

Co-op People

ICA News: Issue No 6/1994

Editor: Mary Treacy

Address: 15, route des Morillons -

1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland.

Tel: (41 22) 798 41 21 - Fax: (41 22) 798 41 22

Telex: 41 56 20 ICA CH - E-mail: icageneva@gn.apc.org

CO-OP PEOPLE

Pauline Green Member of the European Parliament, was recently made President of the Industrial Common Ownership Movement (ICOM). ICOM is the national federation of workers co-operatives and employee owned businesses in the UK, and promotes and supports all democratic employee controlled enterprises. Pauline is MEP for London North, and Leader of the Socialist Group in the European Parliament. She replaces the late John Smith, who held the post of ICOM's president for six years.

Patrice Jolivet has been elected official representative of the FNCC (France) and a member of the Executive Committee, together with Marcel Aeschelmann (President), Roger Ducrotte (Vice-President) Jean Grave and Albert Morel.

Herbert Ludl is the new representative of ICA Housing Co-operatives in HABITAT. Dr Ludl is a member of ICA Housing Executive and President of Sozialbau, Vienna.

Tod Manrell has been appointed President of the World Council of Credit Unions after the deaths of Gus Murray and Al Williams (see below). He is presently serving his sixth year as Chairman of the Credit Union Central of Canada and has been a member of the WOCCU Board since 1988.

Nelly Mitchell, World Council's language services specialist, has accepted the position of World Council programme specialist for the European Region.

Roald Quaglia, Director of Coop Geneve (Switzerland), retired in September. He was succeeded by Raymond Lechaire, Director of Coop Valais.

Alan Rhodes, one of the Co-operative Movement's best known figures, retired as Secretary of CRS (UK). He dedicated 44 years of service to the Co-operative Movement.

Isao Takamura, Honorary President of JCCU, was awarded the Second Class Order of the Sacred Treasure by the Japanese Government in recognition of his outstanding contribution to social welfare through almost fifty years of co-op activities.

Theodora Turula, World Council's new programme officer for the European Region, first discovered credit unions when she was four, when her parents emigrated from Ukraine to the US where they joined Selfreliance Ukrainian Federal Credit Union in Chicago.

Will Watkins, former Director of ICA celebrated his 101st birthday on 5 December 1994. A water fountain, donated by the Oxford Swindon and Gloucester Co-operative Society to the nursing home where Will

now lives, was inaugurated on the occasion.

[ICIC Home](#) •

ICA | UWCC

Electronic Networking Update

ICA News: Issue No 6/1994

Editor: Mary Treacy Address: 15, route des Morillons -
1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland.
Tel: (41 22) 798 41 21
Fax: (41 22) 798 41 22
Telex: 41 56 20 ICA CH
E-mail: icageneva@gn.apc.org

ELECTRONIC NETWORKING UPDATE

* ICA now has an E-Mail address: icageneva@gn.apc.org

Would ICA member-organisations and other readers who have an E-Mail address please send details to the Communications Department of ICA.

* Information on E-Mail and Electronic Networking and how we intend to establish our on-line presence on the Internet will appear in future issues of the ICA Review and News. A preliminary report can be found in the ICA Review No. 3, 1994.

* ICA has reached an agreement with the University of Wisconsin to start up a gopher on co-operatives (a gopher is a tool that helps you use Internet facilities and makes accessible to the user geographically dispersed information (in an on-line data bank)). We will begin inputting information from 1995 and inform readers when the gopher is being launched.

* It is our perception that there is an urgent need for an on-line international forum on co-operatives. As a first step we have, therefore, decided to set up a list server because mailing lists are accessible to anyone with access to E-mail - having an Internet access is not a prerequisite.

The address of the list is:
cooperative-bus@relay.doit.wisc.edu

* Information about ICA and co-operatives is also available on all APC networks in a conference called ced.coops. ICA Newsletters are also posted in all APC networks in gen.newsletters.

