also condemning the imprisonment and sentencing of editors no less strongly than criminal outrages and plastic bomb attacks, reminding the State that its first duty is always to ensure the security of the individual. The Executive appointed two new International Vice-Presidents Victoria Ocampo (Argentina) and Jan Parandowski (Poland). The delegate from East Germany, Stephen Hermlin, gave a detailed report on writers, journalists, and intellectuals imprisoned and recently released in East Germany. (Note: this was the last occasion when East Germany was able to send delegates to a P.E.N. meeting, the NATO ruling refusing visas to citizens of the DDR has prevented their attendance ever since.) The Executive approved the Pakistan Centre's decision to have autonomous Centres in both East and West Pakistan (sharing one international vote). It was also agreed that an attempt should be made to return to the much simpler type of pre-war Congress, since the lavish scale of recent congresses deterred many Centres from feeling able to invite P.E.N. to hold International Congresses in their countries for financial reasons.

4-5 May were spent discussing The Writer And The Cinema And Television, and 6 May brought a visit to The Rubens' House in Antwerp and an excursion by boat to the grave of the poet Verhaeren at the invitation of the Flemish-speaking P.E.N. Centre. Delegates were lavishly entertained throughout the meeting, and given a reception by Their Majesties King Baudouin and Queen Fabiola in the Palace of Laeken.

P.E.N. took part through its General Secretary, together with the other members of the Unesco Liaison Committee, in organizing the International Festival and Colloque held in Athens and Epidaurus, in June and July 1962.

The second International Executive Meeting of the year was in London attended by 44 delegates from 32 Centres; 1962 offered no Congress as the Belgians regretfully decided they could only give the more limited May meeting instead, and attempts to arrange an alternative full Congress in Athens, Belfast or Warsaw all failed. Alberto Moravia having completed his 3-year-term of office as International President, the Dutch poet and philosopher and president of the Netherlands P.E.N. for seventeen years, Dr. Victor E. van Vriesland, was elected as his successor. The Executive welcomed the revival of P.E.N. in Yugoslavia, with four autonomous language-based Centres, those in Ljubljana and Zagreb sharing one international vote, and Belgrade and Skopje another. Yugoslavia's P.E.N. had been inactive since the last war, and their delegates were very warmly welcomed. This revival brought the total number of P.E.N. Centres up to 71, in 57 countries, with a total membership of some 7,500. The regretted absence of East German delegates due to their being refused visas, motivated a unanimous resolution deploring such denials of visas and expressing the hope that NATO governments would soon improve the position. A second unanimous resolution reiterated that passed at Frankfurt's P.E.N. Congress in July 1959, regretting censorship and other restrictions on freedom of expression in Spain, and limitations of personal freedom as well as the persistent suppression of the Catalan language and literature: the text of this resolution was sent to the Spanish Government.

Other meetings in 1962 included a Conference of Latin-American Writers held in Buenos Aires from 3 to 6 October, organized by the P.E.N. Centre of Argentina. In addition to Latin-American writers, others who attended included John dos Passos, Stephen Spender and Alain Robb-Grillet. The Pakistan Centre held a conference entitled Bengali and Urdu: A Literary Encounter; the All-India Centre held its 6th Congress in Mysore from 3 to 6 August, attended by Dr. Radhakrishnan and Mr. Nehru, the President and Vice-President of the Centre respectively; the Writers In Exile Conference in Stockholm from 1 to 4 June was attended by its members from three continents, and discussed History And The Writer's Imagination; and an Asian Writers' Conference with non-Asian writers welcomed as observers, was organized in Manila from 26 to 30 December by the Philippine P.E.N. Centre. This conference approved an anthology of Philippine writing, and it was agreed to produce a regular anthology of Asian writing to be edited for its first five years by the Philippine Centre with the co-operation of other Centres in the area. It was also agreed to hold a second Asian Writers' Conference in two years' time, if possible, in either Bangkok or Hong Kong. The French Centre made the graceful gesture, when the English Centre elected as its new President a writer greatly admired in France, Rosamond Lehmann, of organizing a special meeting and dinner in her honour in Paris and later presenting her with a medal struck to mark the occasion.

