

MEETING OF AMERICAN RUSSIAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Wednesday, May 28, 1947

Present were: Joseph J. Weed, Chairman Dr. E. Markoff
Mrs. Katherine Campbell Albertina Vitak - Corr. Secy.
Miss Ingeborg Fritschi Dr. David Fogel - Proxy
Mrs. S. Fosdick Miss M. Lehrer - Proxy
Mr. D. Fosdick

1. The meeting was opened at 2:30 P.M.
2. Mrs. Fosdick read the minutes of Jan. 29th meeting which were unanimously approved.
3. Mr. Weed took up two points mentioned in the minutes which were as yet unsettled, namely, Dr. Fogel's and Miss Lehrer's promises to do some research for a campaign for new members. Mrs. Fosdick mentioned a letter received by Mr. Weed from Miss Lehrer earlier in the season, stating that she could not obtain in the Public Library any material on campaigns in general. Dr. Fogel also has been unable to devise any campaign plan due to pressure of his hospital work. Mr. Weed suggested that this matter be postponed for some future time.
4. Mrs. Fosdick informed the directors that the membership at present numbers only 52 members, including 4 sustaining and two life members, and that 21 members did not renew their membership.
5. As a plan to increase the membership, Mrs. Fosdick suggested that directors give away as a gift a few memberships each. The suggestion was approved and Mr. Weed proposed that action be taken along these lines, asking also that each person present be given 10 application blanks for distribution among their friends, which was promptly done. Also 10 ARCA leaflets were given to every one present, as well as the new membership cards.
6. Mrs. Fosdick presented the Record of Activities, attached hereto, which was read individually by most of those present.
7. Mr. Weed brought to the Board his recent correspondence with Prof. Somerville in order to plan for Prof. Somerville's lectures for next season. A discussion followed and Mr. Weed asked whether 6 lectures were actually not too many, suggesting it to be limited to 3 or 4, due to a possible financial loss, which may be expected this year on this course. The Board was in favor of 4 lectures and Mr. Weed offered to write a letter to Prof. Somerville proposing 4 lectures to be delivered at a fee of \$125.00, and to include Mrs. Fosdick's suggestion to condense the material of the six lectures into four instead of cutting out any of the subjects, chiefly stressing the Arts and Sciences and Religion and Peace - 2nd and 3rd lectures together, and likewise 4th and 6th. It was finally decided to request that 2 lectures be held in October and November and 2 in January and February, setting dates, price of admission, etc. After general discussion, it was decided and unanimously approved to charge \$5.00 for the course of 4 lectures - and half to members - \$2.50, and \$1.50 for single lectures.

8. Question was raised about the paragraph in the minutes about the lectures which had been proposed by Dr. Markoff and never took place. Dr. Markoff explained that the lectures by Dr. Gusti and Dr. Halea were not delivered because Prof. Gusti left New York for Rumania, earlier than he had expected, and Dr. Halea, the Rumanian Ambassador, does not speak one word of English and therefore could not give a lecture.
9. There was discussion about Dr. Markoff's lecture on Pushkin and advisability of putting it off until 1949.
10. Mrs. Fosdick proposed ^{printing} an expression of thanks to Mr. Weed for his donation of 1,020 copies ARCA 1946 Annual Report and also for newly reprinted ARCA leaflets - 750 copies. Seconded by Miss Fritschl and passed unanimously.
11. Mrs. Fosdick reported that Mr. Weed donated \$1,000 on April 3rd toward ARCA budget. On May 19th Mr. and Mrs. Fosdick donated \$500 toward ARCA budget. Thus the donations for the year toward ARCA budget amounting to \$2,000 each from Mr. Weed and Mr. Fosdick, were completed.
12. It was reported that the April Letter has been sent out to all members. The next Monthly Letter was then discussed and it was decided that it be sent out in September - as a Fall Letter covering summer's activities.
13. Mrs. Fosdick reported that contact with Ukrainian UCKS has been finally established, with correspondence between Prof. Poltoratzky, Mr. Weed and Mrs. Fosdick. A very active exchange of material, books, magazines, newspapers has taken place.

ARCA has received many donations of books, magazines for the Ukrainian Libraries from the following persons:

Mrs. E. Thatcher, ARCA member
Mrs. A. Ryan " "
Mrs. Hallie C. Lempl " "
Editors, World Youth
Mr. Rudolph Guenther
Mr. Sikorski, ARCA member
"Business Week" subscription for
6 months donated by Editor.

Very fine and valuable material has been received from VOKS, Moscow, and ARCA has in turn sent them a number of books and magazines on contemporary philosophy in U.S., in which they are interested and for which they asked particularly in their last letter, of Feb. 19, 1947. ARCA also sent them a number of American magazines pertaining to Art, Literature, etc.

The expenses in mailing a large number of packages to Kiev and Moscow amount to date to \$31.74.

14. Mr. Weed reported about his writing letters to 8 leading American publishers and asking them for donations for Ukrainian Libraries.

Replies were all negative except one - "Business Week" which donated 6 subscriptions. Mrs. Campbell asked what was the nature of these replies and was told 7 publishers wrote to Mr. Weed that they had already tried to spread their publications in Soviet Russia but had met with censorship and negative attitude.

15. The Board was also informed about the material received from ARLUS, Rumanian Russian Cultural Society from Bucharest, Rumania of which Dr. Gusti is Vice President and which material Dr. Markoff is now cataloguing and arranging. Mr. Weed then read a letter from Prof. Parhon, Pres. of that Society and his reply to him.
16. Mrs. Fosdick reported about Mme. Tolstoy's class in Russian which was terminated on May 23rd.
17. The studio has been rented for various periods - rental income \$30.00, rental Drama Class - \$59.00 since January 1947.
18. Mrs. Fosdick proposed a vote of thanks to Miss Fritschi for 2 doz. donation of folding chairs which reduced considerably the cost of rental of chairs during the season.
19. The AFCA Literary Circle meetings were discussed and since so few AFCA members had taken advantage of them it was felt that it was not worth continuing them. After a brief discussion it was decided to abandon these meetings for the present.
20. Mrs. Fosdick reported that approximately 300 AFCA Annual Reports had been sent to libraries, AFCA members, and Honorary Advisors.
21. The need for a bookcase for the Ukrainian Corner was taken up. Mrs. Campbell offered to donate a book case and all those present thanked her for it.
22. Having no more business at hand, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M.