* Also in the development stages is a co-operative network of support for helpgivers. Called Rainbow Network it will be accessible via GreenNet (UK), Antenna and Toolnet (Netherlands) to all APC Networks. It is developing as a co-operative in the Care Sector and will eventually be registered as such, providing bulletin board, E-mail, data base and online conferencing and possibly counselling services, but administered and developed by participating members from the bottom-up. Further information from daryl.barker@tool.net or rainbownet@gn.apc.org.

* Up till recently, World-Wide Web has only been available for users having a SLIP or PPP connection. However, for those who do not have either of these connections SlipKnot, a new shareware, is now available giving users almost the same possibilities as Netscape and NCSA Mosaic, but at a slightly slower speed. For information on how to obtain slipknot send a

blank E-mail message to slipknot@micromind.

[ICIC Home](#) •

ICA | UWCC

ICA and IRU Hold Historic Joint Seminar in Prague

ICA News: Issue No 6/1994

Editor: Mary Treacy

Address: 15, route des Morillons -
1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland.

Tel: (41 22) 798 41 21 - Fax: (41 22) 798 41 22

Telex: 41 56 20 ICA CH - E-mail: icageneva@gn.apc.org

ICA AND IRU HOLD HISTORIC JOINT SEMINAR IN PRAGUE

The ICA and the International Raiffeisen Union joined forces in Prague on October 27th to organise a joint seminar for their Board members and other participants in the ICA European Regional Assembly.

Some 80 co-operative leaders took part in the seminar on current developments in Eastern and Central Europe, which featured presentations by IRU President Otto Baron van Verschuer, ICA President Lars Marcus, Joerg Brixner of Germany, and Ota Karen of the Czech Republic. A panel session, led by Dr. Hans-H. Muenkner, included presentations from Jens Heiser of Germany, Pancho Ivanov of Bulgaria, and Gabor Horvath of Hungary.

Both presidents noted in their opening remarks that their member organisations, many of which belong to both, increasingly expect ICA and IRU to find ways to work together and thereby strengthen the impact of their work. They indicated that plans are underway for these joint efforts to continue in the future.

ICA Calendar

ICA News: Issue No 6/1994

Editor: Mary Treacy
Address: 15, route des Morillons 1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva,
Switzerland
Tel: (41 22) 798 41 21
Fax: (41 22) 798 41 22
Telex: 41 56 20 ICA CH
E-mail: icageneva@gn.apc.org

ICA CALENDAR

- 5- 7 January, 1995
Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific
New Delhi India
- 13 - 14 February, 1995
ICACC Executive Committee
Loughborough, UK
- 6 - 12 March, 1995
UN World Summit on Social Development and COPAC Meeting
Copenhagen, Denmark
- 5 April, 1995
ICA-IRU Consultation Meeting
Utrecht, Netherlands
- 19 - 20 April
ICA Board Meeting
Sao Paulo, Brazil
- 15 May
Audit & Control Committee.
Geneva, Switzerland
- 18 September, 1995
ICA Board Meeting
Manchester, UK
- 11 - 19 September, 1995
Meetings of the Specialised Bodies
Manchester, UK
- 20 - 23 September, 1995
31st ICA Congress
Manchester, UK

News from the Regions

ICA News: Issue No 6/1994

Editor: Mary Treacy

Address: 15, route des Morillons -

1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland.

Tel: (41 22) 798 41 21 - Fax: (41 22) 798 41 22

Telex: 41 56 20 ICA CH - E-mail: icageneva@gn.apc.org

NEWS FROM THE REGIONS

AFRICA

First African Regional Assembly

The first Regional Assembly under the new ICA structure was held in Nairobi, for African members, from 6-9 September 1994.

Delegates from ICA member organisations in West, North, and East, Central and Southern Africa spent two days in seminar sessions, where they reviewed in detail the first draft of the ICA's proposed revision of the Co-operative Principles and a draft Co-operative Development Strategy for Africa. Participants commented afterwards that the seminar format provided opportunity for much more detailed examination of important issues than is possible at global meetings of ICA.