The International Writers' Fund (founded at the P.E.N. Rio Congress of July 1960) awarded prizes for a Short Story Contest limited to P.E.N. members and judged by André Maurois (France) Storm Jameson (England) and Whit Burnett (U.S.A.), the winners being C.E. Soya (Denmark) US\$.500, Ersi Seferiades Haztimihali (Greece) US\$.300, the third prize of US\$.200 being divided between Wladimir Kostetsky (U.S. Branch of Writers in Exile) and Constance Young (S. Africa).

The second of the triennial Katherine Mansfield Memorial Prizes offered by the City of Menton, administered by the English and French Centres, were awarded to Nicole Briaque (France) and Mary Lavin (Ireland - chosen by the English judges L.P. Hartley, William Sansom and Muriel Spark).

The eighth Hermon Ould Memorial Lecture, in memory of P.E.N.'s International Secretary from 1926-1951, was given in London on 22 November 1962 by Sir Kenneth Clark and entitled Sign - Symbol - Image.

The tenth P.E.N. anthology of contemporary English poetry, New Poems - 1962, was edited by Patricia Beer, Ted Hughes and Vernon Scannell and published by Hutchinson of London on 29 October 1962, at 21/-.

ACTIVITIES AND PUBLICATIONS - 1963

The Iran Congress of International P.E.N. planned for April 1963 had to be cancelled when the Iran Government withdrew its promised financial support within a few weeks of the start of the Congress, thus leaving the Iran host-Centre with no option but to withdraw, most reluctantly, its invitation to International P.E.N. to meet in Teheran.

Instead of this expected meeting in Iran, the English Centre organized an extended meeting for the International Executive in Brighton, from 26 to 29 May, which unanimously passed two resolutions, one commending the work of the P.E.N. Writers in Prison Committee while urging renewed efforts on behalf of Wolfgang Harich (East German) and others still in prison; the second applauded the efforts of the P.E.N. Centres in South Africa to defend liberty of expression in the face of increasingly repressive legislation and sterner literary censorship... 'believing that where the voice of conscience is silenced the censors must suffer with the censored and indeed that mankind as a whole is injured when the free interchange of ideas is prevented, International P.E.N. calls for world-wide support for the writers of South Africa in their present struggle to uphold the freedom and integrity of the printed word': it was hoped all P.E.N. Centres would send messages of support to the South African P.E.N. Centres. Letters exchanged between the International P.E.N. Secretary Mr. Carver and the English Foreign Office concerning the regretted refusal to grant visas to East Germans were discussed, the view being expressed that this NATO position was difficult to justify, and that although it would be undesirable to refuse visas to Russians this would be more logical than 'to punish slaves for the sins of their masters'; Mr. Carver agreed to make this point in a further letter to the Foreign Office, and it was hoped that P.E.N. Centres in both East and West would make representations to their Governments urging reappraisal of the present unsatisfactory situation. A proposed meeting between the East and West German Centres, to discuss ways of co-operating, could not be fully discussed due to the absence of the East German delegates, but it was hoped such a meeting could be arranged in a non-NATO country shortly.

The New York P.E.N. Centre had awarded the first Translation Prize of US\$.1,000 (offered by the U.S. Book of the Month Club, administered by the New York P.E.N.) to an Englishman living in Palermo, Archibald Colquhoun, for the best translation to be published in the U.S.A. in 1962, The Viceroy's, a Nineteenth Century Sicilian novel by Federico do Roberto. A second award would be offered for the best U.S.A. translation of 1963.

A Report of the first of a new series of P.E.N. Round Table conferences, held in Rome in November 1961, was published on 1 June 1963. This Report, which is trilingual English, French, Italian, Translation and Translators (and is on order from P.E.N., 62 Glebe Place, London, S.W.3 at 5/-) provoked a gratifying response, although its low price necessitated a very inexpensive format. The English Bookseller (1 June) devoted three pages to reviewing it, and The Times Literary Supplement used it as the motif for its leading article (21 June). Orders continue to come in from all over the world.

