World Federation for Culture Collections Xth International Congress for Microbiology

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Provisional Board

Monday, 10 August 1970

Hotel Maria Isabel, Mexico City, Mexico

History of the World Federation for Culture Collections. In 1962 the Canadian Committee on Culture Collections (an associate committee of the National Research Council of Canada) convened a conference on Culture Collections in Ottawa which was attended by 266 scientists from 28 countries. In recognition of the world-wide importance of culture collections, the Conference recommended that the International Association of Microbiological Societies (IAMS) establish a Section on Culture Collections. The IAMS acceded to this request, and the Section was established in 1963. The constitution, first drawn up by the Executive Committee in 1964, was revised at meetings of the Section in 1966 in Paris. At its meeting in Tokyo in 1968, the Section recommended that consideration be given to the establishment of a World Federation for Culture Collections with a constitution in keeping with the new Statutes of IAMS. Thus in 1970 at the Xth International Congress for Microbiology, held at Mexico City, the Section on Culture Collections voted to dissolve and to be reconstituted as the World Federation for Culture Collections. The minutes of the Section on Culture Collections and the first meeting of the Board of the World Federation for Culture Collections are appended. The statutes of the World Federation are also given.

Parallel with these developments, the Japanese Federation of Culture Collections submitted in 1963, through the Japanese Delegation to UNESCO, a proposal for a 10-year program for research in microbiology. Heavy emphasis was placed on the need for the formation of an International Federation for Culture Collections and for the establishment of specialized culture collections throughout the world. The proposal was referred to IAMS, and in 1964 IAMS presented its brief to UNESCO. UNESCO initiated action on the program by convening a meeting of culture-collection specialists in Paris in 1966. UNESCO, through its ICRO/UNESCO Panel for Microbiology, has continued to lend its support to the program. In 1968 an International Conference

on Culture Collections was held in Tokyo, Japan, and it was resolved that an International Federation for Culture Collections be established and that an ad hoc committee be appointed to prepare a draft constitution for the Federation. This draft was submitted to the Section on Culture Collections at the Congress in Mexico City in 1970 and is here reproduced with amendments agreed upon by the Section on Culture Collections. It forms the Statutes of the World Federation for Culture Collections.

We should like to thank UNESCO for its help and support to the Section on Culture Collections, to the World Federation for Culture Collections, and in the production of the World Directory [see Minute 8 (b)].

Minute 1. Record of attendance. Those present were: S. M. Martin, Canada (President); H. Iizuka, Japan (Vice-President); V. B. D. Skerman, Australia (Treasurer); S. Hofmann, FDR; E. F. Lessel, USA; M. Piéchaud, France; S. P. Lapage, UK (Secretary); and A. C. J. Burgers (UNESCO).

Minute 2. Apologies for absence. Prior to the meeting, J. Papavassiliou (Greece) expressed his regrets at being unable to attend the meeting.

Minute 3. Constitution of the Board. The members present and the absent member had been elected to the Provisional Board of the WFCC at the open meeting of the Section on Culture Collections held at 1900 hours on Friday, 7 August.

Minute 4. Next conference on culture collections. It was decided to convene a conference in 1972 or 1973, the place to be arranged. The subject would be "Practical Aspects of Culture Collections." A provisional program had been prepared by an ad hoc committee formed at the meeting of the Section on Culture Collections on 7 August 1970 (S. M. Martin, J. M. Shewan, S. P. Lapage). The provisional program was presented and approved.

Minute 5. Formal dissolution of the Section on Culture Collections and formation of WFCC. After announcement at the plenary session, international societies and their representatives

will be notified about the dissolution of the Section on Culture Collections and the establishment of the World Federation for Culture Collections.

Minute 6. *Ad hoc Committee for training courses.* The Provisional Board agreed to form an ad hoc committee to establish training courses in culture-collection activities.

Minute 7. *Methods of publicizing formation of WFCC.* Among methods suggested for publicizing the establishment of the WFCC were: circulation of national societies, notices in journals or corresponding newsletters, and provision of information to culture collections.

Minute 8. *Fee structure and membership.* It was agreed that there should be three classes of membership with the following membership fees:

(a) *Ordinary* (individuals). For a two-year trial period, there will be a fee of 0.05% of the salary of the ordinary member concerned.

(b) *Affiliated* (culture collections). The policy related to affiliated members is to be arranged by correspondence between members of the Board, whose findings will be presented to the next conference of the WFCC for decision.

(c) *Sustaining* (provide support). Suggestions for sustaining members are to be sent to the Secretary, such as federations of culture collec-

tions, national societies, foundations, commercial firms, etc.

Minute 9. *Other business.*

(a) *International Culture-Data Center.* It was proposed that the National Data Center for Culture Collections, which is being developed in Brisbane, be recognized by the WFCC as the International Culture-Data Center and that it remain in Brisbane for the present.

(b) *World Directory of Culture Collections.* The World Directory of Culture Collections will be published by Wiley and distributed by the usual methods. We wish to thank UNESCO for its generous support, which has made preparation of this directory possible.

(c) *Distribution of world list of species held in culture collections.* The publication of a world list of species held in culture collections is still under discussion.

(d) *Handbook of procedures.* It was recommended that an international handbook of procedures be prepared under the auspices of the WFCC in conjunction with the Subcommittee on Numerical Taxonomy of the ICSB.

Minute 10. *Date of next meeting.* The next meeting of the Provisional Board will be held at the time and place of the next conference of the WFCC.

S. P. Lapage (Secretary)