The seminar conclusions were reported back to a plenary meeting chaired by Hon. B. Wolimbwa of Uganda, the alternate ICA Vice-President (Africa), and co-chaired by Mr. O. Dieng, the Acting Chairman of the ICA Regional Council for West Africa. ICA President Lars Marcus provided an overview of recent developments in other regions, after which the two ICA Regional Directors provided detailed reports about the current activities of ICA and the situation facing members in their regions. Their reports are available from the respective regional offices.

The ICA Specialised Bodies were also active in Nairobi. The Women's Committee held executive and plenary meetings. The chairman of CICOPA and the chief executive of ICMIFF participated actively in the Regional Assembly sessions. A new regional insurance committee for Africa, which was formed earlier this year, made its first report to the ICA.

A common theme throughout the meeting was that the impact of structural adjustment and market liberalisation will have severe effects on co-operatives unless they take immediate steps to improve their business efficiency and competitive position.

Representatives of the Kenyan government reported that work has begun on a revision of the Co-operative Act in recognition of the fact that an unfavourable policy environment has hampered the development of co-operatives in Kenya. The Regional Assembly itself was hosted efficiently by the major co-operative organisations in Kenya in spite of the fact that the Kenya National Federation of Co-operatives has been expelled from ICA due to non-payment of dues. The African Regional Assembly was invited to hold its 1996 meeting in Dakar, Senegal.

THE AMERICAS

Regional Assembly of the Americas

The revision of the Co-operative Principles, Human Resource Development, and Business Opportunities for Co-operatives were the three themes of the ICA's first Regional Assembly for the Americas, which was held in the Latin American Parliament in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 21-22 November.

In addition to the 38 delegates from 13 countries and four regional organisations, more than 100 observers participated in the plenary and workshop sessions.

Under the Chairmanship of Roberto Rodrigues, ICA Vice-President representing the Americas region, the Regional Assembly also established operating procedures for ICA's new regional structure. Delegates adopted rules for the Regional Assembly and agreed on the appointment of a Consultative Committee consisting of one representative from each member country and international member organisation in the region. It was also agreed that one ICA Regional Office should in the future cover the whole Americas region, supplemented where necessary by Project Offices such as the one now operating in Buenos Aires.

The Consultative Committee will meet in March, at which time it will discuss the implications of the extension of the mandate of the Regional Office.

EUROPE

European Regional Assembly elects Council and focuses Priorities

The first ICA Regional Assembly for Europe met in Prague on October 26-27, and took the following decisions:

- * It replaced its temporary Advisory Council with a 12-member elected ICA European Council composed of the following members: Graham Melmoth, President (U.K); Ota Karen, Vice-President (Czech Republic); and members: Raija Itkonen (Finland); Etienne Pflimlin (France); Rolf Trodin (Sweden); Knud Rasmussen (Denmark); Pal Bartus (Hungary); Jean-Francois Hoffelt (Belgium); Giuliano Vecchi (Italy); Marian Rybar (Slovakia); Valentin Ermakov (Russia); and Francisco Sanz (Spain).
- * It approved provisional rules, and agreed that proposed amendments should be reviewed during 1995 by a special rules committee.
- * It agreed that the current 10 priority regional activities should be reduced to six, and that they should report to the European Council through its secretary, with the current two Working Groups being disbanded.
- * The Assembly further agreed that East-West relations shall be a permanent priority for ICA Europe. The Co-op Network shall become an independent part of ICA Europe, with its own Board and separate budget, concentrating on projects, with overhead and administrative costs shared with ICA Europe on the basis of annual agreements. ICA Europe shall be responsible for policy and administrative coordination.

Five other issues-corporate governance, sustainable human development, gender, communications, and schools-shall continue as regional priorities during 1995. A decision on their future will be taken at the time of the Manchester Congress.

ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

Regional Assembly Reconvened

The Regional Assembly for Asia and the Pacific, which was scheduled to take place in New Delhi from 5 - 7 October was postponed till January 5 -7 due to an outbreak of Plague in India.

The Assembly will approve the Rules of the Regional Assembly and its Executive Council. Other agenda items will include the Review of the Co-operative Principles, the 3-year development programme of ROAP, a report on the Third Co-operative Ministers Conference, and a special report on the situation of Australian co-operatives.

[ICIC Home](#) •

ICA | UWCC

Obituaries

ICA News: Issue No 6/1994

Editor: Mary Treacy

Address: 15, route des Morillons -

1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland.

Tel: (41 22) 798 41 21 - Fax: (41 22) 798 41 22

Telex: 41 56 20 ICA CH - E-mail: icageneva@gn.apc.org

OBITUARIES

Roy Garratt, Information Officer/Librarian of the Co-operative Union (UK) died on 4 December, 1994 at the age of 63 following a prolonged illness. He had worked in the Co-operative Movement for almost 40 years and was known throughout the world as a leading authority on the history of the Movement and especially the Rochdale Pioneers.

Augustine 'Gus' Murray, President of the World Council of Credit Unions died peacefully at his home in Ireland on 11 September. When Gus was born, no credit unions existed in his country. When he died, he left Ireland with one of the strongest movements in the international system and he left the world with many more credit unions. The leadership and vision which he provided within WOCCU over more than a decade of service culminated at a recent Forum in Cork where he shared the Opening Session Podium with President Robinson of Ireland.

Sayed Zaki, Chairman of the Egyptian Producers' Co-operative Union died on 25 September at his office in Cairo. Through a new programme co-formed by co-operatives and the Egyptian Government, he created thousands of new artisanal jobs for young people, specially in the poorest areas around Cairo. Mohamed Hassan Sebaiy becomes the new Chairman and takes Sayed Zaki's place on the Executive Committee of CICOPA.

Al Williams died on 2 August from a heart attack. This first Vice-President of WOCCU had, for almost three years, led the reform effort to make the organisation's structure more representative.

CO-OPERATORS LOST WITH THE SINKING OF M.S. ESTONIA

On the night of 28 September the M.S. Estonia sank in the Baltic Sea with the loss of over 900 lives. This tragedy hit the Co-operative Movement particularly hard, as a Co-operative Seminar on Peace and Security in the Baltic Region was taking place on board the boat, following a previous session in Tallin, Estonia. The following fellow co-operators, friends and colleagues were lost in the tragedy:

>From Denmark:

Knud Ollgaard (Danske Andelesselskaber)

>From Estonia:

Aivo Grossfeldt, Kaljo Toome, Tavo Noormets, Reet Ojamaegi (ETK)

>From Finland:

Seppo Honkanen (University of Helsinki)

>From Latvia:

Skaidrite Culkstene, Aivars Stauzs, Janis Bernans (Latvian Central Co-op Union)

>From Russia:

Vasily Kovaljov, Andrei Arjuhov (Leningrad Regional Union of Co-operatives)

>From Sweden:

Rut Hammarstroem (Folksam)

Lennart Petterson (Konsum Solidar)

Jan-Erik Pettersson (Koooperativt Resurscentrum)

Alf Carlsson (Kooperativa Institutet)

Kenneth Chreisti (Tidningen Vi)

Olle Lindstroem and his wife (previously Riksbyggen and Chairman of ICA Housing Co-operatives)

Ingvar Oscarsson (formerly KF)

Eric Sigmundsson (formerly SCC)

The disappearance of these fine co-operators is a blow from which the international movement and their national movements will take a long time to recover. The ICA Secretariat is deeply distressed by this information; many of us were close to the people who lost their lives. Our thoughts are with their families and colleagues. We give thanks for the rescue of Maarten Boje (Det Kooperative Faellesforbund, Denmark) and Kent Haerstedt (Kooperativa Institutet, Sweden) and for those people who were supposed to take the boat but whose change of plans means they are still with us today.