The newly-constituted Yugoslav P.E.N. held a Meeting in Dubrovnik on 7 September 1963, to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the famous Dubrovnik P.E.N. Congress of 1933, the Congress which condemned the German Centre for its failure to protest against the Burning of the Books by the Nazis, and the Centre's actions against Jewish and Communist members: this led to the dissolution of the German P.E.N. Centre which was only re-established after the war.

The eleventh P.E.N. anthology, New Poems - 1963, edited by Lawrence Durrell only instead of a trio of editors as in the past, will be published by Hutchinson of London at 21/- on 18 November 1963.

The second of the 1963 Meetings of the International Executive will take place in Rheims, France, from 17 to 20 October and will be followed by a restricted meeting to discuss Translation In The Theatre, the second in the new series of Round Table Conferences on translation, when Ionesco and Hochwalder will be among the writers who will attend to talk with fellow-dramatists and translators for the theatre from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, England, France, Italy, Germany, Hungary, Poland, Yugoslavia, the U.S.A. and other countries. It is expected that a report of the discussion will be published at a later date.

The 1963 Hermon Ould Memorial Lecture will be given by George Rylands CBE in London on 12 November, entitled Shakespeare: Heard And Overheard, linking it with the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth in 1664.

1962 - 1963 - GENERAL NOTES

The P.E.N. Writers In Prison Committee has continued to make representations on behalf of imprisoned writers, journalists and intellectuals in various parts of the world. It is perhaps worth noting that at the present time there are no longer any writers in prison in Czechoslovakia or Hungary.

The P.E.N. Bulletin Of Selected Books (published with the assistance of Unesco, which reviews books in languages of lesser currency) appointed Kathleen Nott the novelist, poet, philosopher and critic, as its new Acting-Editor on the retirement of Maureen Kilroe. Special numbers have been devoted to the Dutch and the Slovene literatures, and an issue similarly restricted to one literature, that of Hungary, is in preparation. The former practice of general numbers including reviews of books in a number of languages has not, however, been discontinued.

P.E.N. has continued to co-operate with Unesco in the field of Translation of works of particular merit by living writers in the languages of lesser currency. The period under review has produced ten such books, and three others are already in preparation; their titles are given hereunder.

P.E.N. - UNESCO TRANSLATION SCHEME - TITLES

<u>Poems Of Black Africa</u>	Indiana University Press U.S.A.
<u>Cinammon Stick</u>	translated into English by Allan Blair from <u>Kanelbiten</u> by Lars Ahlin, Sweden
<u>Anthologie Tchèque et Slovaque</u>	translated into French by François Kérel; publisher, Ed. Seghers, Paris.
<u>Cent Deux Poèmes Indonésiens Modernes</u>	translated into French by Louis Damais; publisher, Adrien Maisonneuve, Paris.
<u>So High, So Low</u>	translated into English by M. Russell, from the novel by Aziz Ahmad (Pakistan)
<u>Modern Brazilian Poetry</u>	to be published by Indiana University Press, U.S.A.
<u>Anthology of Octavio Paz Poetry</u>	to be published by Indiana University Press, U.S.A. (from Mexico)
<u>Anthology of Torres-Bodet Poetry</u>	to be published by Indiana University Press, U.S.A. (from Mexico)
<u>Nouvelles Néerlandaises des Flandres et des Pays-Bas</u>	with an Introduction by Victor E. van Vriesland. Published, Seghers, Paris.
<u>Scandale à Poulouh-Tampah</u>	translated into French by Marc Bernard from the book by Arnold Clerx (Holland)
<u>In Active Preparation:</u>	
<u>Lime Tree</u>	translated into English by Kenneth Strong from the book by Niwa Fumio (Japan)
<u>The Harp Of Burma</u>	translated into English by H. Hibbett from the book by Takeyama (Japan)
<u>In Preparation:</u>	
<u>Collected Poems</u>	by Marie Under (Estonia) to appear in French translation.