We would like to make a special tribute to three of the above Co-operators who were especially close to the ICA Secretariat. Alf Carlsson was Development Director of the ICA from 1984 to 1985. His gentle, positive manner was a great encouragement to all his colleagues and we extend our heartfelt sympathy to his wife and family. Alf will be sorely missed.

Knud Ollgaard was a member of the ICA Executive from 1988 to 1993. He was a great friend and supporter of the ICA staff and we all remember him with great affection.

Olle Lindstroem was Chairman of the ICA Housing Committee from 1984 to 1992. After he retired he maintained his contact with the ICA through his work for the Network for Co-operative Development in Eastern and Central Europe. His disappearance came in the middle of efforts to restart the housing co-operative union in Estonia, a country he fled from when he was sixteen. After his retirement from Riksbyggen (Sweden) in 1991, Olle committed himself to working for his former country.

Preliminary Agenda for Congress Approved

ICA News: Issue No 6/1994

Editor: Mary Treacy

Address: 15, route des Morillons -

1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland.

Tel: (41 22) 798 41 21 - Fax: (41 22) 798 41 22

Telex: 41 56 20 ICA CH - E-mail: icageneva@gn.apc.org

PRELIMINARY AGENDA FOR CONGRESS APPROVED

One of Britain's largest economic centres and close to Rochdale, birthplace of the Co-operative Movement, Manchester has been chosen as the venue for ICA's Centennial Congress.

The ICA Board has approved the following agenda for the Centennial Congress:

Wednesday, 20th September

a.m. Congress Opening Ceremony

p.m. Theme 1 - Co-operative Principles for the 21st Century

Thursday, 21st September

a.m. Special Presentations and Discussion on Theme One

p.m. Theme 2 - Sustainable Human Development

Friday, 22nd September

a.m. Special Presentations and Discussion on Theme 2

Friday, 22nd September

p.m. ICA General Assembly

- Official Business
- Reports from Governing Bodies
- Report from Director General
- Elections for Board & Audit & Control Committee

Saturday, 23rd September

a.m. ICA General Assembly

- Reports from Specialised Bodies
- Resolutions
- Other Business

Other meetings-of the Specialised Bodies, special seminars, COPAC, the ICA Board, and European members-will take place from September 11th to 19th, also in Manchester for the most part.

Registration forms will be sent to ICA member organisations in February 1995.

Further information is available from ICA Geneva and/or from the ICA Congress Office c/o Membership Services, Co-operative Wholesale

Review of Co-operative Principles Nears Completion

ICA News: Issue No 6/1994

Editor: Mary Treacy
Address: 15, route des Morillons -
1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland.
Tel: (41 22) 798 41 21 - Fax: (41 22) 798 41 22
Telex: 41 56 20 ICA CH - E-mail: icageneva@gn.apc.org

REVIEW OF CO-OPERATIVE PRINCIPLES NEARS COMPLETION

Dr. Ian MacPherson of Canada, responsible for coordinating the current review of the Co-operative Principles for the ICA, reported to the ICA Board during its meeting in Prague on October 28.

The current draft of the Co-operative Declaration for the 21st Century-consisting of an identity page, background paper, and vision statement-has been circulated to ICA members and has been a topic for discussion at all Regional Assemblies.

On the basis of reactions to this draft from ICA members, the Regional Assemblies, and the Board, Dr. MacPherson will prepare a revised version in January 1995, which will be submitted for final approval to the ICA Board in April 1995. The Board will then be responsible for any last amendments to the identity statement, and for submitting the final document to the ICA's Manchester Congress in September 1995.

Spread the Message with Co-op Stamps

ICA News: Issue No 6/1994

Editor: Mary Treacy

Address: 15, route des Morillons -

1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland.

Tel: (41 22) 798 41 21 - Fax: (41 22) 798 41 22

Telex: 41 56 20 ICA CH - E-mail: icageneva@gn.apc.org

SPREAD THE MESSAGE WITH CO-OP STAMPS

That the co-operative idea has spread around the world is wonderfully demonstrated by looking at one collection of 200 commemorative stamps that have been issued in 60 countries celebrating co-operative ideas and events.

Cliff Berry, a retired co-op employee from Manchester, has put together a most interesting range of stamps and they reveal an amazing diversity of co-operative involvement in countries around the globe.

There are plans to show Mr. Berry's collection as part of an exhibition on international co-operation in Manchester at the ICA Centennial Congress.

The first of these commemorative stamps was published in Venezuela on December 21st 1944. These stamps marked the centenary of the Rochdale Pioneers in England and featured a picture of Charles Howarth, first president of the Society - quite a remarkable thing to be published in Venezuela.

Co-operative stamps have appeared in many other countries since then. As one might expect there are many examples from European countries where co-operatives are well established.

Czechoslovakia, for instance celebrated a Collective Farming Congress in Prague with a stamp showing a girl harvester, whereas a stamp marking a banking organisation in Finland shows two doves co-operating to build their nest.

In 1970, the founding of the International Co-operative Alliance in London in 1895 was honoured by a set of five stamps in Great Britain; the one-shilling stamp showed the signing of the agreement by Britain, France, Germany and Russia. The Russians celebrated the 75th anniversary of this event with their own stamp in the same year. But co-op philately spread its boundaries much further afield than Europe.

There are several examples of the growth of the co-operative idea in Africa, for example the one illustrated here from the Congo which features village co-operators digging trenches.

Further afield, the Cook Islands found a more exotic reason for a stamp issue when the local Manuae Co-operative Society recorded the solar eclipse on 30th May 1965 and indeed set up a special post office to handle the issue.

These are just some examples of the colourful array of stamps that record the spread of co-operation round the world. Some of these stamps are illustrated here from Mr. Berry's collection and

undoubtedly there will be many more celebrating co-operative events in many lands to add to his collection in the future.

Mr. Berry's collection has been shown this year in connection with the 150th anniversary of Rochdale.

ICA would like to encourage its members to request their postal authorities to issue a stamp commemorating the First Hundred Years of International Co-operation. Perhaps we can help to expand Mr. Berry's unique collection.

Special packs with information necessary when requesting centennial stamps can be obtained from Gabriella Sozanski at the ICA Head Office in Geneva.

[ICIC Home](#) •

[ICA](#) | [UWCC](#)

The Queen Visits Rochdale

ICA NEWS

ICA News: Issue No 6/1994

Editor: Mary Treacy

Address: 15, route des Morillons -

1218 Grand-Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland.

Tel: (41 22) 798 41 21 - Fax: (41 22) 798 41 22

Telex: 41 56 20 ICA CH - E-mail: icageneva@gn.apc.org

THE QUEEN VISITS ROCHDALE

British Co-operators were enchanted when their Queen visited Rochdale to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Rochdale Pioneers.

After visiting the "Co-operative 150" exhibition in the town's Arts and Heritage Centre, she toured the "Co-operative 150" exhibition with the Duke of Edinburgh. The Royal couple visited a replica of the Pioneers' first shop where they were fascinated by a demonstration of the methods which the Pioneers used to measure, weigh and sell their stocks of butter, sugar, flour, oatmeal and candles. The most direct link with the Movement's past came as the Queen was presented with a posy by the 11-year old descendant (the great, great, great granddaughter) of Benjamin Rudman, one of the original 28 Rochdale Pioneers.

Hughie Todner MBE, President of the 1994 UK Co-operative Congress and Chairman of the Co-operative Union, escorted the Queen on her visit while the Duke was escorted by Lloyd Wilkinson, Chief Executive and General Secretary of the Co-operative Union.

The Queen and the Duke were presented with commemorative Royal Mint silver medals, specially designed to mark the 150th anniversary and a specially commissioned print entitled "The Spirit of Co-operation".

The Royals signed the original Rochdale Equitable Pioneers Society Visitors' Book before leaving. The book dates back to June 1862.